



MHS
locker
room is not
storage
space.

Timeline:

Building permit obtained from the City of Mentor in 1993 for room to be built off the back of the ice arena. Prior to 1993, this space did not exist.

Jack Smeltz, 1993 head coach of MHS hockey, petitioned the City of Mentor for permission to build this locker room.

October 29, 1993, the City of Mentor granted a Permit to “Construct an Accessory Structure” which included pouring of footers and laying of block which was done by coaches, players, parents, grandparents and benefactors.

100% of costs funded by coaches/parents/parents and private donations. No funding was provided by the City of Mentor.

Construction began and the footers were inspected November 9, 1993.

The building was finished by the end of the 1994 season, complete with custom wood partitions and shelving.





100% maintained by MHS Hockey Team and Mentor Blueline Booster Club.

Painting, installation of a new electrical box and permanent flooring (\$2,700) in 2014; all paid for by the Blueline Club, not the city.

Houses our team skate sharpener (>\$2,000 value).

Place for team bonding.

Most area teams have dedicated locker rooms within their city arena. Rocky River is [great example](#). Other teams with dedicated locker room space in *their city* include: Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and Strongsville. St. Edward, St. Ignatius, Walsh, and Kent Roosevelt also have dedicated locker rooms in area arenas. Even The Pond which has 1 sheet of ice has 4 rooms, each dedicated to a team that plays there: Kenston, Orange, Aurora and Chagrin Falls.

Legacy

This space is more than just the locker room to every player, past and present. It is a legacy, a goal, and a memorial. Players recall writing their names to commemorate the building and later dedicating that space in memory of their assistant coach Fred Fuldauer. Fred was a decorated Mentor police officer for over 25 years. Even in his death Fred Fuldauer requested donations to the Mentor High School Blue Line Club.



Coach Smeltz and Coach Fuldauer with Mentor HS Team 2001-2002

Wall of Fame



Quotes from emails:

From Mr. Kaminski, Tue, Jun 19, 2018 1:52 pm:

“The City of Mentor currently has the following Mentor High School teams utilize our facilities – Girls softball, Boys baseball, Boys and Girls golf team, Boys and Girls tennis and hockey teams and none of other teams have dedicated locker rooms on City Property. Losing this exclusive privilege will not fundamentally impact the program or the kids because no other high school team enjoys a permanent locker room on any other Mentor City Property.”

My son who plays golf gets dressed at home and carries one bag. Baseball players can do the same. Hockey goalies and players can not do this. They need helmets, chest protectors, gloves, blockers, cup, pants, leg pads and skates. Please see my sons hockey bags brought to the meeting. In addition, I believe it would be illegal to drive with hockey gear on.

“You have asked about restitution for all the associated costs from inception of the MHS locker room to present, however bear in mind any investment made at the arena has been more than offset by free ice usage, free utilities and free room rental space. Over nearly the entire course of time (Since 1993) Mentor Hockey did not have to pay for ice and/or room rentals. No other school that utilizes the Mentor Ice Arena had the same benefit that Mentor Hockey has enjoyed.”

No ice was free but was negotiated between the City and the schools. The Mentor School District pays for night ice used during the season. For the last 3 years the following is the money paid from the Blueline Club to the City for Summre, Fall, and shared ice.

2017/2018 \$3,985.22 (includes a one time credit of \$85) for 22 sheets of ice.

2016/2017 \$4530.00

2015/2016 \$5112.50

If there is an issue with payment of ice with the schools then that is seperate from the Blueline Club and the locker room used for children. In the past two years the schools have paid \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year to the city for ice which is an increase from \$4,000 to \$6,000. It is understood the city and schools negotiated agreements regarding sharing facilities to be fiscally responsible.

continued:

From Mr. Kaminski, Tue, Jun 19, 2018 1:52 pm continued: “As there is also an inherent concern over the storage of personal property on/in public facilities we will be requiring all Hockey teams who store equipment on site to sign a waiver in the event of damage or loss to any equipment stored at the Mentor Ice Arena.”

We assume the figure skaters who have a much larger room *between* the two arenas will have to sign a waiver as well. This space may provide a better alternative if you need somewhere to “store chemicals” since it is between the two sheets of ice and was once a storage area prior to the East rink being built). Storage bins are available for teams who have not footed the bill to pay for a locker room. Is this a concern for these teams since equipment is stored in them? Youth hockey has lockers on site as well. Will they have to sign waivers?

On Friday, June 15, 2018, 12:00 PM, Furman, William <Furman@cityofmentor.com> wrote: Finally.....and this is the most exciting.....the Arena is expected very soon to be making a very significant announcement which will result in MUCH more traffic through its doors!There are many things taking place here which should add, yet again, to the positive and fun atmosphere and the continued interest in hockey and the Arena. What does this mean? Traffic! Lots of traffic through the Arena.

