

Chattanooga Central High School
Alumni Association
November 14, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The November meeting of the Chattanooga Central High School Alumni Association was held November 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. President, Lucy Bottorff was unable to attend the meeting. However, she called in and was on speaker phone for most of the meeting. Buffy Hoge, Vice President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. New attendees were Linda Stone (Class of 1989), Sydney Stone (Sophomore Class Secretary), Major David Spencer (JROTC), and Nick Germany, Dylan Grampp and Adam Miller of the Central High Gaming Team.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Buffy distributed copies of the minutes, agenda, and treasurer's report for review. A correction is to be made in the October minutes under the Old Business. At the end of the fourth paragraph, last sentence, to be added back in to read, "Next time, the committee may want to hold a less formal event, possibly in the spring, to be held on the soccer field using tents." A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by David Sharp. Tara Waldrop seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tara Waldrop gave the treasurer's report. The scholarship balance is \$3,576.10. The general fund balance is \$17,542.73. The total fund balance is \$21,118.83. Total deposits into the account were \$715.00. Total debits from the account were \$315.00. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Barney Ottinger. John Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Lucy stated that the recipient of the Frye Scholarship is attending Chattanooga State. She asked that Tara check with Ms. Alexander to see who that student may be. Buffy received a bill for the cafeteria workers in the amount of \$242.21 to cover the two (2) workers for the SHOF dinner. Tara questioned the amount since it seemed higher than years past. Principal, Phil Iannarone explained that the workers were both managers at other schools in the district and their rates would be higher. Tara mentioned that there were other bills included on her bill for additional items that were not hers and should have been separated. There was much discussion about rates of the cafeteria workers and the policy for payment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Phil Iannarone reported there were 813 students enrolled at the school. There is a 95% attendance rate target goal. We are sitting at 94%, much improved over last year. Teacher attendance is 6%. This is of teachers who missed 5 days or more. There is a 10% suspension rate. This is half the amount as last year at the same time. Discipline issues are down. Classrooms reported the most problems in the past. Civics exams were given to seniors. Central is competing for the title of School of Distinction. The grades on these Civics exams have been 85 and above.

STUDENT REPORT

Three members of Central's online gaming club made a presentation. Nick Germany, Dylan Grampp, and Adam Miller spoke on behalf of their e-sports league, and the opportunities it affords students who may not otherwise play physical sports due to physical handicaps or other disabilities, as well as those who enjoy gaming in general. Their sponsor, Mr. Dawson, was unavailable for tonight's meeting. However, Phil explained that these gaming clubs are regulated by HSEL (High School eSports League), similarly to sports leagues, requiring the same skill and sportsmanship behavior in the gaming world. There are guidelines and structure. There are scholarship awards and the sport is fast-growing. They passed out a brochure on the sport.

These are multi-player video games, typically 5 players. Teams play competitively for spectators, typically professional gamers. Students play other schools and tournaments are held each year. Central has a team in place. They are acquiring sponsor funding and have a three-year program for equipment. The cost of equipment will be around \$4,000. However, if the team is able to raise \$6,000 it will help sustain the program into the future. There is relatively low maintenance cost associated with gaming. The team is considering holding a school event and they are currently trying to secure sponsors. This is a future-ready project and Ooltewah High School has a gaming team as well. Tara invited the team back for a formal funding request once they have sponsors and additional funding for the program in place.

President of the sophomore class, Jack Graham and sophomore secretary, Sydney Stone reported that students are working hard this year. The Career Day fair was successful.

Zoey Greene, Junior Class Secretary reported that AP classes are going well. They are planning for Holiday Spirit Week and gathering prom ideas.

OLD BUSINESS

Judy Phillips is working on the Thank You notes for the golf tournament. Tara is finishing up a report on the financial breakdown for the tournament.

John Crawford said all the bills have been paid for the SHOF dinner. He is awaiting the football schedule to determine the date for the dinner next year. Tara suggested for next year, not having tickets printed. It is an added cost and only used by members of the Alumni Association. So many people forget their tickets. It would be easier to have names on a list. Judy can provide colored tickets if they are needed for next year. Guests will also be added to a "pass list" for the gate to get into the game next year.

