

# August RHA Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 6:56 PM

RHA General Membership Meeting  
Date: 8-14-23  
Time: 6:00  
Location: Thunderdome  
Call General Meeting to Order: Brad Eggers  
Time: 6:02  
Previous Meeting Minutes Approved: Request to remove VP discussion from minutes. Approved Loren Jensen, 2nd Dave Bender

	Present	Absent	Excused
Brad Eggers	P		
Sandra Weaver	P		
Megan Archer	P		
Ben Nelson	P		
Brad Lee	P		
Cody Minnerath	P		
Corey Norris	P		
Dan Laughlin	P		
David Bender	P		
Dornnick Janitell	P		
Joelle Nuetzling	P		
Loren Jensen	P		
Rachael Hepper	P		
Rachelle Williams	P		
Rebecca Mann	P		
Robert Steffy	P		
Ronda Simmons	P		

Important Upcoming Dates	
8/19 and on	3v3 at Roosevelt, time TBD
9/18/23	Board Meeting - 6:00
9/22 - 9/23	Team SD Girls Weekend
10/13-10/15	Team SD Boys Weekend
10/23 - 10/27	Tryouts
11/10 - 11/12	PeeWee Early Bird Tournament
11/17 - 11/19	Varsity Rendezvous Tournament
TBD	Try Hockey for Free

