

Emergency Meeting Minutes for October 26th, 2010

Members Present: Bob McDonald Sr., Todd Monge, Jason Boxrucker, Jennifer Fink, Larry Snedden Jr., Maria Zingler, Darren Rubo, Rodney Sternhagen, David Cox, Wendy Ebert, Bob McDonald Jr.

Others Present: Larry Hunt, Glenn Schiffmann, Rick Neis, Amy McCormick, Karen Kolodziej, Barb Kroschel, Brett Miller, Gene Wilkins, Bev Hunt, Michelle Sanborn, Heidi Neis, Deb Foster, Juliana Martin, Dan Sauvola, Don Czaripata, Mike Gagliano

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm by President Bob McDonald Sr.

Wendy would like it noted that this meeting is in violation of the ERRA by-laws.

Darren stated that because this is an emergency meeting, there is no requirement for a 5 day notice to the association.

Todd stated there are a lot of rumors going around verbally and via emails about kids moving up, kids moving down and nothing has been finalized by the board. It has been left open to discussion to talk about double rostering kids, and not sure where people are getting their ideas from.

As far as coaches are concerned, the selections posted online are just recommendations at this point from the coaching committee. Nothing has been finalized. Not all parents will be happy with every coaching decision

The board is open to parent's thoughts, and any issues need to be submitted in writing.

The coaches that are on the ice during practice are interim coaches until final decisions have been made.

Not all parents will be happy with every coaching decision.

The SQB coach has not been finalized; it is just a suggestion at this point.

Larry S., Jr. commented that this is an opportunity to give parents a chance to give their opinions.

Darren R. stated at the coaches meeting, there was a discussion on helping the applicant through the season. If there are enough opinions that applicant is not capable, then the board needs to make a decision.

Todd M. commented it is about the development of the game. The emails that have been circulating are getting people worked up, but nothing has been decided yet!

Jason B. conveyed that no decisions are going to be made tonight, this is an informational meeting

Darren R. - The more input we have, will help with the decision. The current options we have are Karen Kolodziej, Glenn Schiffmann helping out during practices or Dan Sauvola helping to coach. Both Glenn and Dan have made other coaching commitments, assuming the board decisions on coaches. Both are willing to help when possible.

David C. - Bobby needs options for coaches. Had only one person interested for SQB. Contact him soon with ideas.

Splits can create different options and too many people had plans ahead of time. Skills for Karen are the biggest hurdle for Karen, but we need to figure out a way to bridge the gap. If parents are not behind her, it will be tough. Parents of skaters do have the right to voice their opinion. Too many emails, comments and rumors have created uproar since the last board meeting. We are all here for the best interest of the kids – all of the kids.

Deb Foster stated that she wants a highly qualified coach for her daughter and her team.

Wendy E. stated that she has had zero issues with Karen as an assistant coach in hockey or soccer.

Rick Neis was there because his son would like to know why there is a girl on the PWB team. He also mentioned that having a girl on the boy's team does hurt the girl's team.

Larry S.Jr. said that we had to go by the current move up rule that we have in place, and she has the right to try out. Michaela Z. had requested to try out, and she understood the rules. The current move up rule is that a skater must be in the top 5 to move up. A lateral move for girls requires skaters to make the top 50%.

The statement was made that if a PW gets hurt because of low numbers, then the board will be responsible. If a SQ double rosters and gets hurt, it will affect more than just one team.

Jason B. stated that if the board had made the decision to not split the PW team, then we would have received as many complaints about that as we have about splitting.

Dan Sauvola states the U12 – U14 team's double roster and they make it work. However, teams should be not be slighted after all that each team had worked for last year. Need to look at the scheduling to see what kind of ice time kids will get, because at this age it is about ice time. Karen may be okay as a coach.

Larry Hunt feels his son will not be ready for checking, and does not want him to double roster to PWB's. If a SQ gets hurt on a PW team, it hurts SQ & PW teams.

Mike Gagliano asked what will happen if a PW goalie gets hurt. One is already out now because of injury during a practice. Mike also stated that he felt/heard that the teams had already been decided

before splits, and coaches should have been the ones to tell the kids the teams, instead of kids in the locker room. It should be fair to all.

Bobby said that once both goalies are healthy, then the goalies will be evaluated. Also, the evaluators decided the team at the very end – they used every possible moment to make their suggestions. Also, coaches from the previous year were also given opportunity to evaluate skaters, and their picks were actually different.

Todd M. stated that a good portion of hockey parents discuss teams at home. It happens. Kids become a product of what they hear. The evaluation process was put into place to try to prevent this from happening.

Rod S. said that from a coach's perspective, he felt that the evaluation process was very fair.

Dan S. said he received a phone call on Saturday about an email regarding kids moving up. Johnsons have left the program, and if Syrus moves to the PWB's, the SQB numbers are dwindling. A B team is still a team.

Bobby states he did send an email to Johnson's trying to explain double rostering, but realized it was not an email he should have sent.

Dan S. thought there was a policy in place once checking is involved. We have a girls program, so we should continue to strengthen the program. Dan suggested looking at the policy to save the future of the girls program.

Rod S. said that the decision to let Michaela try out was based on the 2007 rules, and maybe we need to revisit that policy. We may not all agree with current policy, but we have to follow it.

Bob M. Sr. states that in order to change the policy, a proposal must be presented at the next annual meeting. Until then, we have to follow the by-laws.

Barb K. is concerned because she feels false rumors are being spread about her grandson and their family. He was also told 9 months prior to last season (2009-2010) that he was going to be a Mite B. Darren stated he had not heard that before, and that the teams are picked based on the choices of the committee.

Glenn S. expressed that no one is against Karen and her adversarial attitude is not good for her, and is not benefitting her. No one is trying to attack her, and there is nothing to defend if she has done nothing wrong.

Amy McCormick asked for her son Syrus to be moved from SQB to PWB. He no longer wants to skate. He was a SQA last year and all but one of his friends that he skated with last year have moved up to PWB. He was part of the group that was asked to move up 2 years ago, and now he went from a SQA last year to SQB this year.

Juliana Martin said that she feels splitting the teams does not make sense, and that having a team of two lines and a goalie will suffer. What happens when a skater is sick, hurt or out of town? Feels the board made a bad decision. Having kids double roster makes no sense. Wants to know who is benefitting.

Rod S. said 4 organizations in the area that currently double roster.

Jason B. explained that the board is only interested in making the best decisions for the organization. We cannot please everyone, but we are in it for the kids and families of the ERRRA.

Darren stated he is upset with family's threats to leave the organization to get what they want. Sad that Johnson's left, but it was the parent's decision.

Names of possible coaches need to be submitted to Bobby as soon as possible.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm was made by Bob McDonald Sr., 2nd by Darren R. – Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Fink