

There have recently been questions about fundraising and the Bedford Bulldogs Athletic Booster Club we wanted to address. We wanted to take the time to try and clarify any confusion regarding this issue. Bedford Crew, like most public high school rowing programs, is completely self-funded at this time. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Though we are now a varsity sport and are recognized by the Athletic Department, we do not receive any funding at this time. As such, we are still defining our relationship with the Booster Club and we do not participate in their fundraisers to date.

Currently our boats, oars, ergometers, launches, boathouse fees, regatta entry fees, boat licenses, coaches salaries, scholarships, and insurance policies are funded entirely by dues and fundraisers. The \$500 rower fee has not been raised since Bedford Crew's inception, and this is in part due to our very successful system of fundraising that has been in place for the past ten years. Crew is an extremely expensive sport, and so our fundraisers are critical. At this time, our ergathon and our spring fundraisers are paramount to our fundraising efforts, and it's why we as a board so frequently encourage athletes' families to take part. We are also grateful to parents and rowers who participate in the carpooling. Many have asked if a bus to ARC is possible, but this cost would be prohibitive. Drivers are an important part of keeping our dues from rising and we thank you.

We are so happy to be acknowledged and accepted by the Athletic Department primarily as our young athletes deserve to be. However, we continue to exist because of dues - dues that are considerably less than our competitors- and our fundraisers. This may evolve and our relationship with the Boosters may as well, but at this time our fundraising efforts are separate..

We hope this clears up any confusion and questions. More importantly, we hope that families understand that as a board we want this program to continue to thrive and be accessible to all young athletes. Fundraising is a necessary piece and we encourage families, friends and community to support our athletes in the upcoming ergathon on 9/15 at Bedford High School.

Thank you,

Bedford Crew Board