

**Winnacunnet Cooperative School District**  
**Booster Club Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**Lecture Hall - Winnacunnet High School**  
**Wednesday, March 29, 2017**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Bill McGowan  
Leslie Lafond  
Catherine Antonio  
Carole Dozibrin  
Matt Ferreira  
Booster Club representatives

Booster Club Guidelines – Open Feedback/Discussion Forum with Booster Club Representatives

- Opened the meeting and explained the purpose of developing the guidelines. Emphasized that the guidelines are a draft, and we are here to answer questions and get feedback from the booster club representatives in attendance. Additionally, a sign-up sheet was distributed so that everyone in attendance can be invited to subsequent meetings. The following is a brief synopsis of questions and answers:

**Q:** Are the student activity funds going away?

**A:** *Not necessarily. We will work with booster clubs to see what works best for each individual case. Ideally those booster clubs residing in the Student activity funds should be separated from the school. The administration is available to help boosters make the transition.*

**Q:** What are we fixing?

**A:** *We are exposed (both the school and the booster clubs): Title IX, liability issues, IRS requirements, proper financial controls, concerns from community, changes in RSAs*

**Q:** Why can't we give gift cards or cash gifts?

**A:** *It's not good practice. It is hard to account for and it exposes the booster club to potential abuse/embezzlement.*

**Q:** Why can't the booster club buy something under \$500, for example a new video camera?

**A:** *Booster clubs can purchase items, but if it is over \$500 it needs to be submitted to the principal for approval. This is a new RSA.*

**Q:** Why can't money be for scholarships if they are 501c3, for example teams give money to Dollars for Scholars.

**A:** *501c can provide money to established scholarship funds / foundations / groups that provide scholarships. But, the booster clubs should not be providing scholarships directly to students. Scholarships provided directly from the booster club to the athlete could potentially violate NCAA rules. We will edit guidelines to clarify.*

**Q:** Why do boosters need to get their own insurance, aren't they covered under the school?

**A:** *It's a gray area especially for 501c3 boosters. They are a separate entity. But there are risks, such as going door to door selling gold cards. Is this for WHS or is it for boosters? And, ultimately if it is indeed a booster club activity, it is not covered by the school's insurance policy. So, the booster club and the school are both exposed.*

**Q:** Is liability insurance required for the track team that volunteers at the road races?

**A:** *No, the road race probably already has insurance. Some activities are obviously less risky, like handing out t-shirts at a road race, vs. a car wash where someone can slip and fall, or going door to door.*

**Q:** Regarding no gifts to students, does this mean we can't give a t-shirt to each athlete on the team?

**A:** *No. It means no gifts to singled-out athletes on a team.*

**Q:** What do you mean by "fundraising can't be mandatory." We need the students to participate in fundraising.

**A:** *Students cannot be forced to fund raise, for example sell a certain amount of gold cards, it can make them uncomfortable. Students can be encouraged to help fundraise, but we do not want to create a climate where students are mandated to do so, or feel they have to lest they face repercussion. Furthermore, this only applies to the coaches/booster clubs. We are not looking to potentially punish students if they happen to pressure other students to fundraise.*

**Q:** Sometimes kids must do things that are uncomfortable. We set expectations but we never make it mandatory, it never keeps athletes from participating. Can we change the language so that it reads "kids will be expected to fundraise."

**A:** *The school board has received complaints of mandatory requirements that make some community members uncomfortable. There are students who fundraise in a \$500,000 neighborhood, and there are students that live in an isolated home with a different family environment. It makes for an uneven playing field and can make certain members of the community uncomfortable.*

**Q:** Why did you wait until now to include the boosters to come up with this policy, and not get their input earlier?

**A:** *This is the beginning phase of the creation process. We had 2 initial meetings to discuss what other schools are doing and come up with this draft. However, We needed to create an initial document – in order to have a tangible set of guidelines to present the booster club representatives – to distribute, discuss, and re-work.*

**Q:** There will be costs associated with starting 501c and insurance. This will make smaller booster clubs unable to exist, and cost \$1000 dollars for larger booster clubs.

**A:** *We acknowledge there will be costs. Based on our projections it should cost 'hundreds' not 'thousands'. However, we are still in the draft process and are working to refine the requirements. Again, these are guidelines, and some of the procedures will work better for the larger booster clubs. But, we will remain flexible and work with the smaller booster clubs to make it work for their individual situation. We will help booster clubs go through the process and can be a resource in the operational/logistically piece of setting up and operating.*

**Q:** Why can't we give gifts of under \$500 to volunteer coaches? We want to give this money to show our appreciation for their time. We need these coaches to train our students and ensure our student's safety. Additionally, some head coaches split their stipend with a volunteer coach – is this allowed?

**A:** *Paying volunteer coaches makes them employees or contractors. They are receiving wages, and will need to be reported to the IRS. There needs to be consistency for the volunteer coaches. We don't think booster clubs should be paying for "volunteer" coaches. If there is a need for a paid coaching position, then it needs to be included in our budget, rather than having our students fundraising for it. Booster clubs are encouraged to submit the spending history for volunteer coaches to Ms. Dozibrin by this September so that we are armed with information to budget correctly for 2018. This is an area that*

*needs further attention. Additionally, we will change “No gifts to volunteer coaches” to “No monetary gifts to volunteer coaches”.*

**Q:** How do we deal with compensating our volunteer coaches in the interim, before the 2018-19 budget (which could potentially have the paid positions in the budget)?

**A:** *We will consult our attorney and auditors to determine if we have any options. We will discuss at the next booster club committee meeting.*

**Q:** Can the smaller booster clubs, or clubs that don't have boosters combine into one bigger booster?

**A:** *We are open to that, it would require a lot more organization from the individual clubs. This could cut down on costs, and is something for the smaller booster clubs to consider.*