

**April 18 QB Club Meeting**  
**SHS Field House**  
**Official Minutes**

Call to order

Coach Sonny Burch called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. This was a mandatory meeting called by the 2017 QB Club Executive Board to provide important information about fees, fundraising, eligibility paperwork, spring practice, summer workouts and more.

Athletic Training Services

Head Athletic Trainer Joe Lemery presented information on the physical training and therapy services his department provides to Sparkman student-athletes. Last year, the training staff provided almost \$150,000 in free services to Sparkman student-athletes (they treat all student-athletes in all sports, not just football). The trainers work for Huntsville Hospital, but are partnered with The Orthopedic Center (TOC). Dr. Stanton Davis, of TOC, is our team doctor and the trainers recommend him, but parents are free to choose any doctor.

The trainers try to keep student-athletes out of the doctor's office whenever possible by performing physical therapy and other treatments right at school. Joe and Andy provide physical therapy services before and after school and can call on doctors and therapists at any time. If your student-athlete is scheduled for a treatment/therapy session and misses, parents/guardians will receive a call.

In the summer, the trainers will perform baseline concussion cognitive tests, for use as a comparison throughout the season. The training staff takes concussion protocol seriously and treats concussions aggressively. In addition, every day the training staff gives Coach White an injury report.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Bev Perry reported that she received one correction to the April QB Club Minutes as posted on the [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) web site. The date for physicals at the school was incorrectly noted as May 7th; the actual date for physicals is May 8th. The April Minutes will be corrected to reflect this change. There were no other corrections or additions to the April minutes.

Ms. Perry reminded the membership that they should be receiving emails from the QB Club. If any parent is not receiving emails, please email [sparkmansenatorfootball@gmail.com](mailto:sparkmansenatorfootball@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list. In addition to email, important information is posted on the [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) web site and the Facebook page at [facebook.com/sparkmansenatorsfootball](https://facebook.com/sparkmansenatorsfootball). In addition, parents are encouraged to download the Remind app and join the appropriate group (freshman or varsity) to receive text and/or email notifications regarding events and deadlines.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kim Gibson reported that the QB Club has an unencumbered balance of \$44,924.97 after purchasing new weight room flooring and new hamstring/glute machines.

Ms. Gibson noted the importance of paying fees and participating in fundraisers because it takes a significant amount of money to run the football program. The QB Club Executive Board appreciates the support it receives from the membership.

If any members are interested in learning the details of the expenses the booster club incurs, simply email Treasurer Kim Gibson at [jkmhgibson@gmail.com](mailto:jkmhgibson@gmail.com). Also, if any members needs to know how much money has been credited to their account from fundraising, also email Kim Gibson for that information.

### 1<sup>st</sup> VP Fundraising Report

Ms. Jennifer Ickes reported that the 20 for 20 fundraiser was very successful (six players received enough money to cover their fees) and money is still coming in. Those funds will be credited toward player fees until August 1. Members can continue to print out and mail letters as they wish.

The Club's second fundraiser this year, selling Dreamland BBQ butts and ribs, resulted in \$2,700 credited to player accounts. Thanks to everyone who participated in our fundraisers so far this year; Ms. Ickes noted that it's amazing how much people are willing to donate if you just ask!

The next fundraiser is the Second Annual Sparkman Gridiron Golf Classic at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville, Saturday, April 29 at 1:30 (be there at 1:00).

Following the golf tournament, we will kick off the Sparkman Marketing Partners ("corporate sponsorship") fundraiser. Ms. Ickes passed out an information packet that included information about the Sparkman Marketing Partners fundraiser and the other fundraiser and credit information. This information will be posted on the [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) web site and sent via email to the members.

### 2<sup>rd</sup> VP Volunteers Report

Ms. Angela Knight informed the membership that volunteer opportunities are upcoming and you can sign up at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com). If you volunteer for an activity, \$20 per signup will go toward player fees. Parents are limited to five signups, or \$100 credit, toward fees through volunteering.

Volunteer slots are set up for golf tournament [note: all volunteer slots for the golf tournament are filled.] Spring game volunteer signups will be online soon and when that's active an email will go out to the membership.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Meals Report

President Sonny Burch reported that the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> vice president, responsible for pregame meals and other player nutrition, is open as the previous officeholder Tiffany Draper is unable to carry out her duties. Mr. Burch called for a volunteer to fill this vacancy on the executive board. If no one volunteers, Mr. Burch indicated the Board would reach out to individuals in the membership to try to get the vacancy filled so the Board can effectively carry out its duties for the 2017 season.

### President's Report

President Sonny Burch reported that fees in 2017 will be \$700 for the first player and \$500 for any additional players a family may have. In addition, seniors who have been in good standing and paid their fees (or used fundraising credit to pay their fees) for the previous three years will get a discount; seniors in good standing will pay \$500. The Quarterback Club will be emailing those senior families about their discount. Fees are due August 1. If you need to know your balance at any time, please email Treasurer Kim Gibson at [jkmhgibson@gmail.com](mailto:jkmhgibson@gmail.com).

President Burch also reported that the Board is consider making a VIP package available that would include reserved seating for home games.

