

Chattanooga Central High School

Alumni Association

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2020

The April meeting of the Chattanooga Central High Alumni Association was held on April 9, 2020 online using Zoom. Buffy Hoge called the meeting to order. There were no new attendees.

Acceptance of Minutes

Buffy asked everyone to review the March minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Tara gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$18, 251.67. There were no deposits or debits. Total available balance is \$14,675.57. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Principal's Report

Covid-19 closes schools: Friday, March 13th was the last physical day of classes physically in building to date. The students were given initial work packets and directions for on-line assignments.

The school day on the 13th was closed with the annual talent show which was a huge success. The 3rd Quarter of school also ended on Friday, March 13th.

Monday, March 16th was scheduled as a Professional Development day for teachers/staff. Original plans were altered. Teachers began to prepare for distance/virtual learning and meetings.

Tuesday March 17th virtual classes began (4th Quarter began) and continued through April 2nd.

Central teachers/students have responded favorably to our "new normal" and as the days have gone on additional students have begun to respond to virtual schooling and contacts made. As of now only about 7 Central students have not been reached through the efforts of teachers, counselors, staff, etc. Otherwise, all students have received some level of contact and are aware of the virtual opportunities for teaching and learning.

Counselors have also established web sites and means of contact to support the emotional/social needs during this time.

Google Meet and Zoom have been virtual meeting platforms that are being used for “facetime”

The district and CHS have been active in assisting families with internet service options, breakfast and lunch service and other connections to community resources.

April 3-12 - Spring Break (students could use this time to catch up on assignments; no new/additional work/classes were provided)

Virtual school will resume, Monday, April 13th and the current return date is set for Monday, April 27th, pending further action by the Governor. The TN State Board of Education is meeting today, April 9th and further action regarding the questions about grades, testing, graduation etc. are pending.

All activities and events are on hold, pending decisions:

Cancelled to date: All practice and sports, field trips, JROTC inspection and Awards Day, Spring Play “Oz”, Choir performance at Dollywood, Spring blood drive, Academic Awards Day and the Superintendent’s Honors Banquet

As of now May events are pending: Class Night, Senior Day, Prom and Graduation. The district is working on plans for alternative celebrations.

Stacy Alexander had a question about an email from the superintendent regarding graduation in May and Mr. I responded that it would probably be in June but there was nothing official yet.

Buffy asked about Senior Night and Class Day dates and Mr. I responded that they were pending and would depend on whether school resumed or not.

Ms. Latham asked if she needed to call Bayside and cancel and he responded to give them a heads up but not to cancel until there was further information from the district. May 5th and May 7th would still be reserved until there was further information. He also said to keep the Dollywood trip on standby until there was further information.

DayOnna Carson asked about Academic Awards Day and Graduation and Mr. I said it would depend if they returned physically to school and that he was waiting on further information.

Ms. Alexander stated that DayOnna was accepted to Harvard and several other colleges and she is a Gates scholarship finalist.

DayOnna stated she was excited and in shock and she was probably going to choose Harvard but was still waiting on some financial aid information.

Student Officer's Report

DayOnna Carson said the seniors were worried about having actual graduation and prom. They are hoping it's just postponed. They are working on senior projects and job shadowing. The job shadowing has been modified due to closures. They are applying for scholarships. The Digest has been writing stories on social distancing and doing sports stories on the athletes practicing even though they can't congregate as a team. The Digest is waiting on one more badge to get website distinction. The Seniors are still in contact but hoping to at least get together for graduation one last time.

Zoey Greene spoke for the juniors and said her class isn't responding much at all she feels, even though they are trying to keep in contact. They are taking video conferences and they are mostly caught up. They aren't sure what Prom is going to bring. She wrote an essay for Electric Co-Op and won but the trip was cancelled. They are going to do something to recognize the winners but are unsure what it is yet.

Sara Katherine Latham said the freshmen are trying to figure out how to do their online work and it was going well.

There wasn't a sophomore representative..

Old Business

Lucy said the scholarship committee had 30 applications and said they had laughed and cried together. She stated that Barney called and wanted to know if the parents were writing the essays because they were so fantastic. The committee has met via phone. Many of the decisions have been made and said it would be helpful if Ms. Alexander already knew where students have been accepted and if they know they are going to a certain school. It would help them going through the remainder of the scholarships to have a place for them. She said it was a compliment to the teachers and administrators the amazing things that Central High School is doing with our students. She said to Mr. I, DayOnna and the other seniors that she wants the scholarships announced and handed to the deserving seniors because they deserved the recognition.

Buffy said Lucy was right and they were deserving of being honored and that alternatives were being looked into.

Buffy said she had called Cecil Stokes and left a message congratulating him on DAHOF. Tara stated she received a message from him and he is excited about the induction. Buffy said everyone has now been contacted that will be inducted into the DAHOF.

Buffy found a book by J.B. Collins online and shared it with the group. She is going to get it signed and donate it to Central's library.

Tara said we needed to get at least one of the movies Cecil Stokes has directed and add it to the library as well.

Class Night reception is pending action from the school board and state. Tara made a suggestion that if we can't do DAHOF in Spring, we possibly do something jointly with SHOF. If we do this we would possibly postpone the Legends. This will be discussed once more decisions are made and dates are known.

Heather stated SHOF had not met but asked if Coach Crawford had any updates to share. Coach said he did not have any updates. Buffy asked about the joint DAHOF and SHOF possibility and both stated that it could be worked out. Coach stated the SHOF committee will be meeting soon and would have nominations soon to bring to the committee. He said they were going to prepare as if we were going to have it and knew that dates might change. Lucy said we need to consider if we did inductions of SHOF and DAHOF at the barbeque dinner and recognize both on the field the time restraints due to the football game. Coach Crawford said we would definitely work with whatever we needed to and make it happen.

