

BBHHS Robotics Boosters

Meeting Minutes



5 March, 2023 / 6:00 PM / High School Room 027

Attendees

Scott McCreery, Paul Koch, Rachel Jones, Craig Kowatch, Suzana Koch, Beth Marsh, Brian Zukauckas, Melissa Bommarito, Carolyn Manley, Gloria Joseph, Sue Flis, Pete Jones, Jack Molina, Michelle Banks, Karen Patton, Mike Holocker, Cilia Holocker, Kevin Riddles, Beata Stanek, Lambert - Shemo, Amber Luptak, Kris Sutton, Liz Popadiuk, Heather Rakestraw, Dona Kiner, Dan Stewart / By Zoom -Faiz Hanna, Roger Lewicki, Michael Zumwalt, Elizabeth Zumwalt, Durleasteanu, Courtney Riddles, Jane Molina, Amber Boehnlein, Jenni Wolfenbarger, Katie Churchin, Julie Zukauckas, Allison Fisco, Amy Pausche, Klodnick, Chris Nehez

Marvin Gamboa, Amanda Gamboa, Jenn McMillin, Brian McMillin, Wei Fan, Ying Ni, Scott MacRaild / By Zoom -Jen Daum, Madalynn Wendlan, Ackerman, Joanie MacRaild

Meeting began at 6:05

President

1. Welcome and congratulations to all teams who will be competing at the World Championship.

-To be held in Dallas, TX

<https://roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-world-championship/>

-April 25-27 – VRC High School and April 27-29 – VRC Middle School

-Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas

<https://www.dallasconventioncenter.com/calendar/vex-robotics-world-championship-2>

-Airports for families planning to travel are:

Dallas Fort Worth

and

Dallas Love Field

<https://www.dfwairport.com/>

<https://www.dallas-lovefield.com/home>

-Agenda has not been set by VEX at this time, when it becomes available additional details will be shared. The loose travel plans have been plotted around what has been scheduled in the past.

2. Approval of minutes from 2/23 Motion made by Gloria Joseph 1st, Sue Flis 2nd, Suzana Koch noted to abstain while all others approve.

3. According to the Google Form circulated among families, half voted for bus and half voted for plane travel. Coaches discussed many factors and have decided on bus travel.

*Bus will leave Sunday, April 23 and return Sunday, April 30.

Factors noted in the decision included:

-Cost savings of \$400-600 per student.

-High school students will miss the whole week of classes regardless of travel route.

- Robot and equipment shipping would be an additional \$4,000 if traveling by plane.
- Majority of team drivers chose the bus option rather than plane travel.
- Room to travel with a field to be set up in the Pit Area and hotel for our teams to work.

4. Team will be traveling by Greyhound with continuous travel to Dallas. The bus will make stops at Greyhound stations along the way and will exchange drivers as necessary. The bus will cover all transportation needs through the week and remain with the students. Elyria teams traveled this way last year, and felt it was a success.

5. Cost per student will be in the \$600 range. Expected to be split into 2 payments, the first may be due as soon as one week from now. This will cover the bus transportation, hotel stay (including breakfast) in Dallas, a team T-Shirt and one fun event. Lunches, dinners, snacks and souvenirs will not be included in this cost.

* The convention center does not accept cash along with some other places in Dallas. Students will need another form of payment which could include credit card, debit card or possibly a Visa/Mastercard gift card.

** Note from experience, allow a couple of weeks if you're requesting a new card for your student to arrive in the mail.

Vice President - absent, no report

Treasurer

1. Close of February Booster bank balance \$27,712, and after payments related to the State Tournament is in the range of \$22,000.

2. Current budget allows for an \$8,000 contribution to Worlds. Consider increasing the contribution by \$4,500 to a total of \$12,500. This amount would maintain the necessary carryover in funds to purchase parts for 2023-2024 with the expected minimum of \$1,500 remaining in the account from year to year. Additional funds are possible due to the December Raffle being more profitable than what was budgeted.

3. A donation has been made by a client of Joseph & Joseph of \$2,500 which is to be used for the World Championship. Thank you to the Joseph Family!

Secretary - no report

Advisors

Mr. Kowatch -

1. We are expecting approximately 40 students. The bus will seat 50 people. Both HS and MS coaches will be riding the bus.
2. Team policy is that students are required to travel with the team unless there is a medical necessity which requires them to travel with family. In the past, other arrangements have been made and complications have led to the policy change.
3. When the VEX agenda is available, we will know what additional plans can be made such as meals or team activities.

