

Chattanooga Central High School

Alumni Association

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2021

The May meeting of the Chattanooga Central High Alumni Association was held on May 6, 2021, online using Zoom. Buffy Hoge called the meeting to order.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Buffy made a motion to accept the approved April minutes. Tara Waldrop made a motion to accept the approved minutes. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tara gave the treasurer's report. There was a total of \$3,665.00 in deposits with no expenditures. This makes the total \$30,094.43. The total available balance minus scholarship money taken in is \$24,118.33. John Crawford made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Lucy Bottorff seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

**Principal's Report**

Central's current enrollment remains at 768. Approximately 500 students continue at home learning this term and the other students are scheduled for in person learning. During all in-person learning we are serving approximately 265 students in person.

Academics: Student Success Labs launched after school Tue-Thurs 2:30 – 4:30 are going well, they conclude on May 13 for this current school year. Summer school session is planned for June and a Welcome freshman camp "REACH" is scheduled for July.

The district/TSSAA continue to monitor Athletics. Currently we continue to be on schedule for the spring sports season. Schedules are posted on the school web site [chs.hcde.org](http://chs.hcde.org)

Baseball: 1st playoff game tonight

Softball: n/a

Track: completed sub-sections advancing to sectionals, fingers crossed next will be state!!!

Soccer: n/a

Tennis: n/a

Arts: Band and Choir Concert was held Tuesday (rained out & rescheduled for upcoming Monday night)

JROTC: had a successful awards day on Friday April 29

A big thank you to Bayside Baptist for their campus cleanup day they held for us on May 2.

The debate team participated in a debate through UTC and the organization LINKS. One member was recognized as the top debater. He won a \$6000 scholarship. Eric Riaz Cruz was the young man who won.

Quarter 4 ends May 27

The prom will not occur, little interest was indicated with only 20 tickets sold by April 16 the deadline that was established for determination.

May 14 Senior Day 9:30 Class Night 6:30

May 18 Graduation 7:00 p.m.

Our stadium is being used by the Middle school on May 24 for their 8th grade promotion and again on May 26th for two elementary 5th grade promotions

Additional COVID relief funds are being made available. CHS is scheduled to receive \$29,000. These funds will be used to recover learning loss and close learning gaps created during the 20-21 pandemic school year. We will continue with the learning labs begun this last part of the school year and we may add Saturday labs along with extending the contracts on some of our academic technology programs that target remediation of skills.

Thursday May 6 In-Person students enrolled in English 9 or 10 and U.S. History should report to campus.

Friday May 7 at home students enrolled in English 9 or 10 and U.S. History should report to campus.

Monday May 10 at home students enrolled in Algebra 1 or 2 and Geometry should report to campus.

Tuesday May 11 in person students enrolled in Algebra 1 or 2 and Geometry should report to campus.

Wednesday May 12 all students enrolled in Biology should report to campus.

2021-2022 school year should look more normal.

James Walker asked about the Covid relief fund and encouraged the group to be proactive when the funds run out to be able to keep programs that have been working. He said we need

to get in the ears of the school board members and commissioners so that we don't lose a program.

Mr. I said he would like to see the extra support classes continue. He was contacted and asked if funds were available, what needed to be done around the school. There have been several things already done and he gave the list of needs and is hopeful more things will get done.

Lucy asked about the Saturday programs. Mr. I said teachers could volunteer and they would be paid for this. He said that most of the money will be spent on student programming.

John asked Mr. I about the stadium use by the middle school and if it would conflict with football practice times. Mr. I confirmed that the stadium will be used during the school day and would not interfere with the football scrimmage on the 24th. It is an inter-squad scrimmage.

Tara expressed that she was sad about the prom. She asked about the students that were wanting to do something on their own. Buffy said this would be discussed later. Mr. I said they were disappointed as well and it was a common problem throughout the county. Lucy asked if they were allowed to bring outside dates to the prom. Katheron Latham said that they had to bring someone from Central and only Seniors could attend. She said it was because of Covid and was county wide. James said that every school had issues and that Central tried hard to make it work but that there were just too many restrictions this year.

### **Student Officer's Report**

Heather Randolph congratulated Sarah Katheron Latham on her latest accomplishment! She received an award in November through the Ruriteen Club. Sarah Katheron said they cleaned up the agora last week. They worked on the planters. The Ooltewah Nursery and Ace donated bags of mulch. They are making plans to finish this and work on others. James said that when they get ready to work again to let everyone know and we could get the word out to parents and alumni to help. Sarah Katheron said that possibly they could do something this summer.

