



Marcus Swim and Dive Booster Club Booster Meeting / Parent's Meeting

August 24, 2020
via GoToMeeting

Minutes approved _____

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Executive Board Members were introduced

- i. Sarah Brown - President
- ii. Angie Morrison – VP Spirit Wear
- iii. Kristi Curry – VP Team Events / Fundraising
- iv. Christine Harvey – Secretary
- v. Johanne Lesage – Treasurer

b. Coaches (not present) were introduced

- i. Coach Sherry McGuire – head dive coach for all of LISD, past 20 yrs
- ii. Coach Shannon Gillespy – swim coach, been with MHS since 1994

2. Head Coach Brandon Dion spoke

a. Introduced student leadership

- i. Team Captains – Maddie Moran (dive), Maddie Felan (women's team), and Cole Dion (men's team)
- ii. Junior Representatives / Spirit Leaders – Maya Nanayyakara and Jaeseo Cha
- iii. Sophomore Representatives – Megan Marlin and Chase Dion

b. Communication for Athletes

- i. First and best way is to come to practice! Information for the athletes will be given directly to the athletes. Coach finds it best to start educating athletes to be responsible.
- ii. He will be using the Remind app and will give the sign on to the new athletes. He has not given it out yet – needs to clean out some old members to make some room.

c. COVID rules and procedures / practices

- i. The athletes have been given the rules about how the facility will work during these first weeks at the WAC.
- ii. More information needs to come out from the District / UIL before we get to in-person learning ... about items like bus to/from school, about the locker rooms, buses to/from meets, parents being able to attend meets, etc. As this information comes out, Coach Brandon and Sarah Brown will inform the parents of the rules.

d. Tentative Meet Schedule

- i. There will be no A&M travel meet and no Ranger Relays.
- ii. All meets given are subject to change this season!! Nothing is set in stone yet.
- iii. Coach Brandon did try to select about 2 meets a month. Time will tell how these meets run and if they will go on. As he becomes aware, it will be communicated to the parents.
- iv. Most of the meets are at our pool (WAC). Only a couple of Away meets are on the schedule ... Arlington Invite and possible a meet at The Colony (still being decided).

e. QUESTIONS from the participants:

- i. Most questions were about buses, locker rooms and how things will run once we are in person. That information is still coming and will be communicated.

3. Communication for Parents:

- a. For parents, Coach Brandon mentioned that Sarah Brown does try and send out information (such as change to start / end practice times, meet times, etc.) through emails and social media. She does not receive that information directly from Brandon – but from her own daughter. So, sometimes your own child may beat giving you the information before she can get it posted.
- b. **Social media** – Sarah went over the different areas that the booster club posts information, including Facebook (mostly for parents), Instagram (mostly for athletes) and Twitter (for general public). She also mentioned that we have a new SmugMug account that we can post team pictures to and share. If there is a budding Photographer (either athlete or parent) that would like to take pictures at our meets and events, please let her know. We could use one!!
- c. **Website** – marcusswimdive.com. Information that you can find on the site:
 - i. **Team Events** – a list of our meets. Be careful to look at the ones that go with your athlete. Some are Swim only, Dive only or Both. Times have **NOT** been decided for the meets. As we get information (even morning / afternoon / evening), we will update the website with that information. TBD in the events means we don't know yet.
 - ii. **Forms / Documents** – several forms in this area of note:
 1. **Athlete Driving Permission Form** – for athletes that can drive and want to opt out of riding the bus to/from practice to/from MHS; this form is not about just being able to drive to practice from home; it's about opting out of the bus provided by LISD between the pool and MHS/MHS9
 2. **LISD Permission Form** – for when the athletes might miss school due to a swim / dive meet. It's a blank LISD form that can be printed and signed.
 3. **LISD Athlete Transportation Release Form** – all athletes are required to ride the bus to/from school athletic events (aka. Meets). But, if you have a valid reason that you need to drive your athlete / pick them up early from the meet ... this is the form to use and fill out. Coaches will push back at first because it really is the rule to keep the team together and ride the bus.
 - iii. **Scholarship Information**
 1. Booster Club gives out 4 total scholarships to Senior athletes. There are 2 more scholarships that MHS athletes (along with FMHS swim athletes) are eligible for. The list is on the website
 2. All of our scholarship stuff goes through LEF ... and LEF hasn't updated their website with this year's dates. As soon as they do, we will update our link to with those dates.
 - iv. **Meet Results**
 1. Complete meet results for the meets that MHS has attended for the last 2 years are on the website.
 2. Also, for returning athletes, their times from last season are listed under Events & Competition (in back office / black bar on left of screen) and then Meet Results. We will continue to enter times for athletes going forward this year.
 - v. **Diving**
 1. Mentioned that Heather Moran (senior daughter) is the Dive Rep for MHS.
 2. Our team is very loaded with swimmers. We have 5 divers this year. However, their contribution to the team is quite strong. When MHS goes to meets as a full team and it is scored against other teams, MHS does very well because of our divers. And, this year should be no exception. We have a great group of athletes to watch compete!

