

**Brainerd Baxter Baseball Association (BBBA)
September 2025 Board Meeting**

MEETING DETAILS:

Date: September 8, 2025

Time 5:30 PM Central Time

Location: Brainerd High School

President Corey Johnson called the Brainerd Baxter Baseball Association Board Meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Present: Corey Johnson, Nate Olson, Trent Grams, Jeremiah Piepkorn, Mike DeRosier, Ashly Gilson and Andy Campbell via Google Meet

Absent: Matt Means and Kristine Kottke

Quorum present? Yes

Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

A meeting agenda was distributed to all attendees via email prior to the meeting. A motion to approve minutes was made by Nate Olson, seconded by Ashly Gilson and carried without dissent.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Kristine Kottke was absent and August Minutes will be distributed and approved via email at a later date.

Open Forum – Jvonne Dunphy

Jvonne Dunphy was present to address her concerns about fundraising monies and their dispersal to her two son athletes but also as applied to all Association athletes. She confirmed the Board's review of email correspondence with President Corey Johnson prior to this meeting. She would like to know where her fundraising and registration money goes for each athlete. She would like to brainstorm a more family friendly solution to fundraising for Association athletes and have transparency regarding how fundraising income is used by the Association. Dunphy feels that our system should reward those who work harder; if an athlete raises more than the required amount and goes above and beyond, there should be a reward or benefit that flows directly to the athlete.

Dunphy's frustration lies with her asking her son's coaches and still not receiving an answer. There is also an element of her eldest son playing travel ball for two years and leaving disappointed that there was no end of year party; where did his funds go? She also voted no for the 14U travel trip, as he was unable to attend and is wondering where did those funds go? Most specifically, where did the team party and trip funds go if they weren't used by her athlete?

She would like change and wants better answers. She wants to know *why* athletes don't get their individual money.

Nate Olson made an initial response regarding team funds. The Board no longer handles additional team funds for individual teams. While “team funds” did exist in the past with previous fundraising methods, that has been phased out and will no longer exist in the future. Some teams had money left over this year to use as desired but the Board does not regulate that. The Board has no influence on how team funds are used and does not require a team party. Coaches make that choice on a team basis.

Jvonne questioned where the funds go if a team did not choose to have a party? Is it still sitting there or does it remain in the Association account?

Jeremiah Piepkorn spoke on the subject of team parties as a Board member and as a coach. Sometimes a coach is unable to make a team party work. He has had that happen in previous years but no money was returned to teams or athletes. The end of year party concept is not required but the Association will give money to teams that have requested, within reason. Fundraising is not contingent upon end of year party occurrence. A coach has the obligation to monitor and request money from the Association when needed. Athletes raise money not just for a specific team for the benefit of the Association in the present year and those to come.

Jvonne affirmed that she is not necessarily wanting money back, but why can't it be used against his registration fees or held in an account for him to pay for extras? Jvonne felt that asking for money put Miles in an uncomfortable situation and outside of his boundaries.

Ashley Gilson relayed that the previous fundraising methods, when there were individual team accounts, allowed for a small percentage of funds raised by athletes to be placed in a “team account.” This method no longer exists as it was difficult for the Treasurer to manage appropriately. Historically, there has never been an option for athletes to work off more than half of their registration fees through fundraising. Each athlete knows that in advance of fundraising efforts. Individualizing athlete accounts through a season is not feasible for a volunteer board and is a large fiduciary burden.

Jvonne noted that a spreadsheet existed during the fundraising period, showing which athletes had raised the most funds, what athletes brought in sponsors and who gave money for each athlete. Her questions was why can't the Board do that for individual athlete accounts?

Corey Johnson responded that the time commitment for the fundraising period is approximately 10 days. During that time, hours a day are spend updating that fundraising spreadsheet. This is not a feasible request for a volunteer position. It's time consuming and tedious. We don't have the systems in place for a more individualized account.

