

UPPER ST. CLAIR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting—October 24, 2017ⁱ (at Ice Castle)

Board Members Present

Frank Buonomo
Mike Daley
Dave Speer
Laurie Petito
Holly Perella
Prashant Gosai
Erik Happ
Brad Sileo
John McShane
Brian Ruffner
Ed Gaussa
Laura Schuster
Jesse Sweet

Board Members Absent

Bill Goodman
David Finn

Additional Attendees

None

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Frank Buonomo at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Frank Buonomo noted that the intended purpose of the meeting was limited to the discussion of two recent social media incidents.

- The first social media incident discussed involved the Varsity team. The incident was described:
 - During a Varsity team pasta dinner, two highly inappropriate images were shared on a Snapchat group, the members of which are players on the Varsity team.
 - The images had been copied from the Internet, and were not images of players on the team.
 - The images, while shared with the entire Snapchat group, were directed at two players on the Varsity team.
 - The incident was reported to the VP—Director of Operations and Coaching (Mike Daley) and to Head Coach Ray Conway.
 - Daley and Conway spoke to the two players who were targeted by the images. Both players stated that they did not wish for the responsible players or the team as a whole to be disciplined.
 - At the rink day after the incident, Daley and Conway spoke to the team in the locker room about the incident. At the conclusion of the meeting, Daley and Conway asked the team members responsible for sharing the images to identify themselves. The two players did identify themselves.
 - Coach Conway ordered the two responsible players to apologize to the targets of the images and to write essays about why their actions were inappropriate.

- A parent on the Varsity team volunteered to host a future dinner and team meeting on November 19, 2017, with The Honorable Ronald Arnoni, Magisterial District Judge, to attend and speak to the players about criminal liability and risks associated with social media. The Junior Varsity team will also be invited to attend the dinner/meeting.
- The second social media incident discussed involved the Junior Varsity team.¹ The incident was described:
 - A player on the JV team created a meme on Snapchat which involved a picture of an Upper St. Clair student with special needs.
 - The picture was shared with a JV team Snapchat group as well as with a non-hockey Snapchat group.
 - A student at the high school from the non-hockey group reported the issue to the high school administrators.
 - The student who posted the picture was suspended from school for three days. During those three days, the student was not permitted to participate in any USC athletics.
 - The school conducted a hearing with the student, during which the student presented a letter of apology which the student had written.
 - The school requested that the student perform community service, but declared that no additional discipline would be handed down. The student was permitted by the school to return to school and to school activities such as athletics, at the end of the suspension.
 - JV Coach Justin Becinski, along with Mike Daley and Team Manager Ed Gausa, met with the JV team following practice on October 24 to address the incident. Coach Becinski said that any future incidents will result in automatic three-game suspensions. For multiple such incidents by one player, Coach Becinski will seek to impose additional discipline subject to Board approval.
- The Board discussed whether additional discipline should be given to the players on the Varsity and Junior Varsity team.
 - It was noted that the Bylaws state that game suspensions are within the purview of the team coaches and not the Board.
 - The Board concluded that action by the Board was necessary, but not in the form of additional discipline for the players, all of whom have been disciplined by their respective coaches.
 - The Board will produce a written list of team rules and expectations, which will apply to all USC Hockey players.

¹ The parent of the JV player involved is a Board member. The parent voluntarily recused him/herself from the discussion about this incident. This recusal involved the parent physically leaving the meeting and not returning until the discussion about this incident was complete.

- The Board will also produce a written social media policy which will apply to all USC Hockey players. The policy may be based on the recommended policy from USA Hockey.
 - Frank Buonomo created initial drafts of both documents, which Board members will review.
 - The intent is to disseminate the team rules and expectations, as well as the social media policy, before the November 19 meeting with Judge Arnoni.
- In addition to the two social media incidents, two brief items were discussed at the meeting.
 - Initial discussion was held regarding setting a date for Senior Recognition Night. The tentative plan is to hold the event in conjunction with the Varsity game against Franklin Regional on January 22.
 - It was noted that recent fundraising efforts by the hockey teams have been successful. To wit:
 - Approximately \$1160 was raised for USC student Rita Beauchamp, who was severely injured in a car accident on the first day of school this year.
 - \$641 was raised for the Susan G. Komen Foundation to fight breast cancer.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on November 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Ice Castle

Meeting concluded at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Sweet, Secretary

ⁱ The originally scheduled date for the meeting was October 18, 2017, but it was rescheduled due to facility unavailability.