### **Old Business**

Lucy said everything was in place for Class Night. All scholarships and presenters are ready. Tara asked if she needed to invite Mrs. Frizzell to present again. Lucy asked how many we could have in attendance and Mr. I confirmed around 200. Buffy said that it would be a great idea to invite Mrs. Frizzell and someone else to present with her.

Buffy said she finished all of the anvils and the miniature plaques are ordered. The DAHOF plaques for the pictures will be picked up next week and the mugs are ready. The handouts and brick letters are ready as well. The DAHOF photos are ready to be picked up and go in their frames.

Buffy told Mrs. Fry how excited we were to hear from her and how thankful we are for her and all she has done for the alumni association and Central. A big congratulations to Mrs. Fry.

Buffy asked Tara about the brick fundraiser. She said that Preston Fore had said 22 bricks had been ordered. Tara said that she was unsure of the exact number that she was just taking the money and it was listed on the treasurer's report.

## **New Business**

James said he was putting a golf check from the tournament in his mailbox that Buffy could pick up. He said if we get a chance, could Tara get a total of the amount of money that has been raised (people have gone through the website) in memory of Ray Steinmetz.

James said that students had asked him what they could do about the prom being canceled. He posted on social media asking for help. The outcome is a "NOT PROM" dance that around 50 students will attend. Alumni and community members have donated a venue and a photo booth. The parents are paying for security and a \$500 donation was given for a DJ. The parents are going to help decorate. They want Amigo's to do a taco bar and still need to get this covered. State Representative Robin Smith has said she will help in any way she can as well.

He said it wouldn't just be Seniors and there would be some students from other schools. He said the students were excited and that the community had been supportive. Buffy asked if he felt there was anything the alumni could do to contribute. He said the food still needed to be covered. Judy asked if the alumni supported this could they come back and say that it was a school sponsored event. Mr. I said it was a separate entity and the alumni association would have to decide. Buffy said she was personally donating \$100. James said he would match this.

James said he was not soliciting but was just wanting to let the alumni know what the Central students were doing. Several alumni said they were in support of this. Katheron asked how people were being invited to the event. She said she wanted to make sure that everyone knew they were welcome to the event. James said he didn't know how they were being invited and if people were being left out. Tara asked how we could make sure everyone knew that if people from East Ridge and other schools were being invited we needed to make sure that all the Central students knew about the event. Katheron said she knew that there were other groups of students getting together at peoples houses and having events to celebrate Prom as well. She said it would be great to get the word out to everyone but it was going to be hard because nothing could be sent out from the school. James said it wasn't just Juniors and Seniors. Katheron said she thought it was a great thing but didn't want someone to say they wished they had known about it after the fact. James said he understood this especially if the alumni association was involved.

Katheron said that as a teacher of so many different students she would love to spread the word so that everyone knew but that she wasn't allowed to do this because they had to be careful so that it wasn't considered a school sponsored activity. Heather asked Sarah Katheron, as a student, what she felt was the best way to get the information out. She said they wouldn't be back at school in time to get the word out. She said a social media blast would work well. She

said she had heard about the “NOT PROM” but that if something was put out on every social media platform that word of mouth would take over from there.

Katheron asked if this was free to students or if there was going to be a fee. James said he didn't know. Sarah Katheron asked who was coordinating and James said he thought his daughter and granddaughter but he was unsure of who else. Sarah Katheron said it depended a lot on how big they wanted it to be. Buffy said that we needed to put a caveat on the alumni donating. Tara said it was hard to give to one and not another. Katheron said as a mom she felt that individual donations would be best but that as an alumni association it would be hard to choose one over the other. Sara Katheron said she knew of another group getting together and Katheron said this now makes at least 3 groups we know that are getting together.

Lucy asked who was in charge of this. James said some moms, including his daughter, were getting this together. He said he agreed with Katheron that individual donations would probably be best. He said he mainly just wanted to let the group know about what was going on.

John made a motion that the alumni association not donate to any of the “NOT PROM” activities. Heather seconded. Motion passed. Tara opposed. She said she didn't feel like there was anything wrong with us giving money to help their cause because all the others were only hearsay. She said it made her sad that we can't help them. Lucy said our Vice President brought this to us and we know it is happening so if people wanted to donate individually please could James email where to send the money.

John reported on the SHOF. We are doing a barbeque dinner in the fall and inducting the Class of 2020 and 2021. He sent out letters to the Class of 2020 with this information. September 17 will be the SHOF date. Football plays Red Bank and September 18 is the alumni golf tournament. He asked Heather to call him so they could set up a committee meeting. Heather apologized for not calling (he asked her to at the last meeting) and said she would call him so a meeting could be set up. Buffy asked for other dates (Homecoming etc.) but John didn't have this. Mr. I said that the Homecoming game is tentatively scheduled for the 24th. Senior night is vs. East Ridge October 27th.

Buffy reported on the alumni directory. Harris Connect is no longer a company but there appears to be another company using a different name in the same building. She hasn't reached out to them yet. A directory hasn't been published since 2014. She asked the alumni association permission to contact this company and find out about them and report back after the golf tournament. Lucy said the one thing we needed to do is find a way to get people to know that it is legitimate. She said people get the card in the mail and just don't think it's for real. Buffy said this is where social media would help with this.

Tara asked if we thought people really utilized a directory in today's world. Buffy said that was one of the reasons she was asking and wanted to know if the information was helpful and available. She said if the association wanted to do it we would look at it but if not it was fine with her not to do it. Tara said with social media she thinks directories are a thing of the past. She

says that people are less likely to give their information. She said she feels the return is low and with the cost wonders if it is worth it. Lucy said that 1700 emails and addresses were taken from the directory for the email blasts. She said they came from the directory and from the individual classes. Lucy said she uses it but that it may come with the age of people. Sarah Katheron said the Digest has used it trying to contact some alumni. She said it has proved to be helpful but at times the information wasn't there or it was old information.

Buffy said \$95 dollars was a steep price to pay and she needed this information to make a decision. She said we would table the directory and let her do some more research before she contacts the company. Lucy said we could talk about it in our October meeting.

## **Miscellaneous**

James and John reported that there is a Pounder family picnic at Booker T. Washington State Park June 5th at 1:00 sponsored by the quarterback club. Everyone is invited! There is an RSVP. Lucy asked what the quarterback club used to be called. Buffy said it was called the C Club. Lucy said she had a list of all the members of the C club and she would send an email blast out with the flyer.

James reminded everyone that June 12th is the 19th Connie Hay Golf Classic. He and Gary Woodall are chairs of this event. The event is at Bear Trace. John said that he had talked with Mrs. Hay. Allen Presley made a shadow box and he will present it to her before they present awards that day.

Heather asked James to tell everyone about his friend, our fellow Pounder, who passed away. Ray Steinmetz '84 (Charlie and Charla siblings) was his best friend. Many former Pounders and teachers attended his celebration of life. He was a family oriented person and a great man. James spoke at his funeral and said he was a gentle soul but tough as nails. A fundraiser was set up in his memory for Central athletics and has already raised over \$2000. James encouraged us to listen to God when he tells us to do something. He wishes he would have taken Ray's jersey to him about a month before he passed.

Tara said that a \$322 donation for scholarships was received in Ray's memory. The significance of the amount is that James' number was 3 and Ray's number was 22!

Mrs. Fry said how pleased they were to go to Central last week to see the piano lab in action. She said it was amazing to see the students and how much progress they have made. She bragged about Katheron and her rapport with her students. She said they also visited ROTC during their awards day and it was a wonderful time. They were impressed with the interest in ROTC and all who participated. She said the editor-in-chief of the Digest in '53-'54, Betty Fuller Smith Swanner, is donating the original hard copies of the Digest to Central. There will be a presentation to the library staff in the near future. She has already been in contact with Sarah Katheron.

Buffy asked Katheron to serve as a teacher member of the board. Katheron accepted.

Katheron reminded everyone that we needed to be careful that we support our diverse student body and alienate no one in everything we do!

Many commented their agreement and support as well as reminding the group what a great school Central is!

Katheron clarified that the start time for Class Night is 6:30. Alumni members should be there at 6:00.

Next alumni meeting on June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Lucy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Heather C. Randolph

Secretary

### **List of Attendees**

Lucy Bottorff

John Crawford

Admiral Vance Fry

Charlene Fry

Naomi Hay

Buffy Hoge

Mr. I

Katheron Latham

Sarah Katheron Latham

Judy Phillips

Tara Waldrop

James Walker