

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 15Apr2024, 7 PM, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull called the meeting to order at 7:03.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said they are currently brainstorming marching band shows for the fall and enrollment is at 180. Mr. Redman said that middle school solo and ensemble was a good experience for students. The middle school concerts are next Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Fessler ordered awards for the upcoming program and mentioned the student teacher has done very well this year. He worked a lot with students preparing for solo and ensemble and Mr. Redman said he did especially well with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, which is a unique skill. Mr. Fessler said we tend to get top OSU students for student teaching assignments due to the good vibe of our school's program. Mr. Fessler was recently approached by Phil Day from OSU to provide a pep band for the NCAA basketball tournament. The University of Richmond reached out to us to fill in as a pep band for their game and sent us their fight song to play. Mr. Fessler said the pep band sat near the floor of the game and was given a 30 person max limit. He said it was a great experience for those that were able to attend, and he wished more could've participated as some sections were "thin", but that was the allotted band capacity. The band program will receive a \$1000 payment for playing for this event. The directors would like to thank the parents for all they do to support the band program.

Rada asked if the jazz lab will perform at the May 1 concert. Parents are currently working on publicity for the concert and would like to have a listing. Mr. Redman said he is not positive if they will perform yet, so it is best to leave it out of publicity for now.

Karin mentioned that this Thursday there will be a free jazz performance at the UA Mirolo Barn as part of the UA Arts Series. Mr. Fessler said a smaller "Dixieland" group will perform from 7:00-7:30 as there was not enough time allotted or room for the full jazz ensemble to perform.

*Executive Board and Committee Reports*

- A. *By-laws Update:* Sarah said that there have been 3 revisions in 2023 to the by-laws and we do not have major revisions at this time, mainly minor clarifications for this year's review and update. The proposed revisions will be available for anyone to review prior to the vote to approve the changes at the general booster meeting in May. The proposed revisions are not directionally different.
- B. *Band Camp Committee:* Sarah said there will be band camp committee meeting this upcoming Saturday at 10 AM at the Tremont Library in room A for planning this next year's band camp. Anyone is welcome to join in the planning process. Camp will again be at UAHS.
- C. *Financial Updates:* A donation was received from a senior booster family for the band program. A draft of taxes for the past 3 years has been created. Karin provided handouts of the current budget and financial status to boosters in attendance and discussed

overall assets and liabilities, revenues and expenditures. Take home notes are that band fees are currently set to be \$450/student, given the estimate of 180 students enrolled. Ways to offset unpaid fees are still being evaluated, including scholarship options. Sooz asked if there are back up problem solving efforts underway to have student apply for scholarships. Karin said Cut Time will remind parents to pay fees, which should help. She is also meeting with Mr. Theado to see if/how the school could provide assistance in collecting fees. It was noted that choir, orchestra and track all offer scholarships. Roughly 15% of students did not pay their band fees this school year. A question was raised if those possibly getting scholarships could help with fundraising efforts. Karin mentioned that may not be possible as some families are stretched too thin already. Booster budgets have been estimated for football season activities, clinicians and instrument purchases for the upcoming year with a focus on financial stability given the increasing band size. Roughly \$1300/student was the cost for this past year when band fees were only \$395. Booster leadership is hoping to get that expense down to \$900 with \$450 covered through band fees. Doug mentioned that he was not in favor of a "pay to play" scenario for the band. Fundraising goals have been set.

We are still waiting on the drums to arrive that were previously ordered. The treasurers would like to pay for these before the end of the fiscal year, but Mr. Fessler said we are at the mercy of suppliers for orders. The drum cases have arrived. Two clinicians did not cash their checks and a treasurer will follow up to clear the checks.

Karin mentioned that car washes should be a collective effort, instead of fundraising for student personal accounts. A parent asked if freshmen will still be getting uniform accessories through the collective band fees or if they will be purchasing on their own. The plan is to continue to have this "initial issue" as it is currently included in the budget. Karin said the boosters should offer to cover sign toppers cost.