### Coach's Report

Head Coach Laron White presented his impressions of his first few weeks at Sparkman and said that the kids are hard-working. Coach White further spoke about commitment – to the program and to our kids. He noted that as adults, we often have to be the ones to push our kids and really believe in the program. He said we should all be dedicated to playing here and ensuring student-athletes don't leave the area.

Coach White then introduced some of the coaching staff:

- 🎤 Thomas Harris, defensive backs
- 🎤 Josh Walters, defensive backs
- 🎤 Ronnie Watson, linebackers
- 🎤 Kevin Abernathy, defensive line
- 🎤 Kenny Gilliam, offensive coordinator
- 🎤 Russ Freeman, offensive line
- 🎤 Lane Kelly, offensive line
- 🎤 Larry Sevier, wide receivers
- 🎤 Dez Richardson, running backs
- 🎤 Terrence Galloway, 9<sup>th</sup> grade coach

*Recruiting Tips:* Coach White gave an overview of some key elements in the recruiting process. First, don't get caught up in using a recruiting service; use one only if the price is reasonable. Second, make a good HUDL highlight film. Third, stay on top of grades – especially in core classes. Fourth, send regular emails to coaches. Pick 10 Division 1 schools and send them each an email. Then pick 10 Division 2 schools, then 10 Division 3, then 10 NAIA schools and send film out. Do 10 every three days. Most will get deleted, but it only takes one. Finally, take the ACT.

*Teams and practices:* Regarding teams for next year, there will be a freshmen team; they will practice 4<sup>th</sup> block. The freshmen team will have its own coaches -- at least four for maximum instruction. If the coaches believe certain players can or should practice with varsity, the coach will contact a parent first to get permission for that player to practice with the varsity team. Freshmen games will be played on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. and players will eat a pregame meal prior to the game.

The Junior Varsity team will include 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders and comprise players the staff is trying to develop. Some players may start out playing on the junior varsity team but then may move to varsity. Some may play in the JV game on Monday and then play special teams on Friday. The JV team will play right after the freshmen and also have a pregame meal.

The varsity team will include players in grades 10-12; all will travel to away games.

*Football Program Fundraising:* Coach White stressed the importance of fundraising, noting that the program is expensive to run, and the staff would like to see equipment and facility upgrades this year. The football program/coaching staff will be providing the players with "Gold Cards" to sell. The Gold Cards fundraiser will start June 13 and end June 26. There may be prizes like pullovers and hoodies; credit toward fees will be given.

*Eligibility:* Regarding grades, coaches receive progress reports and try to stay on top of players regarding grades. However, this coaching staff tries to not to kick kids off the team unless they are causing major disruptions, preferring to give kids every chance for success. Eligibility paperwork needs to be turned in as soon as possible. It can be downloaded from the [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) web site. Freshmen need physicals before they can participate in practice.

*Physicals:* Physicals will be available in the school on May 8 beginning at 5:30 in the gym for \$10. Even if a player has a physical, it's a good idea to stop in and get another one, so he will be up-to-date for one year (\$10 fee is waived if player has recently had a physical).

*Spring Football:* For freshmen, spring practice begins Monday, April 24. Practice will last two hours; parents can pick up players at 6 p.m. Wednesday practices may end earlier. Varsity practice dates are: May 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16, depending on weather. The Spring Game is scheduled for May 18 at 7 p.m. at Senator Stadium vs. Austin.

*Summer Workouts:* Summer workouts start June 5 and will continue until August 1 and will be held on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Varsity players will work out from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; freshmen will work out from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Varsity and freshmen players will work out separately. If your player is going to be on vacation or otherwise out of town, please let the coaching staff know. If your player is in town, he is expected to come to summer workouts. The coaching staff will be posting information about summer camps in the weight room.

*Fall Schedule:* First day of fall practice will be August 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an early morning practice on Labor Day and games Labor Day weekend and the week of Fall Break.

*Spirit Wear:* Assistant Coach Ronnie Watson reminded parents they need to purchase certain Spirit Wear items by the deadline of April 30. Instructions for purchasing Spirit Wear are posted on the [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) web site. In addition to the four mandatory items, players also need a five-pad girdle before they can practice this spring. These girdles can be purchased at Academy Sports, Dick's and other local sporting goods stores and don't need to be name-brand. In addition to the girdle, players also need a black mouthpiece and black-and-white cleats. Baseball or other metal cleats are not allowed. The Program will supply the rest of the equipment needed for practice.

*Eligibility Paperwork:* For spring football, all players need an updated physical and the Madison County insurance waiver form turned in. There are seven other forms needed (nine total forms) to play football in the fall. Please contact Coach Watson at [rwatson@mcsc12.org](mailto:rwatson@mcsc12.org) or [sparkmansenatorfootball@gmail.com](mailto:sparkmansenatorfootball@gmail.com) if you need to know which forms you need to turn in. Note: the physical form needs to be the 2015 version and the Out of County permission form needs to be notarized. The Star sportsmanship and birth certificate only have to be filled out once and are good for four years. When getting a physical at the school on May 8<sup>th</sup>, it will go faster if the forms are filled out ahead of time so the doctor only needs to fill in that particular section. To download paperwork, go to [sparkmanfootball.com](http://sparkmanfootball.com) or get copies from the coaching staff.

There were no further questions and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Perry, 2017 QB Club Secretary