

Chattanooga Central High School

Alumni Association

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

The December meeting of the Chattanooga Central High Alumni Association was held on December 10, 2020, online using Zoom. Buffy Hoge called the meeting to order. There were no new attendees.

Acceptance of Minutes

Buffy made a motion to accept October and November minutes. Lucy Bottorf made a motion to approve the minutes. John Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Tara Waldrop gave the treasurer's report. There was one transaction for the month, the Ruriteen Christmas card project. There was one cash donation of \$50 for the golf tournament. The balance is \$31,866.29. \$25,290.19 is the total available balance not earmarked for scholarships. Lucy asked if this all came from the golf tournament and Tara stated there were a lot of deposits last month from the golf tournament. Barney Ottinger stated this is the biggest balance we've had. Buffy said she looks forward to us finding some projects to spend it on in the new year. She also stated that for the Hoge Family scholarship, Abby Young reached out to Mrs. Alexander today and asked how she could get her money. The money needs to go to UTC. Tara said that Mrs. Alexander should know the procedure and the community foundation or the alumni association would be contacted so the money could be distributed. There are several scholarships that haven't been claimed. Buffy will contact Abby and talk with Mrs. Alexander tomorrow.

Barney said that he and Tara had been in contact and there are still 2 people that haven't paid for the golf tournament. James Walker said he knew who they were. Barney will go see one of them tomorrow. Tara said that it was because they couldn't pay at the tournament due to the machine not working. Dave Owen is one who needs to pay and asked for the link to join the meeting tonight. There is a total of \$1,100 that is outstanding from the golf tournament. Buffy will check the mailbox tomorrow and John Crawford will talk to Brandon Farrow if nothing is in the mailbox.

James made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Lucy seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tara asked if we only file taxes every couple of years and said she will get with Pam. She asked Barney if we are supposed to file this year because she doesn't think we did last year. James asked if it depended on how much is in the account and Barney said for Tara to just get with Pam.

Principal's Report

At 4:30 today Hamilton Co. Schools decided to go to online learning for the last 4 student days left in the semester. They are not sure how schools will reopen in January. All activities are being suspended until January. Mr. I will have a meeting in the morning and will know more. Jan. 6 is the day that they are supposed to come back in person.

Covid-19: Schools remain open on a Hybrid model serving students both in-person and at home, but shifted to an A/B schedule as Covid cases increased following the recent holiday break. All individuals on campus are required to wear a face-covering and to practice social distancing.

Staff have been consistently available to serve our Central high families.

Central's current enrollment is 775. This is a slight increase since last month. Approximately 500 students continue at home learning this term and the other students are doing in person learning. We are serving approximately 275 students in person, although we have had an increase in cases of quarantine. The basketball teams have been especially impacted with the boys JV and Varsity players currently on quarantine. As a result our basketball schedule has been impacted.

The district/TSSAA continue to monitor Athletics. Currently we continue to be on schedule for the winter sports season. Restrictions have been revised for game attendance. Max capacity in our gym is 15% or 150 total.

Although several schools in the district have again closed for covid related concerns CHS has remained open and operational. Safety protocols are emphasized at all times. As of this report we remain the only high school in the district that has not had a full covid closure.

Teaching and learning remains our main focus.

Students are currently in End of Course and final exam schedule. Testing began Dec. 3 and will conclude at the close of the semester.

51% of our families made their registration selection for in person or at home learning for next semester. The response rate and selection of options is approximately the same as for the first semester.

Final Exams and End of Course Testing Dec. 2-17.

Last day of school Dec. 17.

Holiday break Dec. 18-Jan. 4 students are currently scheduled to return on January 6.