- D. *Sponsorship Committee:* Plans for a trailer wrap are currently suspended. Placing alumni sponsor names on the trailer wasn't considered desirable. The sponsorship committee feels that offering banners is a good idea, as well as video board acknowledgement. There is support for having a community poster featuring the seniors that could also promote the spreads. Sponsors listed on a concert program or pre-concert slideshow are also being considered as well as an increased social media presence. Several sponsorship levels are in development. Seeking sponsorship will be optional for students. Sooz mentioned one idea would be to have a sponsor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter percussion/traveling band performances by having students hold up a sign. Renee asked if a child has a sponsor, how that would work exactly. Karin said a QR code could be provided for payment and links to upload sponsor files. Elaine said that links are much preferred to a QR code from an IT standpoint for this process. Karin mentioned sponsorships would not be split with student fundraising accounts; they would only go to a general fund. The booster leadership would be responsible for "chasing down" the payments if someone/a business pledges/commits to a sponsorship.

Sponsorship levels could include acknowledgements during halftime shows or other honorary mentions. It is possible larger sponsors could be offered to direct/lead the fight song.

Elaine said it is important that 8<sup>th</sup> graders know what is coming for fundraising. The suggestion was made to section out UA for groups of students to canvass for sponsorships. Mr. Fessler said that could be an evening activity during pre-camp week. Jane said it could be like a mini "Blitz" (the past community fundraiser for donations). Amy suggested a \$100 sponsorship slot be added to the different levels as family members may be interested in that donation level. Soozie asked if K row should have a deposit for school owned instruments they are using. There currently is a \$50 optional fee in EZ Pay that is requested at the beginning of the school year for this purpose.

- E. *Development Updates:* Several restaurant fundraisers are planned. Flower fundraiser pick up/delivery is scheduled for May 13. The Awesome Company store has ongoing swag items offered. RaiseRight gift cards and Digital donuts are also ongoing, but not very active. Summer uniforms are on sale now through May 17. Kristin asked if there could be a second run for the store for students that delay looking for their uniforms and realize they need a new one. The store sale could be extended through June 3. Kristin asked if there could be further clarification on summer uniform socks. Mr. Fessler said any kind is fine as long as they are black, even black "no-see-ums" are fine. All black shoes are required for summer uniforms. There will be a donation bin for students that outgrew their shirts or outgoing seniors that want to donate their summer uniform pieces for others that may need them. Kristin mentioned there is also an entire rack of shoes for use. Mr. Fessler said that when cords are given out to seniors, there can be a check in of school instruments and hat/hatbox returns.

Michael said that he needs 7 volunteers for the flower sale distribution on May 13 starting at 1:30.

Mr. Fessler requested a more clearly defined breakdown of what band fees cover, given the increase in fees from last year. This will help parents better appreciate what the fees will provide. Karin mentioned she would like a student in head-to-toe uniform for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade meeting so that there is an appreciation for the full cost of one uniform. Mr. Redman mentioned that sectionals that are covered in band fees are basically like private group lessons. Incoming freshman will also receive uniform accessories, for which the cost is absorbed through the band fees. Kristin asked about if we are also providing ear plugs again. Mr. Fessler said we may need to have some on hand for purchase and perhaps only provide for freshmen; perhaps have some for sale and have links for where parents can purchase on their own.

Soozie requested a discussion with parents also include personal hygiene in an effort to protect the uniforms.

- F. Amy opened the vote for the approval of the executive board for the upcoming 2024-25 year by a raise of hands for each person named individually.

President: Sarah Gemperline  
Vice-President: Michael Geygan  
Development Manager: Elaine Alicea  
Travel Manager: Renee Rodabaugh  
Co-Treasurer: Ryan Babb  
Co-Treasurer: Karin Richard  
Communications Manager: (open)

All incoming executive board members were approved. A motion was made and seconded to have the two treasurers' assume their board role in April instead of May like the other board members, in order to assist with transition associated with the banking accounts. Motion passed. The role of communications manager is currently open; interested persons should contact a board member.

Soozi would like someone (underclass parent) to take over the yard sign sale. Karin said that could now be done through Cut Time. Soozi will order sign toppers for the officers now so that they can be provided at the awards program for newly named officers. Jennifer asked if parents could anonymously donate to help sponsor a student in need of assistance with band fees. That is a viable option.

A thank you was expressed to both Noelle and Scott as this was their final official meeting as executive board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Attendance: Scott McWilliams, Amy Turnbull, Renee Rodabaugh, Elaine Alicea, Kristin Lach, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard, Sarah Gemperline, Michael Geygan, Emily Geygan, Brad Conway, Rada Terzieva, Rosane Goldhammer, Noelle Fox, Ryan Babb, Soozi Cole Hamilton, Doug Lach, Heather Dowler, Chad Dowler, Jane Brown, Todd Fessler, Kolin Redman

Zoom attendees: Jessica Butsko

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications Manager