4. Booster Club Purpose & Offerings

- a. First off – **Water Polo**. Swim&Dive Boosters is completely separate from Water Polo Boosters. Swim and Dive runs from Aug to late February. Water Polo then picks up at the end of February and into May. Right now, Coach Brandon is looking for some folks to be on the water polo booster board. Starting in the fall of 2021, Water Polo will become an official UIL sport ... and will move from Aug to Oct. Whoever might be willing to join the Water Polo Booster Board should be prepared to be on the board in the spring 2021 and then help start the season in fall 2021.

- b. **Booster Meetings** – we are required per our bylaws to have 4 meetings a year. Last night's meeting counts as 1. Sarah will post upcoming meetings throughout the year, if you would like to attend. She assumes most of the meetings will be virtual / online.
- c. **Team Uniform** – the following are the items that your athlete will receive (or have received) from the Booster Club / Team. Coach Brandon will be sending out a google form in the next few days to have the athletes fill out asking for sizes for some of these items:
 - i. **Team Shirt** – design has been sent to the printers; waiting for sizes and we should be receiving those in the next few weeks.
 - ii. **Team Backpack** – every NEW athlete will receive a backpack. The backpacks are intended to last all 4 years that the athlete is with the team. If an athlete leaves before the season is over or even after 1 year, they may be required to return the backpack. Otherwise, the backpack stays with the athlete.
 - iii. **Face Mask and Lanyard** – these were handed out on Monday to all athletes in attendance. Every athlete should receive 1.
 - iv. **Team Suit** – because of COVID, athletes will not be able to try on swim suits before determining size. Coach Brandon decided it would be easiest to just keep the same brand / style as last year but go with black, instead of red. Make sure your athlete knows their size from last year. If you need help tracking down that information, Sarah has the list that was ordered last year. For new athletes, Sarah also has a size chart from Nike Performance Competitions suits that she can share. For the women's team, they will have the 2 styles that were offered last year. The Cut Out and the Fast Back. The form they will fill out has pictures of both styles for them to choose from. Sarah can also share that picture with parents if they want to look at them. For the men's team, they will be going with the speedo-type / brief for the entire team.
 - v. **Team Jacket** – this year, we are changing warmups. Exciting! The booster club will be purchasing returning athletes the jacket (no cost to parents in hopes of returning some of the money not used last year that we fundraised) ... and new athletes will be purchasing as part of their regular annual warmup cost (that is spread out over 4 years). That money is already included in the registration / activity fee. So, the entire team will be outfitted in these new jackets. They are red ¼ zip jacket with our swim logo on them. The form that Coach Brandon is sending out will ask for a size from each athlete. Bottoms (under the jacket) – instead of purchasing everyone bottoms to wear, we decided to let the athlete decide, as long as it's black. For bottoms, there are 2 choices to pick from:
 - 1. Whatever you have at home in your closet ... athletes can wear plain black sweatpants, leggings, long shorts, last year's warm up pants, etc. No "booty shorts."
 - 2. Booster club will be opening an online store later this week. In this store, we will offer affordable black joggers, straight leg sweat pants and a basketball short ... all with our logo on them.

d. Fundraising

- i. As mentioned before, no big A&M meet this year. A&M normally cost the booster club around \$10k. Our fall fundraiser (Vertical Raise) normally goes towards that trip. So, we will not be having a big fundraiser. But, new athletes / families should prepare to help out with fundraising next year / fall 2021.
- ii. Depending on what we are allowed to do this year and how many "fun" events that we can host, we may need to do 1-2 small fundraisers to cover some overlapping costs. Sarah / Kristi will communicate that during the season.
- iii. **Fan Shirts** – we will be selling fan shirts again this year. Fan Shirts are a tshirt with our logo / name on the front and the athlete's last name on the back. Athletes sell these shirts to their friends around MHS (\$20) and collect lots of different ones from all the organizations / athletic groups / fine arts, etc. Swim&Dive and Water Polo do VERY well at MHS because they are so different. They will sell better once we can be in person again, so we will wait a bit to get that rolling.