-Suggestion made to cater dinners to the hotel for simplicity when having difficulty finding restaurants that can accommodate the large numbers with our teams.

4. At this point, there is a Dallas Cowboys Stadium tour for Monday evening, the 24th. The cost of \$30 will be included in the trip fee. Included will be a behind the scenes tour, discussion around the engineering of the stadium and a team photo.
5. Hotel will be chosen by coaching staff with several factors in mind including safety, breakfast being included, cost, and visibility of rooms for supervision. The location from last year is an option but others are being looked at for comparison.
 - Discussion surrounding hotel choices by parents. Both positive and negative opinions of last year's hotel location were shared. A reminder that in order to maintain safety, students must follow expectations of remaining within the hotel as directed and in their assigned rooms after nightly room check.
 - If the hotel has additional space beyond the needs of the team, parent rooms may be blocked. A hotel will not be chosen due to availability of extra rooms. Dallas and the surrounding area fill up quickly. Please make arrangements for your stay if families are planning to travel to support the teams in Dallas.
6. The Go Kart location that was scheduled for last year will not be in the plans for this year.
7. Spectators will not be charged to watch the teams, entry is free. If you are driving to the convention center, there will be a fee to park.
8. Goal is for each of our teams to advance to the bracket in their divisions.
9. Since both the HS and MS will have a free day due to the travel arrangements, they will have the opportunity to volunteer during the tournament. Middle School students will be able to volunteer on Tuesday during the High School tournament . High School students will be able to volunteer on Thursday during the Middle School tournament. Last year, many students volunteered and truly enjoyed their time in doing so. Fast passes for the Skills line are often offered to volunteers along with shirts and snacks. Parents may also sign up for volunteer opportunities if interested.
<https://roboticseducation.org/volunteers/vex-worlds-volunteers/>
10. High School and Middle School pits are set up in different areas. Both will be decorated similarly within what is allowed by the venue. Last year award banners were hung from various tournaments to showcase achievements. The idea is to attract the attention of other team scouts to your area and get to know other teams from around the globe. Many teams offer trinkets as part of this. Ryan Joseph has been working on a keychain as this year's giveaway. Stickers will also be printed to be passed out by each team. If the Middle School teams need a hand with creating a logo to be used, reach out to Coach Casey.
11. The Middle School will transition to having practices at the High School. This benefits both groups as they prepare for matches at the World level.
12. In the past, students have felt that matches at Signature Events and States have been more challenging than many of the qualification matches at the World Tournament. Matches become more challenging as teams advance to their division tournament bracket and then into the championship. Students have been prepared through the season for the challenge by competing at higher level tournaments.

13. Encouraging teams to limit rebuilding time to 2 weeks. This allows more time for scrimmaging and practice in preparation for Worlds. Virtual interviews will also be scheduled prior to the World Championship.

- Suzana Koch, as a judge for interviews, recommends that teams have an intact robot when their interview is scheduled.

14. High School AP testing will begin the week following the trip. Teachers have been notified that the Robotics students will be traveling in order to work out a plan for preparation prior to their tests. Students are encouraged to study during travel as needed.

15. Worlds will remain in Dallas for the 2024 event for sure. Due to planned renovations, they may be hosted in Dallas in 2025 but may be moved if the Arena is not available. Possible alternate locations that have been rumored among those in VEX include St. Louis, Orlando and Cleveland.

New Business

1. Vote to increase Booster World Championship contribution budget amount from \$8,000 to \$12,500. Motion 1st made by Sue Flis and 2nd by Liz Popadiuk, Suzana Koch noted to abstain and all others in favor.
-With Boosters \$12,500 and \$2,500 from Joseph & Joseph client, available \$15,000 in funds.
2. Discussion regarding potential for scholarship monies brought up by members. According to the rules set by the IRS with the 501(3)(c) for the Boosters, we can not direct funds toward an individual. Some families have offered their portion of the Booster contribution to be used to assist those who may need it. The District has rules set regarding assistance as well. If you have needs or ideas, please speak with Mr. Kowatch directly.

Meeting closed at 7:25 pm.

Code for Google Classroom for 2022-2023 - Includes schedule which is fluid due to availability of tournaments and all team documents including tournament itineraries. len7kn6

This QR Code will take you to the Robotics Boosters website:

