

Stan Panfilov
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Karen Edwards

What was the role of the booster club at century?

Well, our goal was, I don't if we achieved it yet. Our goal was not to just raise money and give money, not that it wasn't needed. We wanted to be there for the student's; we just wanted to do little things for the different groups of students and individuals, send out cards, let the people know they appreciate them that we saw their accomplishments no matter how little or how small they are, that was are main our main goal

What was the children experience at Century?

I had three boys, it was good. They were involved in sports mainly as far as extracurricular activities. So I really enjoyed part of the boosters where we worked with drama or band and some other groups that my kids were involved with.

How did you become the first president of Boosters Club?

Well, there were about 11 of us in a room. It just kind of got handed to me, but sometimes the president is the easiest job of all, because treasurers and secretaries really have to do a lot. The president mainly was just to be there.

What were your responsibilities as a president?

To prepare the agendas for the meetings, to run the meetings although the agenda kind of wrote themselves and the meeting kind of ran themselves. Although it kind of was difficult task to try and welcome to welcome new and let them have their say and their input because they were new and growing we want to take everybody's ideas although you couldn't carry out everybody's ideas, but to try to pick the best and to keep the main focus of the group, and our main mission statement

How would you describe the atmosphere at Century the first year?

Well, that was when Phil Barnekoff was principal, our first year. And he was great very supportive and very willing to help us I mean can't think of anything he wouldn't have done. And then Mrs. Montgomery has carried that on. Before Century I was in other parent organizations, and I've never the seen the support that we got at Century. It used to be we did our thing and they did their thing at the other schools. But at century I really felt that we were a team, so I really think the leadership there was there made a big difference to us.

Was there challenges being the first president?

Well, I think the hardest part was again, the core group had their opinion about how they did not want it to just be fundraiser. A booster club a most schools that's just what it is, a booster club just raises money and give the money to the school. And its not that we wanted to raise money but we just did not want that to be the only main goal. That first year a lot people came in with expectations, well at my other school this is what my club did and that what we were, and sometimes it was hard to tell them that. But what we told was to start the fundraising club.

Do you guys remember anything about the boundary controversy?

Well, we were Glencoe, and not much of Century was Glencoe. All my boys and all their friends in the neighborhood wanted to go Century. My older two boys went to Glencoe, and we had no problems at Glencoe but they were excited. I mean definitely remember the boundary issue, but your right it was people trying to get to Century, the people that wanted to stay at their old schools and they got to stay.

What about the switch from traditional to block schedule?

I thought it was a good idea, and for my sons I think it was good, I really think it gave them the opportunity to take a lot of classes. Not extracurricular but the choice of classes that they had was far greater then in the past, and since we knew from the start that it was going to be block and that was always a goal.

Did you help with athletic program?

Well, most of us the other members were involved with other activities that how we got started, and that was our goal just not to have a booster only was for sports or only was for band and etc. and again to support all the groups before that our family was involved in football an wrestling

How do you think Century has changed over time?

Well, its matured but its matured well, I think it still has the enthusiasm, that's what really impressed in the beginning years of Century and still. The staff and students are just so enthusiastic and so positive and energetic and it just really nice place to be so that part hasn't really changed. Well, it's kind of found the different groups; I don't know it still seems like a community though

What words come to mind when describing century?

Enthusiastic, ambitious; there you don't come with an there just like nope automatically cant do it, they examine it and I mean I realize they cant do everything bout they examine it they are willing to listen, they are willing to work with people and they are willing to try, and I think that's the case with the students and the staff and the parents. I thought it was really good about that was the first new school that any of us were affiliated with, and it wasn't always things have been does this way, and this is how we do it, well we didn't have any of that everybody was open and everybody was willing to find the best way from all the previous schools and groups and to come together and to make it the best it can be.

What do you think you accomplished?

Well, my main goal cause when we started, well, Mr. Barnekoff did give a small stipend to get started, but my main goal of the first was get us financially sound I don't know sound if sound is the right word cause we didn't have that much money. But to get some money and be able to set a budget for the next year, we needed start up money to buy the merchandise which we sell and which was are only fundraiser. At first we didn't have the money to place the order to make them; so that was my main goal. So the first year we got that started and we got a small budget and then my second year even though I wasn't president I took on the wall the booster wall in the gym, and that's what really

helped get money for the club. To keep it running to be able to do the things and I know it's still growing, so that was my main goal which was fiscally get it started

What were Mr. Barnekoffs Goals?

Well, he came from Hilhi of course, and Hilhi and we really used a lot of Hilhi ideas, we got Glencoe's parent group policies and standards and we took Hilhi things. And he was the one although we agreed with him that kind of started you know we just needed kind of like a booster for the students. Our goal was to come in contact and to touch every student in a year. Now we didn't make that then, I doubt they made it, but that's the goal as a group or as a team as a band or an individual, like we really asked the staff to give us names of student that had improved whether it was their grades or attendance I mean it didn't matter we didn't have you have to do this or you have to reach this then you get an award. It improve and to do a good job and do your best in learning. So Mr. Barnekoff really encouraged us and really opened up our eyes to what kind of difference we can make instead of just money.

Are any interesting stories?

Well, the first year we had a few two or three hour meetings, which was never our goal. But people would come and said okay we want to be in booster and this is what we wanted to do. And I want to do this and this and they would start talking, and I really felt that it had a place for parent where they had their say and where they can voice their concerns, and it would nice to be thought of not as a go-between because any of the parent could always to the staff and the school but that's the way I kind of viewed it. And sometimes parents didn't feel comfortable going directly to the source so it was a forum for them to voice their concerns about a lot of issues that sometimes that really didn't concern us or I mean it wasn't part of our agenda but we let them talk and we listened and we tried to help and guide them and so that was our first year there was some long meetings. I also wanted; I learned through the years that in any organization you got the core group that kid of are the chairman or the manager system of it. But you don't get big attendance like at booster meeting we never got hundreds of people and its not like it used to be but is the core group of people could manage and get the word out, so we can get parents to participate, it made it easier to get parent to participate to get parents just participate in just one event or just do this one thing, and parent usually almost always say yes. So it isn't attendance, and a lot of people had to get past that and all those people need to be here, every parent and if a parent really cared they would be here. Well, they other commitments and other lives but it was to try to draw them in for just one event or just do this or to help at this. And so we really tried to make that happen but some parents said that we want to join and support what you are doing but don't call us. And there is a place for those people too, I mean they paid their dues and that helped.

How often were the club meetings?

The meetings, the board meetings were every month after parent advisory and then we had and we had three general meetings for the membership and those were the meeting were tried to get the parents to sign up, whether your child could be part of the group you were acknowledging or it was the play or whether it was a team or club that you would, the first year we really didn't have any money so the first year you almost had

to volunteer; I'll take Gatorade to the Cross-Country team. So that first year it was kind of voluntary, our goal and we planned is that we would have a little budget and I think that did arrive later.