John has been working on The Legends, honoring those graduates prior to 1945. He has worked with Jerry Summers in the past on this. However, he has not had a discussion with his full committee. Charlie Sedman has researched a great deal for the Sports Hall of Fame and will help with this endeavor as well. John proposes to honor The Legends inductees on the same night as the Sports Hall of Fame simply because families will be hard to find, and most members are deceased. He proposes to post the names of The Legends on the Alumni website to see if any family members are still around. Tara wants further discussion of this at a future meeting. John and his committee need to meet prior before bringing recommendations to the Alumni Board since there is a committee in place.

Barney stated that the date of the Distinguished Hall of Fame has been corrected on the website. Barney brought extra nomination forms. Submit forms by February 28, 2020. Barney reviewed website and said the 2019 inductees are to be added.

Tara said a Brick order is about to go in. There were corrections that had to be made. She is waiting on order forms from the last two events. Bricks would make an awesome Christmas present! Spread the word! This needs to be added to the Alumni website as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Major David Spencer of Central's JROTC program comes to us with 25 years of service with the U. S. Army and an engineering background. He took over the position from Col. Brooks. This year marks the 100th Anniversary (December 1919) of the program at Central High. It is the oldest JROTC program in the state and in the South. Currently, Central's co-ed Raiders Team is 3rd place in the county. The program has between 148 – 168 cadets that include 17 seniors.

Maj. Spencer made a presentation for the construction of a new obstacle course containing a rappel tower and 3 lanes of obstacles behind the school on a parcel of land behind the softball field. UTC owns the property and it backs the wetlands behind the Volkswagen plant. Permission is being sought for use by Central in hopes that there could be a joint venture benefiting our JROTC program as well as the senior cadets at UTC.

In his presentation, he outlined the items needed to construct the obstacle course as well as the importance this course will be to the program. The existing courses and climbing towers located at other Hamilton County Schools are in disrepair and the need for a new course is relevant. Maj. Spencer passed around a booklet outlining the pieces needed for this project as well as current proposals. There is a huge opportunity to pull in funding from the ROTC programs, UTC, Alumni, and other schools county wide to build a course that would be around for years to come. The rappel tower would be constructed of metal. The old ones were constructed with wood and have fulfilled their usefulness.

Some items have already been donated and they are collecting other specific items for the obstacle lanes. There is a link set up to handle donations. Ground preparation for the project is about 3 weeks with good weather. The course will be moveable and made with composite material. The local National Guard will provide the labor needed for preparation. The Air Force has the equipment needed and is happy to help as well. JROTC provides the seats and ropes and the SROTC (UTC) have different ways to acquire funding. Major Spencer is currently working to get grant funding. Anyone may contact Maj. Spencer with questions about the project Spencer_David@HCDE.org. He plans to spotlight the program on Channel 3 and Channel 9. Barney has a contact at the Chamber of Commerce he will be glad to get in touch. Major Spencer has been invited back to speak and/or make a formal funding request once permission is granted and additional funding is in place.

The cadets contribute 550 hours to community service on major projects. For example, the program donates time to Wreaths Across America on December 14th. JROTC has 3 academics teams as well as a robotics team at the Future Ready site that the JROTC

program funds equipment to use. Additionally, they sponsor the Military Ball to be held on February 28, 2020 at the Bessie Smith Center in Chattanooga.

MISCELLANEOUS

Buffy stated that the Senior Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 28, 2019 in the school library. A meeting about food will be held separately.

Lucy sent Buffy the bill for postcards/save-the-date cards. The total was \$129.45. A motion to pay the bill was made by Heather Randolph. David seconded. Motion passed.

John asked Barney about the status of the new dryer for the athletics department. Barney stated that Gary Woodall was in contact with Chester Bankston. However, he would follow up.

Barney stated that we need to plan a dedication to the CHS track in the spring because there are still no lights.

Buffy thanked Ms. Stone for coming to the meeting as a parent and alumnus.

Buffy announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

Heather made a motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded. Motion passed.

Kelly D. Robinson
Secretary

List of Attendees

Lucy Bottorff	Kelly Robinson	Heather Randolph	Phil Iannarone	Sydney Stone
Barney Ottinger	Buffy Hoge	Linda Stone	David Sharp	Zach Butler
Zoey Greene	David Spencer	Jack Graham	Nick Germany	Dylan Grampp
Adam Miller	Tara Waldrop	John Crawford		