- e. **Team Events** – We know how important these are to the athletes, and particularly the Seniors (traditions!!). If we can do any, or even a version of these, we will try to pull them off.
 - i. **Team Dinners** – may need to be slimmed down to smaller groups; These are normally once a month either hosted by a volunteer host family or at a location we can fit the team at. We do potluck dinners and a sign up for items. Hosting 80+ athletes at one place will most likely not be an option this year, but we are looking at options.
 - ii. **HOCO Carnival** -- ?? Still in question from MHS if this is still happening. But would need a lead and a couple volunteers to help. It's a "one and done" volunteer spot.
 - iii. **Team Bonding Event** – normally this is Group Dynamix, but we will have to get permission to do or find another type event. Maybe an outdoor activity ??
 - iv. **Banquet** – this is in April. Kim Conrad (senior son) is our lead for banquet, but we could really use someone to shadow her this year and take over next year. More details for that coming out later in the year.
 - v. **Senior Night** – this is Dec 8th / Duel in the Pool with FMHS. We alternate hosting this with FMHS and this year, it's MHS's turn. We will need a lead (NOT a Senior parent, they get to be honored this night!) and several hands to help pull this off. Please let me know if you can help out with this. Planning starts early.
- f. **Spirit Wear – Online Store!!!**
 - i. This is a fundraising opportunity for us – so it really helps out the team!
 - ii. It will open Friday, **Aug 28** and go until **Sep 11**.
 - iii. It's all online, like last year ... and you can pay with credit card.
 - iv. Some of the items we will have in the store are:
 - 1. Fun tshirts for the whole family
 - 2. Hoodie and a sweatshirt
 - 3. Baseball cap
 - 4. Yard signs
 - 5. Car decals
 - 6. A "like a Hydra Flask, but not Hydra" cup
 - 7. PJ Pants for cold, early winter mornings or worn out afternoons
 - 8. Bottoms for the before mentioned Uniform: joggers, sweatpants and basketball shorts.
 - v. Angie might need to add some items after the store opens, because shipping has been a little dicey this year and she's waiting on a couple things.
 - vi. Goal is to have the items you ordered distributed to you 2 weeks after the close of the store. We will have to coordinate distribution this year – but will communicate that with you.
- g. **Meals for Meets** – Joanne Teeters (senior son) is our lead on this. She did an amazing job last year coordinating these meals. When your athlete goes to a HS meet that runs through lunch / dinner (sometimes breakfast), the booster club provides a meal for them.
 - i. Meals consist of a sandwich, chips, cookie and a water. Athletes need to prepare themselves that this is not a 7 course meal. For those that have an "endless black hole" for a stomach, they should bring snacks to the meet as well. Fuel / food = energy. And these meets can run long. And the athletes sometimes get bored, and that means hungry.
 - ii. During registration for the season, there is a spot where you click on a form to fill out for meal choice. This is required for EVERY athlete!! Let Sarah know if you didn't see that form and she can send to you separately.
 - iii. The form has 4 choices of restaurant – Corner Bakery, Jasons, Panera and Chick-fil-A.
 - iv. We tried to include 2 entrees to choose from (lots of time a turkey or ham sandwich), a mostly vegetarian option and a gluten free option.
 - v. **Gluten Free** ... NOTE: every restaurant we deal with has a disclaimer that they cannot guarantee that there won't be cross contamination of gluten. If your athlete requires gluten free, please just choose the gluten free option and then contact Sarah Brown to talk about the options.

- vi. **Meal Volunteers** Every time we provide meals, we could use a volunteer to go pick it up and bring it to the meet. It's probably the easiest volunteer job we have!!! Joanne does all the labor intensive stuff of setting up the meals and getting stickers on the boxes and paying for them. We just need a parent to drive to the store, open their trunk and load the meals. Drive to the meet, and most of the time Coach Brandon will send out some "volunteer" kids to come carry the meals into the building for you. Please let Sarah know if you wouldn't mind grabbing some meals for us sometime. I will add you to a list to rotate through.
- h. **Volunteer spots for Meets** – Hopefully, we will get to host a couple meets this season. If so, we will need parents to help us pull that off.
 - i. This is normally how Booster Club subsidizes its income – by hosting meets. But this year, that income may be close to nothing because UIL has limited the number of teams that can come (meet fees \$) and may not allow spectators (admission \$).
 - ii. The bigger meets (Duel in the Pool, TISCA, Kyle Tilley and Regionals) are all ones that we normally host. So far, UIL is looking at how to make meets smaller (no income). We may help host a couple small ones depending on how the season goes.
 - iii. **TISCA** and Regionals are both big 2 day meets. TISCA is a qualifying meet that is normally a 30+ team big event. This year TISCA will be split between 3 pools in our area and run as a "virtual event" with scores being combined after the events are completed. We will still be providing some parent volunteers in some capacity, but have not received the information of how that is going to work.
 - iv. **Regionals** (Feb 5&6) is a big 2 day event. MHS / FMHS and LHS all cohost this meet. We host the 5A (not us, normally in the mornings) and 6a (us, normally in the afternoons). It's 4 full sessions (2 Fri / 2 Sat) ... all requiring tons of parent volunteers to pull off. The best thing you can do for our team is tentatively think about taking work off on Feb 5th. It's the toughest day to cover for volunteers all year!! Saturday is tough, too ... but Friday during the day is extremely tough to get parents to help with. Especially if your athlete is not swimming in that meet – but that is the very reason to ask you to volunteer! For lots of Seniors, this will be their last meet with the team ... and it would be nice if their parents could sit in the stands and watch. Please consider helping at this meet!
 - v. **Positions we might ask you to volunteer for:**
 - 1. Admissions – (if we can have parents) take \$ for entry
 - 2. Safety Marshal – help guard pool deck door and other key locations in the facility
 - 3. Timers – front seat to great racing; help manually time the swimmers as they race
 - 4. Awards – put stickers on medals and ribbons during the meet