Reports	Discussion of Topic	Follow Up
Expectations of the Board - Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communication is of high priority. Communication team needed for Social media, website, newsletter. There are no secrets between board and players. Everything is open to the public. Board meetings will become open to the public to build the relationship between families and board.</li><li>Have fun! We are here for the kids! It is ok to have fun here!</li><li>Be here for the right reasons. See how your decisions effect the whole association not just your child. Everyone’s opinion is valued. Ask if there are questions. Everyone makes mistakes, it will happen, we will grow.</li><li>Communication is huge. Funneling communications down is key. Bringing communications down to each age group is huge.</li><li>Everyone will be asked to bring their strong suits to the table and add value to the organization, find out where you can add that value. People will always be bringing ideas, give them the time. Listen, listen, listen!</li><li>Not ok with sitting back and allowing someone else to fail. We are here to help each other and everyone within the organization (with everything from scoreboard, concessions and up)</li><li>Care about something other than your own kids team. Our focus needs to be larger than your own team.</li><li>Thank you to all the past board members.</li></ul>	
VP Election	<p>Each VP nomination was given a few minutes to introduce themselves.</p> <p><b>Rachelle Williams</b> - Has been involved in 2 other associations and can bring that knowledge to help build ours. She wants to build a stronger association, working with the new board members to bring their strengths forward. She would like to build communication with board member, build on board strengths, build a coaching committee from Mites to Varsity. Coaching program needs to be established to help kids develop from mite up via good consistent coaching.</p> <p><b>Dave Bender</b> - Promote association, be a model association, team and individual success and moving them to the next level, growth and retention, building up the numbers, keep relationship with Rush and build the program with the Sabers. Build an all inclusive club with travel and house, work to get more from house to travel. He would like to building the coaching program. Dan has been in the association and coached for 11-12 years and has seen the lack of coaching development.</p> <p><b>Dan Laughlin</b> - has been on the board for 3 years and has worked with the state board for 3 years as well. Dan understands the program and the SD Hokey Board process. Recruiting is a big issue, cost of playing is also a big concern. The loan on this building needs to be address, fundraising and looking into low interest loans needs to be addressed. Coaching development is much needed.</p> <p>Board was able to ask questions of the candidates - <b>Numbers are low and keep going down, Retention, how does it all balance. Cut? Don’t cut?</b> Corey Norris</p> <p><b>Rachelle</b> - Promoting the organization, get kids though the door at the mites level. Push house program. Push script program from the bottom up. Cutting level - JV and Varsity cutting could be considered. Any other levels is not an option due to numbers. Getting younger kids in the door needs to be a huge push. Promoting board involvement in mite activities. <b>Dan</b> - Fine line in cutting, against cutting, place for all kids, cutting loses kids and they do not come back. Promoting getting kids involved via banners etc. in schools. Work to get kids on the ice. <b>Dave</b> - Hitting the schools with information, getting them in the door. Finding ways to cut the cost for kids. Promote fundraising at the mite level and up. Involving the Rush in more practices and helping around the rink at all levels. Coaching promotion for bottom up. Applying for grants for promoting the organization.</p> <p><b>How do we drive the cost down?</b> Corey Norris <b>Rachelle</b> - Chase the Ace can be huge. Promoting this program and cutting the loan amount. <b>Dan</b> - Gun raffle. Getting money from outside of the parents that are already paying. <b>Dave</b> - Looking into more grants. Pushing grant funding harder. Chase the Ace and using all the money to cut the loan. Goal in cutting the loan down to make costs reasonable.</p> <p>Votes were cast via paper ballot. Votes were counted by Megan Archer and Rachael Hepper. Results given to Brad Eggers to read.</p> <p>Dan Laughlin has been voted in as the new VP of RHA.</p>	
President - Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Play up Requests - There are 3 play up requests. Coaches have been informed of the requests at a previous coach meeting.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Request for Bantam - Request was denied based on coaches recommendation.</li><li>Squirt to Peewee - this does not effect numbers. Squirts will be allowed to play up. Player must make A team to move up.</li><li>Becky Mann motioned to approve Rachael Hepper second’s approval</li><li>Girl playing up to U14 - approved.</li><li>In the future there needs to be a deadline for requests.</li><li>Bylaws need to be looked at and enforced.</li></ul></li><li>Team Numbers -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>23 Squirt 21 skaters/2 goalies</li><li>21 Peewee 19/2</li><li>24 Bantam 20/4</li></ul></li><li>Communications Team - Communication Team is being formed. This team will review and keep webmaster up to date on any changes that need to be made. General phone number for RHA will be removed from website, Brad will ok'd adding his personal cell number and email under his contact info. Team will be in charge of coming up with solutions to getting information out in a timely manner to all families.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Becky Mann will review website for updates needed.</li><li>Add gear rental tab</li><li>Communications team is being formed - Becky Mann, Stacy Brozik (webmaster), Megan Archer and Ronda Simmons. Will also ask for additional parent involvement outside of board members.</li></ul></li><li>Recruitment Team - We need a dedicated team to work on Recruitment, looking outside of board as well. Communications team will ask for parent volunteers. Rachelle Williams will start this for now.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Using Elks advertisement system, this has helped and there is a possible 8 new skaters from this ad.</li><li>Rush fan fest - done in the past. Consider giving out foam pucks in the future.</li><li>Kids Fair - done in the past but was not a huge success.</li><li>Peach Jar - \$25 per school. Flyers and Peach Jar are not seen as much as other avenues. We need to spend some money on recruitment.</li><li>Advertise at Main Street Square around ice boards.</li><li>Applying for the state grant of \$2,000 for recruitment. Dave Bender will work on getting the application sent in for this.</li><li>Retention for kids such as team building, sleep overs, awards banquet.</li><li>Yard signs for schools \$500 for 100 signs.</li><li>Foam pucks are about 71 cents per puck. Using them for try hockey for free, Rush games ect.</li><li>Working with new sports program in Rapid</li><li>More advertisement at the Rush games, getting our name out at the Rush games. Giving pucks at the 5th grade Rush game.