Lucy asked how Mr. I emotionally will deal with the sudden changes and he replied that they had a plan A and B and were not unprepared. He said they are ready to make the shift. He stated they are tired and it is hectic but they are ready. He told Katheron Latham that he would talk with her in the morning about the Christmas concert. She stated that she was on a teacher zoom call with Hamilton Co. schools earlier and that there were a lot of questions about whether to push forward with the events and try to get them in on Saturday. She said everything had to happen before Sunday at midnight and after that, the county would change the Phase they were in. Mr. I said they want everyone to get their events in but they also had to think about safety and in the morning more questions would be answered. Mr. I said kudos to Central students and teachers for the great academic test results and for persevering through the tough times. No decisions have been made about graduation and the meeting to determine this was postponed. He said the Covid-19 numbers in Hamilton Co. have gone up and things were not looking good right now. Buffy stated that we continue to lift Mr. I, the students, teachers, and administrators in Hamilton Co. up and how much we appreciate his positivity. Katheron shared that tomorrow at 11:50 on Channel 3 a video of our choir singing will be aired.

Student Officer's Report

Jessyca Foster shared a heartfelt message to the group about the welfare of Central's student body. She said this year had been extremely difficult due to the pandemic, hybrid learning, and their mental health. She said they feel stressed, overwhelmed, isolated and they have lost their motivation. She stated she has been fighting to spread her voice on mental health since May and shared that over the summer Central lost a student to suicide. She said her fight has been stronger since this. She encouraged us to please let students know they are doing a good job and that everything was going to be okay...to spread hope. The group, many commented, how proud they were of Jessyca and what a blessing she is. She was reminded that she is not alone and is stronger than she thinks and we are behind her. The group thanked her for the heart she has for others and recognized Jessyca, Preston, and Sarah Katheron for the struggles they have gone through and the positivity and encouragement they have given to the group and to others. This was a very touching moment for the entire group and a lot of love and kindness was spread.

Sarah Katheron said they were making it through the best they can and were hoping for more opportunities to be together as a student body in the coming year. She said they were disappointed that the Ruriteen club couldn't get the cards sent out before Christmas but they were planning to send out a non-seasonal card in January or February of the coming year. Buffy explained that there were some problems getting the cards out for Christmas and she authorized them to keep the postage money to get the cards out in the first of the coming year. Sarah asked us to continue to send names and addresses to them. Lucy said with the help of Laurie she would be happy to send out anything they would like. Buffy will send Sarah Katheron's email to Lucy so they can communicate and coordinate.

Old Business

Mrs. Fry tried to speak to the group but had technical issues. She will get in touch with Buffy after the meeting to communicate.

Lucy reported that the scholarship committee would have a meeting in January. She is collecting past forms from each scholarship. There are individual forms that eventually were merged into one. Barney has copies of this and will send them to Lucy. He has them from the beginning of the association. Lucy stated that it would be interesting to see how it would be done this year if the schools are still virtual. Heather Randolph commented that she knows that it is important, especially the Stan Farmer scholarship, that the original requirements were upheld. Lucy said that yes, they realized some things had been changed and that they were going to work on this and that they were going to make the application process easier for students to apply. James said some things changed as scholarships grew and that the qualifications for each individual award have been lost. He said this was without any intent and that it seemed like we were on the right track to get it back. Tara said in a sense of trying to be helpful the form was changed, and it was appreciated, but the form needs to come from the alumni association and not anyone from the school. Barney said we got away from some of the qualifications/specifications that the scholarships were established for and that we needed to go back to this because they were established for a reason and money put in for a reason. Some don't have the same requirements that were on there from the beginning. James said some might not qualify for a certain scholarship each year and we were doing a disservice if we didn't follow what the scholarship was for. Lucy said if this happens we would go to the individual or family and explain the situation and ask permission to give them names of other students who deserve scholarships. Mr. Mackey has done this in the recent past and we have done this with the Stan Farmer scholarship. Lucy said the scholarship committee would discuss this and appreciated the input from the association.

Barney reported that there wasn't a report for the Distinguished Hall of Fame committee. He will get with Lucy about changing the form. We still have to do something for this year's inductees. There were 5 from this year. He suggests that it be a small class for 2021.

John said we will be keeping the Sports Hall of Fame small for 2021 as well since we still have to recognize the 2020 class. He has some ideas and will be meeting with the committee soon.

Buffy and Tara will work on the press release and state they are soliciting nominations for this year's class. Tara asked if the nomination forms are on the website. Preston stated that the DAHOF was not. Tara said we need to get both forms up and that this will also help point people to our new website. John said to send the release to Lucy and she could send this out in an email blast as well. Buffy will get with Barney and send the updated PDF to him and Preston so that it can get on the website.

