

Monthly Booster Club Meeting		
Date 2-18-26		LHS In person + Zoom Meeting
Meeting called by	Linda Haskins	
Type of Meeting	Monthly Booster Club Meeting	
Note Taker	Jill Schaefer	
Attendees	10 people in person in Room 1113; 1 on Zoom	

Discussion Items	Action
Introductions & minutes	Linda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes from the 1-21-26 meeting were approved with no objections.
Treasurer’s Report Ben Kujak-Ford	\$87,794 cash on hand (plus petty cash for concessions)
Secret Santa Impact Leland Pan, social worker, ltpan@madison.k12.wi.us	<p>Students served by Secret Santa this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 students supported — all were LHS students (changed program to focus on LHS students, did not include siblings) • 100% qualify for free/reduced lunch (classified as “economically disadvantaged” by DPI); 60% of La Follette students qualify • 97% students are of color; 72% of La Follette students are nonwhite • 73 nonwhite families are Black, 42 are Latinx/Hispanic (some families are multiracial) <p>Secret Santa families overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing a growth in need. Parallel to the Booster Club’s work, Santas Without Chimneys expanded their unaccompanied youth work to make it easier for students living alone to access its program. • We referred more families to both programs this year (Secret Santa and Santas Without Chimneys) • Seeing more high-need situations like teen parents or families scared to leave the home, either due to community violence or federal government actions. • Booster Club work helps us build trust to collaborate with families

- 37% of La Follette are English Language Learners
- 7 students signed up are new to the U.S. (10 less than last year — reflects broader reduction in newcomers at our school)
- Countries of origin: Mexico, Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela, Senegal (LHS has new DLI instructors to support our African students!)

Secret Santa recipient stories

Student A

Student A is from a large La Follette family that has been in and out of homelessness for many years; mom is often too overwhelmed to be hands-on. All the siblings have had a history of academic struggle, attendance issues, and socioeconomic barriers. Student A's older brother stopped attending his junior year. LHS student services team has spent a lot of focus building trust with Student A to prevent a similar result. They passed two classes freshman year, five classes sophomore year, and just passed every class this semester while being a Roots to Rise volunteer at their old elementary school.

Student B

Student B is a junior who has been in and out of homelessness most of his life. Mom has permanent housing this year and fall was his best semester academically, but this was derailed at the end of the semester due to an incident of community violence. Student B has finished out the semester, refusing to leave the home. The Secret Santa gifts provided an opportunity to visit this student at home and to encourage him to keep up with his work online. He passed all of his classes.

Student C

Student C came to the U.S. from Venezuela on foot. This journey required them to pass through dangerous areas to get to the U.S., where they have sought asylum. They have been raised by a single mom who faces a lot of safety and socioeconomic issues. Student C wants to become a police officer and is in the cadets program. Secret Santa gifts helped fund gas money to and from the cadets program.

	<p>It's wonderful we have a Booster Club that has the resources to offer this kind of program. For us to be racially and socioeconomically diverse enough to support our students in need is fortunate.</p> <p>Discussion on suggestions for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase lead time to purchase gifts. ● Set aside a designated percent of funds for our ELL and immigrant students. ● Have a way for Secret Santas to sign up without publicly sharing their personal phone number and/or email address.
<p>Boosters news/discussion Linda Haskins lafolletteboosters@gmail.com</p>	<p>Concessions report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wrapping up the basketball regular season next week ● Thanks to DECA and United Gymnastics for helping out recently ● Opened for girls wrestling last Friday night; not a big money maker but good for us to showcase our concessions to a new audience and other schools, plus support our girls wrestling team <p>Events in review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Badger Development Basketball League weekends have gone well so far. Next year we will request to host four regular weekends and no tournament weekends. About \$17,560 of profits will be split between basketball teams and coaches, scorekeepers, gym operators, and LHS volunteers designated as key concessions volunteers (who will designate an LHS team, club or group to receive funds) ● No Tardy Party on Feb. 4 went well. Offered popcorn, water, and juice boxes to qualifying students. Another No Tardy Party planned for May. <p>Upcoming events — look for links to sign up to help at these events on our Volunteer page:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 14 — LHS attendance area strings concert. We will offer limited concessions. ○ April 25 — Prom at Monona Terrace. Will need volunteers to help with set-up in the morning. ○ May 13 — Awards night ○ May 19 — Senior Exit Fair. Will need volunteers to work at various tables and interview students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 11 — Senior cookout <p>Other news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linda is following up on Ho-Chunk Grant Application for their monthly funding award <p>Funding requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$1,664.55 — For Boys Tennis program polo shirts issued/owned by the school. Approved unanimously. ● Request to move all but \$5,000 in monies from team/group asks to reserve funds. Funds can always be moved back if we get additional or unexpected funding requests this year. Approved unanimously. <p><u>How to request funding from Boosters</u> Anyone affiliated with LHS can ask for funding from the Boosters – sports, clubs, groups, arts. Check out the funding request form on our website. All requests must get a sign-off from Principal Mat Thompson</p>
<p>Principal’s Report Mat Thompson methompson@madison.k12.wi.us</p>	<p>School staffing allocation over the last three years has gone from 163 FTE, to 157, and down again this year to 153, with the student population staying roughly the same during this time. Announced retirements include: Mr. Opps, Mr. Batten and Ms. Steinhofer, but will still need to surplus 1.6 teacher positions.</p> <p>March 10 — ACT Testing Day (for Juniors only). This year it will be fully on an electronic platform (same as Pre-ACT testing has been). If any students want to re-take the ACT, strongly recommend doing a practice exam using this new system.</p> <p>By July 1, the District will have a cell phone plan to meet the new state law restricting the use of phones in classrooms. Mr. Thompson would like to send out a survey to staff and parents that would allow them to provide additional feedback about the policy in general. (The previous district survey didn’t offer a way to provide general comments, only respond to specific questions asked.)</p>
<p>Athletic Director Report Scott Swanson spswanson@madison.k12.wi.us</p>	<p>Spring sports are coming up, starting March 9 Trying to grow girls and boys co-op lacrosse programs</p> <p>Shoutouts</p>

	<p>Boys swim had a great sectional; 2 swimmers going to state Cheer team qualified for state 5 girls wrestlers qualified for sectionals Girls hockey co-op is hosting regionals Friday night Girls BB playing for district championship Boys BB seeding to come out Dance has a few more performances at home games</p> <p>Student athlete report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 184 of our athletes with 3.5 or higher GPA ● 63 of our athletes with 3.0 or higher GPA ● 67 have 4.0 GPA! ● 3.1 GPA average for student athletes compared to 2.78 GPA for student body <p>Winter student and parent surveys will come out as various programs wrap up for the season.</p> <p>Free physicals for athletes March 6 and March 9 at school, noon–4 p.m. (School is not in session either day.) Our school nurse can also give physicals during the day with some advance notice</p> <p>Hiring updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interviewing for head football and girls swim coaches ● Associate Track & Field Coaches have been hired <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Newman (track director) ○ Brady Nichols (associate coach - distance) ○ Noah Laack-veeder (associate coach - sprint) ○ Jeff Matcha (field events coordinator)
	<p>Meeting concluded at 8:41 p.m.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7 p.m. in Room 1113</p>