

HINSDALE CENTRAL HOCKEY CLUB

BOARD MEETING

Hinsdale Library

January 8, 2026

MINUTES

Attendees:

Jay Scharkey, Don Draudt, Julie Rzeppa, Louise Crabb, Jennifer Tallard, Kelly Staver, Rick Joutras, Coach Brooks

Special Guests: Maureen Kunitz, Zach Kunitz

President's Report:

Jay began the meeting restating the importance of strengthening recruiting efforts for the upcoming season. He introduced special guests Maureen and Zach Kunitz, who attended to share ideas related to enhanced recruiting initiatives.

Maureen explained that her interest in expanding recruiting efforts stemmed from a recent conversation with a friend who resides within the district and whose eighth-grade son is being actively recruited by Benet Academy. Benet's recruiting outreach included a personalized note, rally towel, t-shirt, and sweatshirt, which prompted discussion on how HCHC can elevate its own recruiting approach.

Recruitment & Social Media Update:

Kelly Staver reviewed current recruiting initiatives already underway, including:

- Two **Future Red Devil Skates** scheduled for **January 15 and January 22, 2026, from 6-8pm.**
- Personalized email invitations sent to prospective players, including a flyer with event details.
- Promotion of the skates via HCHC social media platforms and the club website.
- A club-wide email requesting assistance from the HCHC community in identifying future prospects.
- Attendees of the skates will receive an HCHC drawstring swag bag containing a rally towel, beanie or baseball hat, t-shirt, and logo puck.
- Players attending the second skate will have the opportunity to select their jersey number for the upcoming season.
- Submissions were made to Hinsdale Middle School, Clarendon Hills Middle School, and Butler Junior High to include Future Recruit Skates information in their upcoming weekly email blasts.
- Prior to each skate, current HCHC players will speak to recruits in the locker room about their experiences in high school hockey versus club hockey and share the impact HCHC has had on them.

- Current HCHC players were encouraged to personally reach out to prospective recruits they know to express enthusiasm about joining the program.

It was further proposed that rising senior HCHC players, led by Zach Kunitz, along with select rising juniors, canvass Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills to hand-deliver flyers promoting the club, upcoming game dates, and include the new HCHC “Devils” baseball hat as a recruiting incentive. This activity is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday.

Kelly also shared that a centralized Google Doc has been created to track current recruiting projects and allow board members to add prospective players as they are identified.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Don Draudt reported that 1099 forms are currently being distributed to all coaches.

Regarding spring hockey, the club is committed to **45 hours of ice time** on the main rink at **\$430 per hour**, totaling **\$19,350**. With coaching fees included, fixed expenses are projected to be approximately **\$25,000**. Don emphasized the importance of strong player participation in the spring program and noted the need to host two showcases to offset costs and ice time expenses.

Coach’s Report:

Coach Brooks outlined preliminary plans for the spring program. In collaboration with Rick Joutras, a key concept discussed was branding the program as a **“Spring Mini Camp,”** which would:

- Focus on team cohesion and system development
- Include select games and showcases
- Offer an optional **Just Lift** strength training component
- Dedicate two nights exclusively to HCHC players, with a potential third night open to non-HCHC participants

Coach Brooks also expressed interest in continuing participation in the **Wreaths Across America** initiative next year, organized independently by HCHC. He noted that players enjoyed participating this season and felt it was a meaningful philanthropic opportunity for the program.

Next Meeting:

To Be Determined