

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2023, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull brought the meeting to order.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said morning practices have gone well as weather has been favorable. Thank you to Suzanne Smith for all her efforts with senior night. Playoff games will begin after Oct 20 and 16 teams (out of 17) go to playoffs. Mr. Fessler is not planning to make playoff games mandatory for the band, but will have sign-up sheets. They may do the senior show twice if there are enough students that sign up. UA will have at least one playoff game. Generally for playoffs the students vote on their favorite songs and the band marches to a block and then marches off since not all members are able to participate after the regular season ends. The last of the sectionals will occur tomorrow morning. Concert band and jazz season auditions will occur in late October/early November. He is hiring clinicians to help with adjudicating auditions. He is discussing having a recorded portion and in-person parts of the audition. He plans to have sectionals for all three bands this year with the ultimate goal to have all three bands participate in large group OMEA, but that will be determined at a later time. Large group OMEA is March 8/9 and Mr. Fessler will be working with other UAHS music directors to ensure there are no conflicts with other group's performances/competition at OMEA. The band pays ~\$250-290 for each group to participate in OMEA large group, and individual parents pay for solo and ensemble. Mr. Fessler and Mr. Redman are working on adding middle school students to Charms. Three students were selected for honors bands and one student is doing a jazz lab clinic. Mr. Fessler is working on nominations for additional university/honors band opportunities for students. The marching band indoor concert is scheduled for 10/25/23 at 7:30 PM. Thanks to Ben and Matt Fox for creation of the hype video. The hype video may be played at the onset of the upcoming concert. Mr. Fessler mentioned there may be combined performance with the Olentangy Orange band in the future. The band pavilion (bleachers) may not be adequate to seat the band as enrollment grows and Mr. Fessler met with Andy Geistfeld (school treasurer) about this concern. The school may be able to help with meeting some of our growth needs so that we don't have to write grants to cover these needs. Mr. Fessler said work is underway to develop a replacement plan for school-owned instruments so that the costs are more spread out over time. On Nov. 3, the 8th grade band will take a trip to see the OSU marching band. He asked if the boosters could provide pizza. The need for chaperones is yet to be determined. MS Honors band nominations are coming up. Having everyday band rehearsal in middle school is working out well. Mr. Fessler mentioned there is currently not enough school-owned instrumentation for percussion for the 3rd high school concert season band. He is considering having percussion front ensemble in the future for marching band due to increasing student enrollment in the band. There are no plans to change to a competition band. Due to high interest and diverse populations, an eventual front ensemble may be the best way to meet those needs. Mr. Fessler said he has some prop expenses as he will need fire extinguishers and banners for the senior show. Two fire extinguishers will be needed for the jet graphic the band will be creating for "Danger Zone."

III. *Executive Board and Committee Reports*

- A. *President Amy Turnbull* (booster president) thanked Suzanne for her work with senior night, Kristin and Soozie for their uniform leadership, Elaine and Nancy for 3rd quarter refreshments and Laura for coordinating spreads. Amy mentioned there are/will be openings for booster Vice President, spreads co-chair, videography, and a host for the final after-party on October 20. Nancy described the videography needs for the “bird’s eye view” of the band home game performances next fall. Thanks also to Elaine and Rada for the new band website design and launch.
- B. *Financial Report*: Budget/financial status update handouts were provided and presented to attendees. Scott and Noelle presented that pizza for the after-parties has been ordered from locally owned pizza restaurant Shorty’s. Clinicians have been paid. Instrument purchases came through but in a different timeframe than expected. Band fees continue to be submitted. Donations are also coming in for the band. A budget for 2025 is being planned with more detailed expected expenses.
- C. *Fundraising/Development report*: Michael Geygan provided attendees with a handout of the fundraising/development manager report. Michael discussed current and planned fundraising opportunities that include the Awesome Company, Digital Doughnuts, Raise Right gift cards, Flower sales, winter sports concessions. There was a suggestion to purchase a drinking station that would be helpful for band camp. The current suggestion was to have that purchased through senior class fundraising efforts. Tim James will be taking over the trailer outfit design. Plans are underway to have a 5 year instrument replacement plan developed. Plans for a new (larger) band pavilion are being discussed. Kristin is working on a 5 year plan for replacement/purchase of additional uniforms. Karin is working on sponsorship needs as well as community engagement/ expansion of social media. Karin will be researching what can be done to showcase the band to a wider audience on social media. Mr. Fessler is looking into photo release questions. There may be an additional page added to the band concert program with sponsors in the future. She also mentioned possible sponsorship banners. She is planning for the future once the 501C3 is reinstated.
- D. *Trip* Mr. Fessler mentioned a possible small trip at the end of the school calendar year may be in the works. No additional details were provided.
- E. Amy adjourned the meeting.

Attendance: Jane Brown, Michael Geygan, Scott McWilliams, Amy Turnbull, Todd Fessler, Renee Rodabaugh, Rada Terzieva, Noelle Fox, Elaine Alicea, Suzanne Smith, Kristin Lach, Soozie Cole Hamilton, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard

Zoom participants: Ishrat Jahan, Jessica Butsko, Lawrence Sheline

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications manager