

## Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 13Nov2023, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull brought the meeting to order.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said this is his best year as director yet and many thanks to booster parents that are assisting the band. He stated the band's video has been entered into the Metallica marching band contest. Thank you to Greg Stevens who compiled the video for contest submission. Concert auditions are currently underway as video submissions are being reviewed. This is a difficult time of year for the directors as decisions are tough and the directors do not want assignments to define the student as a person. Mr. Fessler said that this year only section leaders will be stated and seating (1<sup>st</sup> chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> chair, etc.) will be eliminated in all three bands. Mr. Redman stated they do not want band assignments/auditions to affect any student's love of music, rather they want to foster, not diminish it.

Mr. Fessler said jazz auditions are almost finished. 43 students submitted videos for jazz auditions. He said a lot of rhythm instruments auditioned so a goal for this year is to have rhythm sectional groups: jazz combos, sectional work, and ensemble with the wind instruments. More percussion instruments will be needed as well as sound boards/amplifiers.

OSU Honor Band: ~20 nominations were submitted from our school and 5 were accepted. Ohio Wesleyan Honor Band: 8 were accepted from our middle and high school nominations. Solo and Ensemble contest will be starting up soon. Any student wishing to take a solo to contest is highly encouraged to take private lessons to facilitate musical piece selection as well as arrange for an accompanist.

The pep band schedule is almost finalized.

Football playoffs continue with this Friday's game at historic Crew stadium. ~99 students participated last Friday which is exceptional, given participation in playoffs at this point is optional and not grade dependent.

Mr. Fessler thanked the boosters for providing pizza for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip. The Hasting concert is tomorrow night at 7 PM.

Thanks to Amy Turnbull for her work on a gala fundraising event scheduled for April 18 (Thursday). The plan is to have a venue for the jazz groups (ensemble, combo, and labs) to perform at the Valleydale Ballroom. Tickets will be sold to attend the event and possible evening fundraisers in addition.

Rada brought up the Metallica contest in regards to a "Fan Favorite" category that offers \$10,000 in prize for instruments. Fan voting opens on 11/17. Discussion was brought up about including the online voting in the Golden Bear News announcements and Kickin' It Live as well as other ways to spread the news to vote for our band's submission.

Mr. Fessler mentioned he likes the new pdfs for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade outreach committee.

### *Executive Board and Committee Reports*

- A. *President Amy Turnbull* Amy brought up the Jazz Ballroom event and asked if anyone else knows of school conflicts on the proposed date. Soozie doesn't believe the track schedule is known yet. Amy said they will be pulling together a steering committee and more information is forthcoming. Mr. Fessler asked if there are band parents that have catering/restaurant connections that may be able to assist with providing a formal meal. Cocktail attire is being considered. No alcohol will be served at this event. Amy said there needed to be a vote on the bylaws to change the fiscal year end from May 31 to June 30. A motion was made and seconded and Amy stated the motion passed. Amy also mentioned there is a need for a co-treasurer to replace Scott as he has a senior student this year. Kristin suggested reaching out to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to determine any interest among that grade level of parents.
- B. *Fundraising/Development report:* Karin said the winter flower sale has been extended to 11/22. Cheer competition concessions are on 11/19 and all profits will be the band's. She listed the food that would be offered at this concession stand. The band will be doing boy's basketball game concessions and our only role is to help man the concession stand (no need to purchase food items to sell, so no concerns with profit margins). She mentioned the anticipated profit to the band would be \$2700-3000. The band will also be doing Hastings concessions for girls games. "Big" boosters (UAHS athletic booster organization that coordinates concessions at the Marv) had a discussion with the band's fundraising leaders. The result of this meeting is that the band may have the opportunity to man some events for fundraising as we will no longer be selling candy at home football games. Soozie asked if a parent worked a shift in the concession stands if that money could go into a student's personal account. This question would need to be tabled for a bigger conversation at a later time. Noelle mentioned there is a lot of effort on the part of the treasurers that would need to go into that process if we are to pursue it. Scott mentioned we do not know what will be happening when Charms rolls over into Cut-Time (our new financials system). There is also some discussion about working other concession stands in the future, but that would also involve working shifts that would not allow for parents to watch the halftime performance. The basketball concessions would not interfere with watching band performances. Karin is in talks with a contact from Kentucky about expanding the current band bleachers in the Marv (the pavilion). She is looking at ballpark pricing for expanding upwards vs. outwards. Mr. Fessler mentioned there is a "band-aid" fix in that the band can utilize portable bleachers from the tennis courts in the meantime (or the possible purchase of portable bleachers could be entertained). He said that purchasing percussion instruments is more urgent than providing bleacher funds at the present moment.
- C. *Financial Report:* Budget/financial status update handouts were provided and presented to attendees. Scott said the good news is that the band is currently in the black (about \$5500 for the year). There are further opportunities to improve our bottom line through cost containment. Costs of the spreads and after parties have been below anticipated. Concessions have provided a bump in income. Not all band fees have come in yet, but it

is not as many students as has been in the past. Soozie asked if signs have been paid for yet. Noelle and Soozie will work out details for that payment. Scott said a spring planning session to determine a budget for next year will be arranged with more details of estimated, expected expenses in order to provide a transparent budget. Jane commended the spreads chair for her ability to get discounted food items for spread meals. Soozie brought up the band fees' cost comparison to other sports. It was mentioned that band is cheaper than many sports fees and provides a lot of meals for the amount of yearly band registration fees. A question was raised about the need for additional uniforms due to the anticipated increase in enrollment, and if the school would be assisting in this purchase. The boosters are to provide a quote/estimates of our needs to the school. They *may* be able to assist with an initial purchase and then the boosters would be responsible for future maintenance and replacements of these uniforms as needed (allowing for replacement of "x" number of uniforms each year). Kristin mentioned we will need more storage for uniforms at the school. Additional storage locations are being explored.

D. Amy thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

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

Zoom participants: Todd Fessler, Kolin Redman

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications manager