

I thought I had good news over the break - receiving an email from a major sponsor approving a donation of over \$1000. I need to put decals on our vehicles and provide at least 4 photo's in return. I contacted the administration at my school with the good news. My principal basically chewed me out, stating that I did not have this approved and did I know there was board policies for this! I went from feeling great to terrible (feeling like I had done something wrong.) Now the finance committee is having a special meeting and it also on the board meeting agenda. It doesn't look good. My principal says it like having Pepsi posters in the gym or on the basketball jerseys. I was wondering if anyone else has had this problem and how you dealt with it?

Dave,

That is disappointing news. Traditionally, at North we have solely used vehicle sponsorships to fund our vehicles. We put all the names of the sponsors on the vehicles all the same size and in the same general area. We do however identify these as gifts to the program and they are mentioned at the school board meetings, in fact we have three board members that are major sponsors of the vehicles. Originally, when I started building Supermileage vehicles we had vehicles shaped so that the names would not be presentable, so we make posters, hung them up on the trailer during the races at Stout, then took thank you photos with poster on display.

I hope this helps and good luck.

Damon

About fundraising; welcome to the real world. The school I volunteered at had a great program, 25/30 students every year, 3 cars, we built 1 new car yearly & modified 2. That takes about \$4000 to \$5000. We put sponsors names on cars, we had banners, we took our cars to sponsors co. events, wherever & whatever we could think of to promote our team & our sponsors, it wasn't easy but we were successful. The school got a new principal, we could no longer ask people for money. He said it was like taxing people twice. This school still has a program but it's smaller, has less funding & they no longer are as likely to run at the front of the pack. Stan

We ran into the same situation at Seymour and we have luckily been able to work through our Boards apprehension about this. We really were lucky to have some key community members come forward in support of what we were doing and "make the case" with our principals and board members. It was a long uphill battle but it has been worth it in the long run as we have had good working relationships with our sponsors and our board. One thing I also learned in the process was to let my principal know ahead of time so he doesn't get blindsided. Things went much better when she was on my side and knew exactly what we were doing and why.

Good luck!

Sooo, Is this a situation WEEVA can have "any" help in for local school districts? I have heard of this topic in other districts over the past couple years which makes absolutely NO sense seen as we all have companies approaching us in our advisory teams with "How can we help you." Often times that is a check in hand... With that topic it goes beyond our WEEVA chapters into classroom/lab equipment. There are some schools that cannot go for grants at all! Which means they generally speaking will not be able to improve their equipment seen as district funds barely sustain many of our programs.

Anyways, you are the choir... Is there something WEEVA can do with a statement that would even do any good?

For Watertown, we do not have any restrictions within our organizations or departments for seeking local funding, and most of our funding coming in is grants/sponsors... (If you remember our cars, they have more sponsor logos on them then background color AND very small Watertown HS :)) Also many of our sponsors are not the standard businesses that everyone else is hitting up, We are many times one of the only entities educationally they sponsor each year...

Jesse Domer, Watertown HS

Well, as far as my issue - the board has approved the sponsorship (whew.) But, the Admin does not share the boards view. They say now anyone can come into our district and donate money then we have to put up a banner for them. The future is uncertain

Jesse I did send my administrators a photo of your car (along with others) - I don't know if that will make a difference or not?

You know, that is hilarious to think a school district would approve a business for \$100.00 to put up a banner anywhere in a school without prior contractual agreements!!! Anything that happens is under approval of a district and this is that scenario. You as the district designee are approving sponsorships that are school appropriate to be publicized on your program at your discretion. You have standards set for what you want brought in and what you will give out. If someone wants to donate \$100, you put their name on a t-shirt. If someone wants to donate \$100,000.00, you refurbish your lab and paint a mural after them in your lab... If someone wants to donate \$250,000.00 to the athletic program, you build a new weight room center and put a marble plaque on the wall for them! Why is this a question? :) Of course you would recognize businesses for their donations, but you do NOT have to accept EVERY donation either! I would never accept a donation from Budweiser, but I might accept one from Tampax...

Watertown's Sponsorship Packet is at: http://www.goslingelectric.com/SkillsUSA/files/Sponsorship_Packet_08-09.pdf

Our process is laid out with a contract that they submit with their check/goods at which we honor the best we can what we say we will give and NONE of it leaves our Manufacturing Lab... Use the pdf as you wish, (just don't steal my sponsors :))

Jesse Domer, Watertown High School

www.GoslingElectric.com

Thanks for the sponsor form Jesse! I agree with your point of view. I plan on doing some modification of it and sit down with the Superintendent and have talk about this issue.

I guess I have been lucky here also. At this point I have not gotten any financial support from the district to speak of yet they have been supportive of our fundraising. I guess I could understand if the donation was from HOOTERS or something like that, but otherwise I guess I would be like you shocked at their response.