

CPCS Booster Club Rep Asks Where's Community Pride?

By LARRY ROBINSON

COLTON - The organizer of a fledgling booster club created to help parents, students and school officials support extracurricular activities at Colton-Pierrepoint Central School is disappointed that no one showed up at the group's inaugural meeting this week.

Scott Muller said he distributed hundreds of orange flyers throughout the community - both in school and out - and advertised the first meeting of the Colts Pride Booster Club Inc. in the local media.

He said he was anticipating a good turnout at the event last Wednesday, given the fact

that school officials recently launched a series of joint meetings with the towns of Colton and Pierrepoint aimed at turning around declining enrollment in the district.

But on Wednesday Muller said only the tentative officers designated for the new booster club, no members of the public and just one school board member showed up in the school cafeteria to learn more about the new organization and how they could become more involved in helping the struggling district.

The apparent lack of interest has left him scratching his head, wondering what it takes

to get people out of their homes and into the local school. He said it has also prompted him to publicly take the community to task for not caring enough to spend a hour of their personal time to get involved.

"Being that there is already such a stink being made about declining students and finding ways to improve things, I just thought someone should tell the public that they need to get off their seats and do something," said Muller. "When no staff members show, no parents show and only one school board member shows, it makes you wonder."

Muller said he has formed The Colts Pride Booster Club Inc., a Not-for-Profit Corporation, to help students in the school district.

He said he was hoping that the club could become as successful as other booster clubs in the region, like at Potsdam Central School, where booster activities, donations and fundraisers play a key role in helping support and encourage extracurriculars.

"Apparently from the number of people that showed at the meeting, the community does not care," writes Muller in a letter to the editor. "I

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have been reading and hearing how the enrollment in the school is declining and how school officials are trying to come up with ways to raise the school's population. If people already living in the community, parents of current students, and the school employees and officials really cared about their school, I would think that they would want to support something like a booster club."

Muller came up with the idea for a booster club after school officials at Colton-Pier-

repoint cut the baseball program and replaced it with lacrosse last year.

However, he said the booster club he is forming is not aimed at reinstating baseball but simply at helping the school, the students and parents.

"I expected there should have been five or ten people there," said Muller. "I put the information out the best I could. There were flyers all over town. I don't see how anyone could miss them, they were bright orange."

Colton-Pierrepoint Central School is currently wrestling

with a declining student population and dwindling state aide dollars that threaten to close the tiny rural district in the future if the community doesn't find a way to entice more families to move to the district.

School Superintendent Martin Bregg is predicting a drop to just 300 students in a handful of years.

District taxpayers are also facing a eight percent jump in the tax levy next year, brought on in part by rising expenses and shrinking state aid dollars.