Jvonne noted that many athletes are goal oriented and having a goal to shoot for is helpful. The goal she is referring to is covering certain levels of registration fees. Jvonne referenced a system of fundraising done by the school for an extracurricular trip. In that system, students know how much money they need to raise and if that goal is met they receive money back. Why can't we have this kind of system? Of why not raise the cost of registration to make things more family friendly.

Ashley again relayed that every travel athletic association has a different system for fundraising. This is the system we have; a fundraiser for the Association as a whole. Fees at the bare bones

for this year were almost \$1,100 per athlete. We can't ask each athlete to pay that. We have sponsorships to help meet additional costs and some kids raise more than their required \$250. We applaud those athletes! Our Association is not raising registration costs. Our goal is to encourage student athletes and raising our prices by such a significant price will price many families out of this program.

Jvonne noted that at the end of the fundraising period, the top 10 list of athlete fundraisers was shared. This goes to her point that our Board and Association can see how much each athlete raised. Why not set a requirement threshold, such as \$1000, for those who go above and beyond and then allow their registration to be covered? This might be less work for the Board?

Nate Olson stated that our Association and the athletes who participate raises money per year for the current year but that money all goes into the Association to use as needed for any year. Setting the threshold amount is something that our Board can look at going forward.

Jeremiah relayed that fundraising is part of this program. Each athlete must pay their fee. The effort is VERY appreciated for both of the Dunphy boys and recognition is well deserved.

Trent Grams noted that our Association is working to clean our system up but fundraising cannot be avoided.

Jvonne stated that she was irritated with having to buy more pants after having voted no when that team asked for votes. She does not agree with that. Corey stated the Board does not micromanage team votes on additional equipment. The Board provides a standard uniform and direction on where to go if additional clothing is purchased, but does not control those team decisions.

Jvonne has done research on other associations and believes the Baseball system is different from soccer and cheerleading. It is frustrating from her point of view. She does hope everyone actually raised their required amount of \$250. Corey Johnson confirmed that those athletes who did not fundraise the requisite amount were sent a bill.

A take away for the Board is that we can discuss a threshold amount for the future and the Board is fully open to it. There are ways to build an incentive program for ancillary funds and our Board will make every effort to continue that discussion.

Jeremiah affirmed that Jvonne has given us good feedback and our Board and Association is always looking for ways to improve and learn.

President/VP Report – Corey Johnson and Nate Olson

Fall Ball- No update

Treasurer's Report – Matt Means

None

Secretary's Report – Kristine Kottke

None

Committee Reports - None

Old Business

1. TEE Hive Update – Nothing new
 1. The TeeHive has sent their final bill to the Association. The Association was not billed for anything after the original order was placed. All remakes, things missed or added after the start of the season were not on the bill.
 2. This bill will be paid.
2. New Batting Cages for Bane and Jaycees
 1. Nate Olson presented three proposals for batting cages for Bane and Jaycees? Proposal attached to minutes.
 2. Cement will be the largest investment. The nets at Bane Park would be repurposed and the nets at Jaycees would be replaced.
 3. Ray Austin will donate enough turf for up to three tunnels.
 4. Ashly Gilson motioned to approve up to \$75,400 for the batting cage projects, Trent Grams seconded that motion and it was carried without dissent.
4. Coaches and Player Evaluations
 1. All Player Evaluations have been received by Mike DeRosier.
 2. Coach Evaluations have been received. Corey and Nate Olson will review and then sit down with coaches for discussion.
5. Team Gear Storage
 1. There are still 6 teams left with gear out.
6. Jaycees Grand Reopening.
 1. The Reopening at Jaycees Park went very well! There were some great speeches, a good turnout from the community and the weather was great.
 2. Thank you to Board members, their families and athletes who came to help with drills and skills.

New Business - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Ashly Gilson and seconded by Matt Means.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting: October 13, 2025, time and location TBD