5. REGISTRATION

- a. We need EVERY athlete to register to our website. Even returning athletes!
- b. Why? Primarily for communication. We will be using Team Unify for team communications for meets, practice schedules, team events, meet results, and anything else parents need to know.
- c. Also ... to pay the registration / activity fee. **\$150 = Payment 1**
 - i. For the last few years, our activity fee was \$275 for the season. Letting new parents know this because hopefully we will be back to normal next year and you won't need the sticker shock.
 - ii. This year ... we decided to break up payments. **Payment 1 is for \$150** and is due by Sep 11th. Payment 2 will be due in January. The amount is still up in the air, depending on what we can do this year. Writing this here for accountability → **the 2nd payment will not be more than \$100**. If we are able to have some team events, it will most likely be between \$50-\$75. If the season gets canceled, we won't have a 2nd payment. Overall, you won't pay more than \$250. We wanted to give everyone a break this year.
 - iii. If you have any issues with the \$150, please just talk to Sarah Brown. She can work something out with you! Just please communicate.
 - iv. When you click on Registration on our website, you will see we have 3 options for payment: Credit Card, Check, and Venmo

1. **Credit Card** – this does come with a \$5 fee. It is clearly listed on the website. If you pay this way, your account will be automatically activated (ready to use).
 2. **Check** – you may still write a check. Make it out to Marcus Swim and Dive Booster Club and mail it to the address on our site. Do not hand checks to Coach Brandon!! Your account might take a bit longer to activate, but as soon as we have the check in hand, we will activate it. Submit your registration online and then mail your check.
 3. **Venmo** – new this year. Details on how are given during registration. Once the funds are received, your account will be activated. Submit your registration online and then venmo funds.
- v. **How to actually register** I went through this on the parents meeting call, so if you missed it and get stuck anywhere, just let me know!! I'd be happy to help and no sense anyone get frustrated.
1. Steps to register:
 - a. Click anywhere on the site where it says **Registration**.
 - b. Returning members should sign in where it says log in. If you forgot your log in or need your password reset, contact Sarah.
 - c. New Members ... create an account.
 - d. There are 5 pages to get through ... on all, it's important to always fill in anything with an asterisk (*) = required. THEN scroll to the bottom of every screen and click on the **GREEN** button. On the bottom of the last screen, there is a **SUBMIT Registration**. It is not complete until you click on that last SUBMIT button.
 - i. **Page 1** – Title page; read and scroll to bottom; click on “continue”
 - ii. **Page 2** – Account page (= parent info); Can enter up to 3 emails to get team communications, including athlete, if you want; fill out all spots with an asterisk; scroll to bottom and click “continue”
 - iii. **Page 3** – Member page (= athlete info) and agreements page; follow directions at the top of the page about adding a new athlete or just confirming returning athlete; there is a hidden little pull down item that is right under the medical part that asks if your athlete is a swimmer or diver – easy to miss; Agreements .. there are 4:
 - a. Volunteer info
 - b. Photo Release (for social media sites)
 - c. Meal choice form
 - d. Athlete drivers
 - iv. Click on the boxes for each agreement to show you read them.
 - v. At the bottom of the Agreements, click on the green button to move on to the payment screens
 - vi. **Page 4** – Account info; Scroll to the bottom of this page and choose how you would like to pay your activity fee / registration fee. Then click, “Proceed to Checkout”
 - vii. **Page 5** – Checkout; credit cards will be entered here for those who chose that. Any choice will need to scroll to the bottom and click on **SUBMIT Registration**.
 - viii. After paying, Your part is done!!
 2. Once you have submitted your registration, there is some behind the scenes buttons that need to be pushed to activate your account. If you are new to our team, you will receive an email explaining how to log in and set up a password. This means your account is ready to go and your athlete is registered.

Thank you for supporting our team and supporting the Booster Team this year!! Always reach out to me if you have any questions ... it's my job! ~ Sarah Brown, cell 817-575-9565, email slbjax9000@aol.com