

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 12Feb2024, 7 PM, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said 50-60 students participated in the elementary tour last week at all five UA schools, where they demonstrated instruments and performed along with the other high school music programs. Thanks to Amy, Kristin and all parents that volunteered for this two day event.

24 groups/individuals participated in solo and ensemble competition last Saturday. Of those, 18 received superior ratings, 3 excellent, 2 good and one has yet to receive their rating.

The three bands' sectionals are wrapping up this week.

Gold band folders have arrived and this group is rehearsing on the stage every day. New percussion instruments that were recently ordered are arriving tomorrow afternoon.

Jazz lab starts Friday and meetings/workshops of this group will be on select Fridays.

The 2025 trip is close to being solidified and this will be officially announced at the concert on February 29.

The middle school band festival is set for Thursday and helpers may be needed for set up/logistics. Over 100 middle school students are expected to participate in a combined effort to play music at this event.

Tuesday will be the music program open house. The band program had the "try out instruments" portion of this in the fall.

Regarding 8th grade outreach, band camp dates are set and can be shared with parents.

Charms cleanup will occur Thursday after 1st period. Completion of the Cut-Time form will occur at the same time.

Executive Board and Committee Reports

Amy mentioned a nominating committee has been selected to provide a slate for VP and treasurer positions and these individuals may be "shoulder tapping" people to determine interest. If you have someone you know or would like to suggest someone for a role, please contact Amy, Sarah, Noelle or Heather Dowler (at-large member).

Amy stated the By-laws committee (Amy, Nancy, Sarah and Jane) will be reviewing our document for any needed updates to better reflect our organization's current structure.

Kristin mentioned uniform pricing has gone up and she is looking at ordering 36 uniforms/hats/plumes with the money that was designated for this purpose. Available racks/hangers are being evaluated to be included in purchasing needs. Uniform fittings will be happening during the first hour of class the last couple weeks of school for current/returning high school students, rather than during the summer. New students only will be fitted over the summer, around the July 4 practices.

Rada requested a budget for ~100 students for goodie bags, flyers, socials, name tags for 8th grade outreach efforts. The 8th grade committee would like to request \$2/new student which equates to about \$200 for the upcoming budget. An 8th grade flyer has been developed and there will be a joint presentation for both middle schools. Regarding the social, Renee has expressed interest in helping with this event. Rada said a potluck has been done in the past

which was a great way to foster a welcoming family atmosphere. There may be a need to only invite freshmen families and not the entire band's families due to size limitations. There was also the idea to have parents grouped with their sections. There was discussion of having this social event on the first day of band camp. A mentor survey has been developed to evaluate that program.

- A. *Development Updates:* Michael said that basketball concessions are almost wrapped up and about \$4800 was raised. February 27th may be an additional concession date and a sign up may be forthcoming. A survey was developed and responses are currently being received for evaluation of fundraising efforts. Emails will be going out soon for the spring flower sale. The Awesome company store sales are going well and we are looking into offering non-clothing options. A revamp of the Square site is underway.
- B. *Cut Time Update:* Cut time is the new platform that will be replacing Charms soon. Charms cleanup will be happening Thursday. Once launched, this new platform has the option to inventory uniforms and instruments as well as parent/student sign ups. This transition will happen at the end of March or early April. Rada asked when parents can access Cut Time; that date is not yet determined. This program has a mobile login and there will be a need to educate parents how to use it. A consultant will help us with this transition. Nancy and Karin noted that this platform has the ability to house signups, calendars and announcements as well as invoicing. Nancy will be exploring if this could adequately replace our MailChimp email communications. Communications would then occur via text in lieu of email messages, which would require collection of parent cell numbers, which is not the current method of communicating.
- C. *Trip:* Renee said the goal for the upcoming trip would be to keep the cost below \$1000/student. This number reflects the student's expense, not the collective band's expense. Scholarships, first aid kits, and 6 requested comps for school staff need to be considered. Staff comps would be divided among the band members' fees. There will be opportunities to raise money for trip expenses. Offering to pay students/parents for taking shifts in fundraising efforts is currently being explored. Discussions are underway regarding where future concessions' generated monies would be routed--to individual student accounts for participating, or the greater collective band fund. Parents/students could also work a shift to donate to the scholarship fund or students can forego payment and receive service hour credit. Elaine asked if our booster's tax status is reinstated, if scholarships could at least partially go to individual accounts as that is how it works with the vocal music program. Karin mentioned the vocal music program has very different funding needs as there is no need to purchase/maintain instruments. Additional ways to raise money include the car wash. Michael said there will be grill spots at football concessions for fundraising as we are no longer allowed to sell candy/donuts. We have been offered one slot for each home game for an individual to pick up donuts for sale in the concession stand. Our organization is no longer assuming any risk regarding the sale of unsold product with the donuts.
- D. *Financials:* Scott said Quickbooks are now loaded to facilitate the budget planning next month. We are currently "in the hole" because of recent instrument purchases which

were planned/expected, but we were unaware of when they would hit the account. Noelle is working on a general checking account and an account that would be trip specific. A budget meeting is planned for March 2 from 10AM-2PM. Anyone that has committees with expenses is invited to attend. This meeting will help determine band fees for next year. There also needs to be discussion of how to best budget for students that did not pay band fees. Karin is requesting a list from Mr. Fessler of what instruments still need to be purchased. Another expense will be the trailer build out. Amy mentioned we will need to know the expenses from last year and adjust for more students in the growing band program. Committee chairs are asked to estimate their expenses for next year. The goal is to provide parents with as much fees/costs information as early as possible (hopefully by the end of April). Karin made a motion to move funds from our savings to cover expenses (\$9000 for drums and \$9140 for unpaid band fees) in order to be transparent with our accounting so that booster parents are aware of money allocation/distribution. Michael seconded it. The motion passed. Rada requested \$84 for the website's renewal and ~\$35 for renewal of the Go Daddy domain. Karin will be talking to the school counselors about how to best approach families with unpaid band fees, as the boosters should not be aware of specific names of individuals that have not paid or may be in need of financial assistance. Cut-Time will have the ability to send invoices, which has not been the fees collection process of the past. A suggestion was made to have a checkbox on the yearly registration form indicating families that may need financial assistance. A decision needs to be made with what to do with remaining funds of seniors in Charms (soon to be Cut-Time); one suggestion would be to have those funds transferred to a scholarship account. There should be discussions for the best use of our limited scholarship account-whether money should be used for trips, band fees, and/or OMEA fees. This concluded the evening's discussions.

Attendance: Scott McWilliams, Amy Turnbull, Renee Rodabaugh, Elaine Alicea, Kristin Lach, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard, Sarah Gemperline, Michael Geygan, Heather Dowler, Brad Conway, Rada Terzieva, Rosana Goldhammer, Jane Brown

Zoom attendees: Todd Fessler, Ben (student teacher)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications manager