This has led parents to believe there is a new team coming. It is known that a team from the Federal League is coming in the 2019 or 2020 year. This team will need LARGE locker rooms, laundry facilities and offices. It is not logical that a team of this size would fit into our existing locker room. We do not want our current locker room space to be used in some way to make room for this new team. This is the home of the MENTOR HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM, provided for by the Mentor BlueLine Club. My question is WHERE will this teams facilities be housed?

Email from **Bruce Landeg** <landeg@cityofmentor.com> to parent M.T.

"Kaminski, Kenneth" <Kaminski@cityofmentor.com>,
"Kenneth Filipiak > >" <filiapiak@cityofmentor.com>,
"Zampedro, Tony" <Zampedro@cityofmentor.com>

from

Wed, Jun 20, 2018 at 6:12 PM

date:

"Your other question about a figure skater room is ground that I am not familiar with and I copy Mr. Kaminski directly for further information about that arrangement."

I have yet to hear ANY information regarding my question about the use of the figure skater locker room (complete with showers and sinks) from Mr. Landeg or any other city officials. This space used to be a maintenance room prior to the East Rink being built. Who footed the bill to have this room transformed into a locker room complete with running water? The Blueline locker room is an added on room off the back of the arena that does not have running water, was funded and built by the Blueline Club, coaches and players and is about 1/3 the size of the figure skater locker room.



FALLEN BROTHERS

Jerseys of **Matthew Henk**, a Mentor Firefighter and **Mark Smykowski**, a United States Marine Veteran were honorably displayed in custom cases. These cases were destroyed by the ice arena in 2018 per rink employees. Alumni requested a number of times to have them be displayed and the rink responded by putting them unprotected in the rafters (first picture). It is just time before they fall apart due to being in the arena elements. **They belong back behind the benches with their brothers.**



Mentor High School Program Size



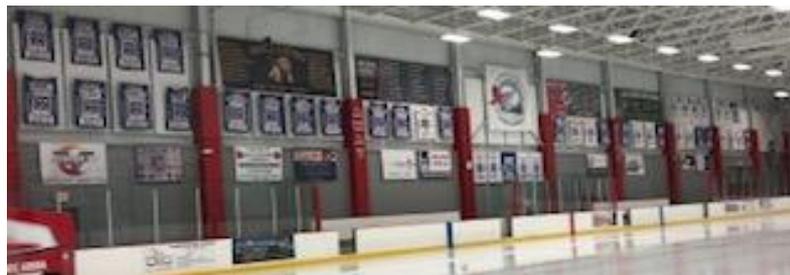
As you can see the MHS program has more players than the other programs and more room is needed. This is the reason why the locker room was built in the 1990's.

May 31, 2018 Kenn Kaminski email to Jeff Cassella

“In the past, email has been sent to group of parents and I ask that I am included on those emails so there is no mis-interpretations of the decision.”

I am personally appalled that this was asked of a group of parents by a paid city official. He was added on all emails. Mr. Kaminski has never been #onceacard and does not even live in the City of Mentor. For him to dictate that he be included on parent emails and make one sided decisions along with Mr. Furman (also not a Mentor resident) about something that concerns residents who pay taxes and have their kids attend Mentor City Schools is absurd. In addition to telling children to leave their locker room and disrespecting our brothers jerseys, the City has removed all trophies from the arena (including youth trophies) and per staff at the arena it is planned to remove all banners from the arena because they were reportedly called “gaudy”. This is our city and people making decisions don’t reside here. Does council know of these plans and prior actions or are you all being blind -sided as well?

All these and more are slated to be gone:



Questions:

Who decided to reverse a decision made in 1993 when elected officials including Ed Walsh, Jim Struna and Ron Micchia, Richard Henning, Ken Rakes, Evelyn Kiffmeyer and Lynne Mazeika decided to allow coaches/parents/students and the Blueline Club to pour footers and construct a locker room? If council allowed this in the past then council needs to vote on it now.

If the city claims ownership of the locker room then why have they allowed the Blueline Club to pay for upgrades to the floor and electrical system?

If having personal equipment on site at the arena is discouraged then why have storage boxes for high school teams and youth teams as well as lockers for coaches and staff?

continued:

What exactly will the locker room being used for? Mr. Kaminski said chemicals, Mr. Krueger told a taxpayer a compressor (which is currently installed already).

Where should our coaches and parent volunteers sharpen the 30+ MHS hockey player skates with our costly equipment owned by the Blueline Club? The locker room was a safe place for this.

Why were the families and Blueline Club not notified of the disassembling of the memorials to fallen hockey brothers?

Where will the proposed storage bins be located? If the locker room is taken away due to space issues then where will suitable bins be placed?

If negotiations were able to be hashed out in the past then why not now? What has changed? The Blueline Club is not asking for more, we are asking for what is ours. One thing that has changed is the paid city officials who are not Mentor residents.

When the Federal League team comes in the next couple of years, where will all their facilities be housed and will the current programs be pushed out in any way along with their history?