

Danbury Residents
Danbury Hockey Booster Club
June 1, 2008

Dr. Sal Pascarella
Danbury School Superintendent
Danbury Board of Education Members
63 Beaver Brook Road
Danbury, CT 06811

Re: Danbury High School Ice Hockey

Dear Dr. Pascarella and Danbury Board of Education Members,

Thank you for allowing Chip Salvestrini and Michael Clarke of Danbury High School to speak about a High School Ice Hockey co-op at the upcoming Board of Education Meeting on June 11th.

Let us preface this letter with a statement that the Parents, Students and High School are not asking for funding from the Board of Education. We are asking for your permission to form an Ice Hockey Team and to authorize Danbury High School to establish a co-op with another School in the Greater Danbury Area. We have generated very strong community support and a solid fund raising plan which will enable DHS students to play Ice Hockey with no financial impact on the School Budget or taxpayers of Danbury. Mayor Boughton has also committed to assist in the effort.

Currently, there is a groundswell of Danbury Children taking to the sport of Ice Hockey and the Youth Programs are growing. The Danbury Police Department, Danbury Fire Department and Danbury Hockey Booster Club has over the last year provided free clinics to Danbury kids which has generated even more interest.

The challenge we currently have is as children enter High School, families have a tough decision to make. With no option to play Ice Hockey at Danbury High School, families either option for a Private School or they attend DHS and play for a travel team out of New York. Either option is a major financial burden on the families. There are kids at DHS right now in this exact situation (playing in NY) and other kids who would like to play and are not able because there is no team and yet other kids that optioned for a Private School. Each year more families are faced with this very tough decision.

We are all advocates of the Danbury Public Schools and want our children to attend DHS. We believe DHS offers a top education in a real world environment. We also believe participating in Sports helps keep Students physically fit, out of trouble and focused on School work. The High School has strict academic requirements which we fully support. Our kids are not just Hockey Players, they are students, actors, musicians, community volunteers and athletes in other sports and we need to maintain this talent at DHS.

We hope that you seriously consider and approve the proposal that will be presented to co-op with another School. The CIAC created the cooperative program for School's in a situation like DHS. In fact it is very common to co-op in the Sport of Ice Hockey and 11 out of 22 Teams in Division 3 (where we hope to play) are co-op. Below is a summary of key benefits that could be achieved by establishing an Ice Hockey co-op:

- Reduces initial fundraising amount in half vs. starting own program.
- Provides a place to play immediately for our current DHS students.
- Demonstrates to our Middle School and Elementary Students and families that there is an option at DHS – keeps Danbury kids at DHS.
- Removes a major financial burden from families who already pay taxes and either option for Private School for Ice Hockey or have their children at DHS and playing Ice Hockey in NY.
- Leverages an established program with solid coaching and experience vs. starting from scratch.
- Co-op's are not long term and reviewed yearly, in some cases every 2 years, there is the option to exit if Danbury decides to establish our own program.
- Positive reaction in Community and ongoing teaming with Police, Fire and City enabling more kids who might not normally have the opportunity to participate in Ice Hockey to learn and play the game.

Again, thank you for considering the proposal to establish a Hockey Team at DHS, voting in favor helps current and future DHS students! The undersigned highly recommend that you approve the request to establish an Ice Hockey co-op at DHS.

Sincerely,

(See signature pages – 300 plus residents)

Danbury Hockey Booster Club
Background Information
June 2008

Introduction:

The Danbury Hockey Booster Club was re-established in August 2007 and is registered with the State of CT under business ID 0779312. We have a Tax ID Number and have established a banking relationship with the The Savings Bank of Danbury.

Board Members:

Bryan Powers	Co-Chairmen	3 Children in Danbury Public Schools
Joanie Stoeckle	Co-Chairmen	2 Children in Danbury Public Schools
Christina Powers	Treasurer	See above
Stephanie Alfidi	Co-Secretary	5 Children in Danbury Public Schools
Luisa Britton	Co-Secretary	3 Children in Danbury Public Schools

Advisers/Spokespeople:

Dave Goldenberg	1 Child in Danbury Public Schools
Ken Utter	3 Children in Danbury Public Schools

Mission Statement:

To provide an opportunity to our diverse population of Danbury children to learn and play the sport of Ice Hockey resulting in continuing youth and feeder programs that enable Danbury High School to bring back and sustain an Ice Hockey Team by the year 2009.

Accomplishments YTD:

- Incorporated Booster Club
- Established Fundraising Plan
- Launched Website with registration process
- Grew Booster Club membership to over 50 families, many of which have children in Elementary and Middle School.
- Identified and tracking progress of over 75 kids playing or learning the sport of Ice Hockey.
- Provided free Ice Hockey Lessons with DIA to Danbury Youth in month of December and March.
- Developed strong relationships in Community especially with Danbury Police, Danbury Fire and City of Danbury. Note: Danbury Police and Fire also conducted free Hockey clinics.
- Established excellent working relationship with DHS.