



IHS Alumni Association
Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2015



Meeting Called to Order: The business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula. Veterans in attendance were acknowledged followed by applause. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance: Former General Robert Wagner (66) (Ret.) led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stadium Foundation: Ron Bernstein, a Cuyahoga Heights graduate who moved to Independence in 1991, and President of the Independence Stadium Foundation, gave a summary of the Foundation's effort in the Turf the Field project. He recalled attending football games here in Independence before the field was transformed and it was extremely muddy. So he spoke with others and got a group together. They wondered what it would take to transfer a grass field to a turf field, replace the visitor and home stands and update the concession stands. Well, they found a sponsor that would pledge a large amount. That was a start. Then this small group of motivated individuals came up with the idea of a 333 Club – a pledge to donate \$333.00 a year for 3 years – essentially a \$1,000 commitment. The 333 Club concept got the stadium foundation moving along again in the right direction. Then a couple of vendors came in to bid concerning the turf, stands, concession area – the final cost was 1 million dollars. In the spring of 2013, the foundation was still looking for financial backing. That summer, though, the turfed field was constructed. They thought of a great fundraiser. So the field was marked with a grid. For each square in the grid, a ticket was sold. Then a cow was brought in and wherever the cow decided to “you know”, the person holding the ticket for that square won a prize. Well, the cow didn't “you know” and so the winning ticket was pulled out of a hat.

The concession stands were then overhauled and the visitor stands updated. Locker rooms and ticket area were upgraded. A new main gate was constructed with the Alumni Field sign. The scoreboard was moved and erected on a higher elevation so that wherever you were seated, you could always see the score. The Foundation contributed \$35,000 and the school board \$160,000.

The cost to upgrade the home stands was \$250,000 to \$300,000. The third payment of 333 Club members was coming up and that would fetch about 50,000. So they still needed about \$200,000 to \$250,000 more before upgrading the press box and home stands, which needed to be handicapped accessible.

The band now practices on the field instead of the parking lot. Our turfed field is top of the line. There is a new paint job on the building as well.

School Gift Discussion: Tim Skoczen (76), IHS Athletic Director, stated we now have 70 contests scheduled on the new turfed field. He also exclaimed that you simply cannot play on a grass field any longer and appreciates the community's past and future support.

Tim also spoke about the Alumni Association's gift of a tent to the school for sporting events on the road. The top of the tent can be imprinted with a logo, words, etc. The tent is used 30 to 40 times a year. Photos were passed along to the group. Rhonee said a tent is within our budget. A large blue and white tent, 10 ft. x 20 ft. would cost \$569.00. Rhonee called for a vote. It passed unanimously.

Principal's Report: Bill McGuinness was ill and could not attend our meeting, but he submitted a report.

Both varsity golf teams made it into district play this year, and both the boys' soccer and the girls' volleyball teams had deep playoff runs. Two of our cross country runners made it to the state meet last weekend. One of them, Tyler Polman, took 5th place overall and earned All-Ohio honors.

IHS will be receiving 50 Chromebook tablets as we expand our technology offerings. The Chromebooks will be on carts that teachers can sign out to use with their classes. Our eventual goal is to have a true "1 to 1" model, where each student would have a device.

Our students did very well on the first part of the new state tests last spring: Physical Science – 94% passed, American History – 84% passed, American Government – 95% passed.

IHS had added a new Advanced Placement class this year, Microeconomics. This was a result of student surveys saying that they wanted to have a more challenging Economics class.

The IHS Marching Band performed on Fox 8 News in the morning in October at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Due to poor weather, the band had the opportunity of playing inside the Rock Hall. They sounded great!

The IHS Music Department will hold its Holiday Concert on Thursday evening, December 10 at 7 pm in the auditorium

Dates to remember: Senior Awards Day is Thursday, May 19 at 9 am, Commencement is Sunday, May 22 at 1 pm. Both events are held in the IHS Auditorium.

Thanks to the Alumni Association for ALL that you do for our students! As always, this is YOUR high school. Please call me at any time for a visit, suggestions, or for any questions that you may have. Thanks again!

Minutes from September Meeting: Bonnie stated that everyone got a copy of the Minutes when they signed in. Rhonee made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bob Wagner distributed copies of his report of November 9, 2015 to members. As of October 31st, 2015 we have a balance of \$8,134.53 in the checking account, which is an increase of \$435.15.

Income totaled \$630.00 which included \$410.00 membership dues and \$220.00 donations.

Expenses totaled \$191.88 which included \$30 for printing on the back of the Alumni banner and \$161.88 bank charges for new checks and deposit slips.

Alumni Spectator: Amber Veverka (07) Editor, is requesting reunion updates, any stories or interviews. The newsletter will be published the second week in December and she is accepting new items up until Sunday, November 15. The spring newsletter will be published the second week in June.

Membership and Correspondence: Elaine explained that with Veterans Day just around the corner, there is a copy of the 5th Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on the table which was prepared by Bob Wagner. Dr. Mel Termini, PhD received the General Colin L. Powell Service Award in 2011 and again in 2015. I'm sure Bob can tell you more about this worthwhile program. Thank you to all Veterans here today for your service!

Thank you to Jack Katzenmeyer (57) for giving Wes Gaab (42) ideas to write about. A copy of the October *Independence Post* is also on the table.

As of today, we have 150 members of the Association. Elaine received a letter from yearbook advisers. They gave an apology for omitting our 2014/2015 ad, so they are upgrading our 2015/2016 ad to color or a new design of our choosing.

Another letter was received from Amazon regarding the Smile program – 0.5% - do we want to enroll? Don Krolkowski (77) will look into it.

New Business: Rhonee mentioned that alumni will be invited to a basketball game in February, information forthcoming.

The Diploma of Distinction event coming up in June needs a chair to handle the refreshments and publicity.

In lieu of a March meeting, the Educator of Excellence Award will be presented on March 14 at 11:30 am with a light lunch in the Family and Consumer Science room in the new high school. We need a chair for this event as well. Dale Veverka (70) volunteered.

Alumni Award – the Alumni Assn. offers a \$500 award. An additional \$250 was awarded because the husband of our alum, Cherry (Jeong 60) Wicks made a donation in memory of his wife who passed away. Rhonee is looking for volunteers to read essays. Rhonee also mentioned that we need class reps to help out in membership. Dale continues as chair of Alumni Award Committee.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jorasch Pandin
Recording Secretary