

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 11Dec2023, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said jazz ensemble started today and there is a delay before jazz lab will start. About 50 students auditioned for jazz opportunities, including a lot of rhythm instruments. Jazz ensemble will have 3 rotating rhythm groups which will work in sectionals, combo work and with the wind instruments (ensemble). Jazz lab will start up after winter break. Jazz ensemble will rehearse Monday/Wednesday/Friday to allow students to also participate in vocal music groups meeting in early mornings.

Concert band update: The Gold band will have rehearsals in the pit as well as the stage as there will be rotating spaces between the groups. This year sectionals are planned for gold band as has been done in previous years with both concert and symphonic bands. Mr. Fessler is building his network of clinicians for sectionals.

District band contest is scheduled for March and we will be going out of district for this competition. Concert band is looking at class B music and Symphonic band is considering class AA, although this is not definite yet. At the upcoming midterm exam day, there will be master classes with area professionals by section. Mr. Fessler is currently working with orchestra to coordinate spaces for the various master classes.

The UA school district is providing \$30,000 for instruments and Mr. Fessler has put together a list of needs, with gold band percussion having greatest need for instruments. Mr. Fessler stated even the concert band is not fully outfitted with enough percussion instruments. Some of the percussion instruments on the order may include tympani, xylophone, upright chimes, snare/tom/cymbal stands, and auxiliary percussion. Mr. Fessler met with Greg Thompson and Andy Geistfeld about the lack of percussion for the third band and discussed the consistent growth with the band, which necessitates additional school owned instrumentation. This meeting resulted in the offer by the school district to provide \$30,000 for instruments, and hopefully more may be available in the future. This purchasing offer is meant to get the band inventory up and going, and the boosters will be responsible for upkeep and replenishment. Mr. Fessler mentioned Rettig music has some promotional pricing for instruments which may help stretch our dollars.

Solo and Ensemble Competition is set for February 10 and a booster treasurer will be collecting related fees. The competition will be held at Reynoldsburg Summit again this year. It is recommended that anyone taking a solo have a private teacher. Ensembles are currently getting organized.

Mr. Fessler is also hoping that jazz ensemble can get a sound system soon including amps and saxophone microphones.

Mr. Redman said the combined middle school concert is coming up on February 15 at the high school. Mr. Fessler said it is possible the marching band (in full uniform) may make an appearance at this concert.

Mr. Fessler said on February 5 and 6 there will be tour dates at the five elementary schools during the school day for about 50 band members (again in full uniform). Michael asked if

we should have lunch along with the choir and orchestra members participating in the elementary school tour to save on time. This has not been finalized.

Mr. Redman mentioned there is a “bubble” of students in 7th grade percussion. It has been explained to parents that there may not be enough parts for all the students to play. Soozie asked if middle school percussion could purchase/rent their own instrument. Mr. Fessler was not sure how that suggestion could be implemented. Mr. Redman said they are working on ways to limit percussion instruments so that they do not overpower the other band instruments. Mr. Fessler said that instrument fitting has helped this concern in that students are trying wind instruments first and then can try percussion.

Executive Board and Committee Reports

- A. *Financial Report:* Scott provided financial updates to attendees with Excel spreadsheets. November’s net was in the positive, in large part to the cheerleading fundraising event. Year to date, we are running in the black. A March budget planning meeting is scheduled for the morning of March 2 so that we can have a proposed budget for approval by May. Budgeting software is currently being explored by the treasurers. Noelle mentioned that she will need help with budgeting next year as Scott’s term will conclude at the end of this school year. Noelle mentioned that Charms is being discontinued and transitioning to Cut Time. This new program may have a way to track uniforms. It also has the ability to send texts, but not emails. Mickey asked if it is easier to use/access than Charms. Noelle said that is not known yet.
- Amy mentioned the 501 application has been submitted, but there is no status update yet. We have been unable to file taxes due to this “waiting game” process. The accountant assisting the boosters is hopeful we will not have many fees related to this process.
- B. *Fundraising/Development report:* Michael mentioned anyone can stop in and help with concessions and 50/50 raffle fundraisers. Hastings concessions are going well. The PTO is splitting the profit/cost for the Hastings concessions. January 25 is Hastings vs. Jones night and Michael intends to make waffles on a stick for this concessions evening. In late January/early February, the Greater Columbus Area Basketball tourney will be held at Hastings for another concessions opportunity. Signups will be in *UA Bands this Week*. Rada asked about start times for parent concession volunteering being coordinated with student drop off times for pep band. Michael will explore if this is feasible. Mr. Fessler mentioned the pep band for this Friday was cancelled due to it also being youth night and the large attendance associated with that event. The pep band schedule for the year was sent out. Michael said thanks to all the helpers with the flower sale. The spring flower sale will be in February. The cheer event went well. Soozie asked if we could do concessions for dance performance events at the high school. Michael was not aware of that option. The development leadership is looking for a board of advisors to help strengthen community bonds. There was a motion to set aside \$8,000 for uniforms (drum major uniforms, hats, hat boxes, pants, etc.). It was seconded. This money would be set aside along with money from the district to purchase additional uniform needs. In

discussion, Mr. Fessler said a lot has gone into the inventory of uniforms involved. Soozie asked if \$8000 was enough and if the uniforms would arrive before next season. Michael said the money has already been allocated and Kristin said the uniforms should arrive before marching band season starts. Soozie asked if there would be co-drum majors since both current drum majors will be seniors. Mr. Fessler did not know the answer to that yet. The two drum major uniforms are identical, just the front is reversible. The motion to have \$8000 taken from the account for uniforms passed. Michael also mentioned he would like to form a band camp committee for next year. Amy mentioned the Valleydale Ballroom event will be pushed back to a later time. Mr. Fessler said he and Mr. Redman have had challenges trying to be fair with concert band placements as the process is an emotional one for many students. Mickey brought up concerns with having the gold band practice in the pit. Mr. Fessler said there will be practice location rotations that will require set up/strike so that their practice will not always be held in the pit. Amy mentioned we should celebrate the \$30,000 that the district is providing for instruments. Jane said senior parents can pick up their student's banners before they leave. Mr. Fessler said thank you to all for attending the meeting.

Attendance: Jane Brown, Scott McWilliams, Amy Turnbull, Renee Rodabaugh, Rada Terzieva, Noelle Fox, Elaine Alicea, Kristin Lach, Soozie Cole Hamilton, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard, Sarah Gemperline, Michael Geygan, Todd Fessler, Kolin Redman, Rosane Goldhammer, Luis Alicea, Mickey Merritt, Kathy Chismar, Laura Skoracki

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications manager