

I want to thank each of you here for coming this evening. This past year was a busy one for the foundation which brought about some very visible and exciting changes for the Martin Complex.

I would like to review some of the highlights and accomplishments for the year. Then I will review the status of our current campaign and forward progress. Lastly, if there are questions we will address them at that time.

The Foundation Board wanted to get going on a project that was "visible" to us and the communities. We wanted something that all could utilize and see benefit in. The trail is seven tenths of a mile long and winds around the perimeter of the property. The trail can be used for leisure or hopefully cross country meets someday. We needed something we could handle financially with a lot of donated labor. After much discussion we decided to get started on the walking trail. Busse Investments agreed to donate the use of a grader for the trail, we just had to pay fuel costs. Gary Leibe hauled fly ash and asphalt millings which were used to make the base and cap the trail with. Kenny Fuessley, Steve Graham and others put the millings down and then smoothed them out.. Lastly Chris Shadden sprayed the trail to seal it. Much of this was volunteer labor and time. A very big thanks to Kelly Baier and Jeannie Neighbor for heading up this project and making all these wonderful connections. We did receive two grant awards for the trail totaling \$5500. One was from the Witwer Trust and the other from Alliant Foundation. Thanks to Kelly Baier and Susan Koch for their efforts in securing these grants.

In conjunction with the trail, we started discussions about a park like setting in the Northwest corner to the complex. This would allow for family outings as well as a place for youth to play during athletic events occurring at the facility. We were originally just looking at playground equipment but our vision enlarged to include a basketball/tennis court, sand volleyball, horseshoes and maybe a splash pad. The board also desires to see a pavilion, probably an open one at present that could possibly be enclosed in the future dependent on finances. We have discovered that there are more options for grant funding for facilities as these and will be pursuing them in the future.

Again, we are hopeful that many of these facilities could be build by district members and donated labor.

In the spring several board members presented our walking trail at a Lions Club meeting. The Lions Club voted to give all proceeds from their next spaghetti supper to the Foundation. Also, in late April we held a community work day at the Martin Complex and had several community members came and helped mulch and stake trees, and help with general pickup. We were present at the Book Fair and had many good questions and positive interactions with family and faculty. It is the community partnering that we see as vital to the success of the Foundation. We were very appreciative of all who helped in these endeavors.

Kelly Heims developed our new website which is fantastic. The website is kept up to date with meeting dates and minutes and project updates. She also got us connected into an online donation page, Pay Pal, which is a private, quick and secure way for persons to donate electronically. We appreciate all her efforts in this area

One of the grant opportunities we started looking at was through General Mills. Initial

contact was made by Chris Landa and the initial reaction was positive. Several board members met with two representatives from General Mills and we shared our proposal with them. Many ideas were shared, questions asked and answered and a recommendation given. We came away with contained optimism. General Mills core emphasis is kids and health/well being. It was suggested that we somehow combine our new trail, the school and students and a wellness program together into the grant application. Mr. Sodawasser readily agreed to get involved and help promote healthy life style fun activities for our youth. Hence, the Partnership to fight obesity community project began. The school and foundation would partner to develop programs to fight obesity in our communities through teaching physical activities that can continue throughout an individuals life. In the future, the programs will be expanded to high school students and then members of our communities. An application was formally submitted in August. We still have not heard anything on this, but do know that General Mills Foundation Board was to meet late December.

In June the foundation received a \$15,000 grant from Trees Forever. We began working with the city on the specifications of the grant for the purchase and planting of the trees and shrubs. On September 6, approximately 33 FFA/Ag students partnered with us to plant 87 shade and evergreen trees. The folks from Evergreen Nursery helped this process go smoothly and we completed it in one day. This community service project allowed our students to take ownership and pride in this endeavor and their work. I had several parents tell me their child had them drive by to see part of their work. The foundation board treated the kids to breakfast pizza, doughnuts and juice in return for their help. These same students also watered the trees several times for us early in the fall. Watering all the trees at the site was made much easier thanks to the 1000 gallon water tank Lyle McBurney loaned us. A big thanks to Carl for securing that. Also, a very big thanks to Dee Luedtke and her dad, Willis Lillie for the countless times they watered. Towns people really commented positively on how nice the site and trees looked. It makes a positive visual image upon entering the community. Again, we want to thank New Horizons FS and the city, especially Kent Wright for the water to keep the tank full.

We had a very successful Run, Pass and Kick youth fundraiser for the Foundation in September. We greatly appreciate all efforts by Karen Miller and those volunteers who helped her make this a success. Karen is looking into doing some type of fund raiser thru other sports as well in the coming year.

The Foundation held a fantastic fall raffle in conjunction with Pirate homecoming. We held our tailgate meal as well on homecoming. This year, our first in three attempts was sunny, warm and lovely. We had a tremendous turnout! We ran out of food and had to turn some away. We are very thankful for the Alburnett Sports Boosters help in covering cost of food and help in serving. Both our groups are winners and our kids are at the center of it all. We cleared over \$2100 on this night.

The Foundation completed its cost estimate gathering and decided to move forward with a open public informational meeting on our Back the Track campaign in mid October. This was to be a catered event and a time for us to share, but more important to listen and learn from the public their thoughts and concerns. We had 30 +/- individuals attend and many questions were asked and thoughts shared. Surveys were filled out for us to tally suggestions and consider before we moved forward with the campaign. We

took that information and changed certain aspects of the project. The foundation board then determined to move forward with the project on an estimated cost of \$992,000. We have and continue to solicit large donors/sponsors to help jump start this campaign. One approach we will use in the capital campaign is to ask for commitments to "purchase" 8 meters (\$2480) over a period of 3 years. We have opened a dedicated account for the Back the Track Campaign with these funds only being used for this purpose. We have also opened a brokerage account that will facilitate the donations of stock and similar securities to the foundation.

We have attended two city council meetings in the last two months to seek approval for placing temporary well and septic services at the Martin Complex. At the second meeting city council members Tom Chambers, Duane Pfab and Craig Titler voted to deny that approval. We will continue to work to move this project forward. We see this facility as a strong drawing point to our district and community.

We just finished a successful winter raffle. Greg and Mary Lagerquist donated a 46inch HD TV to us to raffle. We also secured 4 Rough Rider tickets and 3 season athletic passes. This raffle netted \$1750.

Again, thanks for coming this evening. Is there any questions or comments we can address?