James Walker said if we combine SHOF and DAHOF we could have it in the gym and have a program with a stage and this would give the time to honor both recipients of the SHOF and the DAHOF. He said we don't make any money on the BBQ dinner and it is really a distraction. He said we could have cookies or something of this nature and have it in the gym. This is something we will consider.

Ms. Fry said that she has J.B. Collins book in her library and it is a wonderful book and he's a wonderful man to honor. Buffy congratulated her on her upcoming induction.

Barney is requesting through text with Lucy to enter the meeting.

Ms. Latham reported good news on the piano lab. They have received \$4,450.00 from individual donors, \$1,000 from alumni, \$700 from Food City, they will receive \$800 from Volunteer Electric, Walmart in Ooltewah \$500 for a total of \$8450 so far. She shared their benefactors are the Frys and they are so thankful. The Frys let her know that if they don't raise \$10,000 by the end of year they are still donating \$10,000 by end of year and this will be enough to start a piano lab. They will start with 8 pianos and this will allow 16 students to be working. This will begin in the Fall. James said we needed a social media blast so we can share and it will help bring more in for them. Ms. Latham said she needed to get with Tara to get the donation from Fry's.

Barney finally was able to join the meeting and stated he hates computers!!!

James and Barney have been working on pullovers for the 6 wrestlers. James has all sizes and forwarded them and reached out to Kristy and he is going to ask her to get them ordered. Tara said we needed to vote. James said it was a standing commitment. Buffy thought we had voted but asked for a motion. Lucy made a motion and asked about the emails sent out. She asked about the wrestlers that went to state last year. James said the coach said those were gone and would be hard to get them back. James was going to speak to him again. There were 8 wrestlers last year. If there are duplicate wrestlers we can put both years on this year's pullovers. James is going to find out about last year's 2019 pullovers. Lucy revised the motion to buy the 2019-2020 pullovers.. Motion was seconded by Heather. Motion passed.

New Business

Preston Fore shared the current alumni website and explained how it is dated. Butch Poole, the current administrator of the site is wanting to pass the torch. Preston made a prototype for a new website for the alumni association. He shared what it looked like and the different features. He contacted Butch and he said it looked great and passed over the domain. Lucy asked how Preston was going to maintain or how he was going to train someone to help. He said with square space there were unlimited contributors but he could show anyone and that it was very simple. Ms. Latham asked the cost. He said we would have to continue with domain cost and he is unsure of this cost. It is \$144 a year to run square space. Tara said our domain was through GoDaddy. Tara said it looked awesome and she was interested in being trained to help update. Heather stated that Sara Katherine had written in the notes that she would help. Jake Johns said that square space was very user friendly and had step-by-step instructions. Tara made a motion to accept Preston's new website and James and Coach Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Lucy asked Brielle how it is going for teachers through virtual learning. She asked if she had to be at the computer with the students. Brielle said it was great and the teachers have jumped on board and are using the district platform canvas and Zoom. She said they are creating quick lessons and answering questions.

Mr. I said there is no end of the year state testing this year but on the 3rd benchmark tests the results/goals were reached; double AMOs for every level. He said it was a testament to the students and teachers. Finley King stated how proud he was! Mr. I said it was in his honor and they wanted to continue his legacy.

Finley took off April, May, June because of reduced flights. He said he is blessed to not work so others can. He said he wanted to find how he could help Central during his off time. He started inviting people to join Central alumni and connection facebook sights. He said there has been a landslide movement. He invited 150 approximately and from those 150 there has been a surge of Central alumni joining and becoming members. He said next is to get them inside our

building and get them involved in our committees and start helping Central. Coach Crawford thanked Finley.

James apologized for his mix up in not attending the March meeting.

He stated that the Connie Hay Classic is still on for June 6th. He said he would have a further/clearer direction before the next meeting.

Heather asked for a roll call at the end of the meeting. Tara said she made a list. Lucy said we started with 20 on the meeting and now have 19. 33 invites were sent because we didn't want to broadcast too large due to being unsure how the meeting was going to go because of it being a Zoom meeting. She said she could send invites again if we met through Zoom for the next meeting.

James said rather than roll call we could take a picture of the meeting for Heather and then we could post on social media to say we were still meeting and going strong even in uncertain times.

Jake took a screenshot and will send it to Heather and Buffy.

Ms. Alexander said that Tyler Mullins is waiting to hear if he has been awarded a place in Naval Academy. He was awarded a 4 year ROTC scholarship anywhere he wants to go. He will either go to VMI or UTC if he doesn't go to Naval Academy. Keyanna Bayles was accepted to Fisk University and will go there or UTC.

Ms. Latham said the exchange students had to go back home on the last day of school. One of the students, May, from Brazil, is still attending class even though she is back at home in Brazil.

James made a motion to adjourn. Tara seconded. Motion passed.

Next alumni meeting on May 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Heather C. Randolph

Acting Secretary

List of Attendees

Barney Ottinger

Naomi Hay

Judy Phillips

Preston Fore

DayOnna Carson

Zoey Greene
Phil Iannarone
Buffy Hoge
Katherine Latham
Sara Katherine Latham
Mr. Fry
Mrs. Fry
Heather Randolph
Lucy Bottorff
John Crawford
Ms. Alexander
Steve Lewis
Brielle Farrow
Jake Johns
Finley King
James Walker
Tara Waldrop