Buffy will take photos of the 8 existing bricks tomorrow. Barney stated that Preston has done a nice job of getting something together that we can solicit people buying the bricks. He asked Preston to head the brick fundraiser and Barney and John will be there in support. Preston said he would do what he could with the help of everyone else. Tara stated she had all the login information. Barney discussed where we are going to put the bricks. He said we had talked about the hammer and anvil as well as the flower beds in front of the school. John said Preston's layout was really good. He likes both places for the bricks and wants to meet to see

how they would be arranged. Lucy said we had talked about 4 different areas and it was hard to imagine the layout. With only 8 bricks it will be hard to really make a dent in a specific space. We need a lot of bricks. John said we need to let people know why we are doing this and why are we raising money for. Lucy said we need to get people's emotions involved. John said we also need to get the different classes involved. In Preston's layout he stated the fundraiser was to raise money for the association. Barney said we need to give people a reason to buy a brick (in honor of someone, something, scholarship etc.). Preston agreed with everything and said we definitely need a reason why to give people. Heather asked what scholarship was not fully funded? Can we say the money is going for that. She asked if there was enough room in the display cases in the school to go ahead and put the 8 bricks that have already been purchased. Several agreed that we can say the money goes to scholarships not funded and that we make room in the display case for the 8 bricks with an information board on how to purchase the bricks. John asked if the information about purchasing a brick was online and Tara said she would get the information to Preston so he can put it on the website. Barney said the forms we have are confusing and wondered if we can simplify the form. Tara agreed and explained that in order to place an online order they have to use our paypal. She said that Preston could probably help us simplify the form that has to be filled out to order bricks. Preston said he thinks it would be best for us to order the bricks rather than the individual people ordering them. Tara said she will get with Preston on this.

Preston asked if anyone checked the email address. Tara said it is still going to Lucy. Buffy needs to set up another email since she is president now and Lucy uses the other for the email blasts. Preston and Buffy will get together to work on this.

Sarah Katheron said she could write an updated story about the brick fundraiser.

John said he was going to look at the planters and other places we have discussed putting bricks and if anyone would want to meet him to just let him know. Steve Billingsley Architecture is an alumnus that might know of a landscape architecture that could give us some ideas or help us. James said he could get in touch with the county and try to fill up the planters (move concrete, etc.). Lucy asked if we could take the exterior wall and add to it. John doesn't think this is possible. Buffy reminded everyone that there are 2 different sizes of bricks and asked Mr. I what his thoughts were about putting bricks upfront. Mr. I believes this is possible and likes the idea of a walkway leading up to the school. Lucy said she recently saw a school where the sidewalk was paved with bricks and it was a really neat sight. Mr. I said we just need a design and he feels like we could get someone to do this. Preston and several others really like the idea of the walkway. The committee will meet to discuss all the ideas.

New Business

Nominations for alumni officer positions are due in January. Nominations can be made at the January meeting. Lucy asked who was the chair of the nominating committee. She thinks it is Barney. Several stated they don't recall ever having a chair for this. Barney stated he would be glad to go through the protocol for this.

Committee opportunities for this year were sent out with this month's agenda. Buffy asked everyone to get their mind ready for where we need to be headed in the coming year. Buffy said that James has verified the date for the alumni golf tournament next year and it is slated for September 18. The football schedule is yet to be finalized for next year. John said the schedule will soon be ready.

Miscellaneous

The brunch usually held for the graduating seniors and new alumni will not be held this year.

Buffy asked Mrs. Fry to send her an email to discuss what she couldn't communicate due to technical difficulties.

John asked Mr. I, Preston, Barney, and anyone that wants to meet to come to Central Monday at 9:30.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

Tara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

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

Heather C. Randolph

Secretary

List of Attendees

Lucy Bottorff
John Crawford
Preston Fore
Jessyca Foster
Admiral Vance Fry
Charlene Fry
Buffy Hoge
Mr. I
Katheron Latham
Sarah Katheron Latham
Barney Ottinger
Judy Phillips
Heather Randolph
Tara Waldrop
James Walker