</li><li>Rush Games - (Rhonda Simmons)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chuck a Puck requirements have changed and it is not as profitable.</li><li>New staff at the front desk with the Rush. They are very helpful and would like to work with us. There could be better opportunities to come.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>Policy Review -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Volunteer policy - hours are equal to \$20 per hour.</li></ul></li><li>SafeSport -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On a 12 month cycle. All board members are to be registered with SafeSport and keep it up to date. Must be done for hockey (no other sports will meet requirements) Background check must be done as well. Do background check within USA Hockey and must be done every 2 years. Emily is the expert for any questions.</li><li>Having all mite parents enrolled - to be discussed later.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Need a way to track that every mite parent is enrolled. - Follow up needed.</li></ul></li><li>Locker Room doors staying open at all times. Can this legally be done?</li><li>It is a SafeSport violation to have kids dressing in the hall.</li><li>Assign Mites a team locker rooms so it is easier to monitor. - Follow up needed.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SafeSport</li><li>Communication team being created.</li><li>Mite parents enrolled in SafeSport.</li><li>Look into creating a deadline for play up requests.</li><li>Rachelle Williams to create recruitment team.</li><li>Can we require Mites to have locker room doors open at all times?</li><li>Can we assign each Mite team as designated locker room?</li></ul>
House Program - Brad Eggers, no representation from house at meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rep is needed from each team at the board.</li><li>Communication is a must.</li></ul>	
Financial Report - Sandra Weaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See report</li><li>Expenses are reported</li><li>Insurance expense is added</li><li>3-6 month goal is to talk about money in the bank, how/where to save money. Formal proposal for next meeting.</li></ul>	
Taxes - Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taxes are filed though Ketel Thorsten LLP and we will continue to do so this next year.</li></ul>	
Building Committee Report - Ben Nelson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ice Installation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We have received \$10,000 in donations for ice and in ice advertisement.</li><li>Ice will go in on Sept. 22nd.</li></ul></li><li>Old LiveBarn TV was replaced. Old TV will be moved to the east wall just inside the rink for to display locker room assignments.</li><li>Vandalism has become a huge problem.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Worst ares are upstairs loft, dry land and locker rooms. Ben advises these areas need to be locked up, especially upstairs during games.</li><li>Motion to approve Key fob locks for upstairs and dry land doors approved by Cody Minnerath, second by Ben Nelson.</li><li>These areas will now be locked up with a key fobs. Small amount of key fobs will be available. This will be discussed at the next coach meeting.</li><li>Dibs security position needs to be added, especially during varsity games. No one is to be allowed in the back hallway by the Varsity lockers rooms. Dib spot will open and close gate. Gates can not be locked due to safety reasons. Education will be needed for this Dibs position.</li></ul></li><li>Board members need to hold people accountable to these new rules, especially in keeping kids out of the dryland room and upstairs.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discuss new key fobs for upstairs and dry land with coaching staff.</li></ul>
Girls Program - Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>John, Thad and Kelly</li><li>26 girls registered to play</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sandra will look into what the coaches are getting paid.</li><li>Can we also pay for John?</li></ul>
Fundraising Report - Rhonda Simmons/Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chase the Ace -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Venmo is set up.</li><li>Website build should be done within a few weeks, testing is getting done. Possible go live end of September.</li><li>Link will be on RHA website and Chase the Ace will have its own website.</li><li>Possible drawings to be done live at Wings and Rings to promote RHA and build excitement outside of RHA families.</li><li>Drawings will also be done live on Facebook.</li><li>Process will evolve as this is being set up.</li></ul></li><li>Sabers Proposal -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sabers would like to do an RHA fundraising night in September.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>They would like to do a jersey action. RHA would need to purchase jerseys for \$1200 up front cost, this could be picked up by a sponsor.</li><li>Draw back to this, most of the people going to these games are RHA families and would be buying these jerseys costing our own families more money.</li><li>Motion to find a sponsor or fund the jerseys from Dan Laughlin and Loren Jensen. Opposed to motion was Brad Lee and Ronda Simmons.</li></ul></li><li>50/50 options are available in the future.</li><li>Possible scholarship to senior player.</li><li>Sabers have offered to give a ticket to each player at the Squirt tournament.</li></ul></li><li>Gas Pump Fundraiser - Corey Norris will look into this.</li><li>Moose Lodge has donated to ice fund and would like to encourage end of season parties, awards dinners ect. at their facility.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is anyone exempt from playing Chase the Ace?</li><li>Encourage parent volunteers on fundraising committee.</li></ul>
Ice Utilization - Ben Nelson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ice will be going in on September 22nd.</li><li>Drop in per age group at no charge 2 weeks prior to tryouts. Becky Mann and Bob Stephy make the motion and this is approved.</li><li>Team SD has games scheduled.</li><li>Recruitment coordinator will work on getting free ice for Mites during this time as well.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advertise for mite free ice time.</li><li>Insurance needed for this time?</li></ul>
Try Outs - Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coaches are discussing tryout process.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Possibly allowing kids to tryout for positions</li></ul></li></ul>	
Play and Stay - Corey Norris		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corey Norris will look into PayBack program and when the last time we got paid for this.</li></ul>
Gas Rewards at the Pump - Corey Norris		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corey Norris looking into how this works.</li></ul>
Augustana outreach - Cody Minnerath		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cody Minnerath will look into options for signage, recruitments ect.</li></ul>

Time Adjourned: 8:54