

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 18Mar2024, 7 PM, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

I. President Amy Turnbull called the meeting to order.

II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler gave a recap of last Friday's OMEA contest and that both concert and symphonic bands received excellent (II) ratings. Both bands were bumped up a class level from last year. This year concert band was at B class level and symphonic was AA class. AA is the hardest level in OMEA. Mr. Fessler said we choose what class level to compete in; it is not based on band size. There is a "mental jump" to go up a level at this high level. Thanks to the boosters for their help with sectionals and parent helpers that traveled to competition. At OMEA the bands perform three pieces of music and then go to a sight reading room for 8 minutes and then play, perform and receive feedback. There is an open class category where bands work with a judge on their piece and this is being considered for gold band in the future. Gold band did very well at the winter concert and it was overall a great concert and thanks for all the support. Mr. Redman mentioned that professors are coming in to do sectionals thanks to Mr. Fessler's resources through networking. Bringing in clinicians is a great opportunity for our program.

Music open house was a success and this makes recruiting different than in years past.

Thanks to all that helped with the middle school band festival.

Tim James is working on the trailer outfitting design with modular-type storage.

Scheduling is currently underway for high school, and middle school just finished.

The band played for a school pep rally last Friday.

Middle school solo and ensemble is April 6 in Dublin.

Band inventory has been updated and complete. Michael will be receiving a form for transfer of ownership for instruments. Thanks to Michael for all his efforts.

Our 501C3 status has been reinstated.

Middle school band concerts are coming up as well as the 8th grade parent meeting.

The spring band concert and "Bandquet" are coming up in May.

The band is currently thinking about show ideas for this fall and leadership positions for the 2024/25 year.

Mr. Redman said the middle schoolers are taking lessons and lots of progress is being made.

There were roughly 200 kids on stage for the combined concert.

Karin asked about Cut-Time and what is needed to go live. Uniforms have been entered and instruments need to be entered yet.

Mr. Fessler said for a 2025 trip that Chicago was being considered, but they are now looking at a smaller trip. Chicago would've been ~\$1000/student and due to band size and student cost this was of concern. This next trip will not be a big trip, but a bigger trip will be planned in 2 years. Mr. Fessler is looking at a trip for May 2025 for maybe Cedar Point; a one day trip, maybe combined with jazz band. Renee said it is ok to send out to parents so that they can plan family spring break trips.

Rada asked if in the future we could provide a Zoom link for those that cannot attend booster meetings in person.

Executive Board and Committee Reports

- A. *President:* Amy said now that we have our 501C3 status back, we are currently working on submitting our tax paperwork.

The By-laws committee met and made a few changes to the present to the boosters in April to vote on in May.

- B. *Vice President:* Sarah said the nominating committee has 3 currently open positions (VP, Co-treasurer, and Development Manager) and if anyone is interested to please let us know.

Discussion was brought up about improving overall communications as well as letting people know that parent leaders are needed. A suggestion was made to have a single subject email heading to draw attention to the emails for parents to read. Another suggestion was to have a Remind just for parents from the boosters instead of email communications. Another suggestion was to target those that have volunteered in events to let them know about open opportunities. Cut-time will also provide a text based communication avenue. A suggestion was made that Facebook should not be for communication as it is not effective; only use for reminders. Social media may not be the best way to see information as many parents may not use it. Another suggestion was to use Teams or the Band app. Cut Time may be a good substitute for these options. Karin said that Cut Time will offer parents the option to see their balance due and have communications through cell phones. A PowerPoint presentation will be designed to help parents navigate this new software. It was mentioned that no app needs to be downloaded to use Cut Time. Both parents' cell phone numbers can be included in messaging.

- C. *Development Updates:* Michael said that several restaurant nights have been scheduled. The car wash is scheduled for August 3. Doug will help lead the car wash, maybe with Noelle. Jen said the UACA inflatable bear will come for a wash/bath, and maybe even wear a shower cap. UACA will post to their social media for additional public awareness of the car wash. A new development manager is being sought.

- D. *Financials:* There are areas of opportunity for improving our finances considering upcoming expenses. We are currently setting the groundwork. Karin provided booster attendees with the statement of the financial position. There is progress towards a move from checking to savings accounts and looking at different banks for this. The purpose is to accrue interest and better organize the funds, cleaning up accounts. An effort is being made to separate out the student's individual funds from the other accounts. There was a motion and a second to reduce the ~\$9000 in unpaid band fees to about \$4500 by shifting unused Charms money from graduated seniors and otherwise unused Charms money to cover this cost. The motion carried. Karin mentioned there is about \$1100 in Charms in class of 2024 seniors' accounts. One senior suggested a watering station be purchased as a class gift. Another student suggested purchasing a flute with the money. Amy suggested allowing the seniors to put forth an idea for booster consideration. It was

moved and seconded to allow the seniors to propose an idea to the boosters (given parameters) for how best to use this unspent money. The motion passed. Amy will communicate with Mr. Fessler to talk to the seniors for ideas. A question was raised about expected IRS fees, and we hope to know soon if we will receive any penalties/fines.

- E. *Uniforms:* Kristin said that plume inventory is underway. There will be needs for racks and hangers. Summer uniform inventory is also being considered.
- F. *Outreach:* Rada said they are preparing for the 8th grade parent meeting at the end of April. The mentoring survey was distributed and there were some negative responses under review. About 20 mentors and 24 mentees participated in the program. A social for new parents during band camp is being planned. Jen mentioned that the football program has one main person/class that is the communications hub for that grade level as another option. Others expressed that perhaps section hubs would be more appropriate for band.

Soozi mentioned that the old school's band room had a whiteboard above the doorway to communicate spread and after party locations.

Brad mentioned that he felt storage is an issue in the band room and felt nothing booster owned should be stored in the band room; that it should be kept in an ancillary location. It was mentioned that the boosters are open to suggestions for storage moving forward; this concern and options are still being evaluated. Concerns were also raised about the decision by the executive board to not move forward with ordering/purchasing a trailer wrap. Amy mentioned the executive board's concerns with moving forward with that purchase were due to the price tag (given our financial status) as well as that it would primarily be cosmetic. Doug mentioned trailer functionality is more important than visual appeal. Karin expressed concerns with the board's exclusion of the general boosters in some decision making discussions and mentioned that funds had been specifically earmarked for trailer expenses. The issue raised was regarding who votes on what decisions, the executive board vs. the general booster population. The current by-laws do not specify. The meeting was adjourned.

Attendance: Scott McWilliams, Amy Turnbull, Renee Rodabaugh, Elaine Alicea, Kristin Lach, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard, Sarah Gemperline, Michael Geygan, Brad Conway, Rada Terzieva, Rosane Goldhammer, Noelle Fox, Ryan Babb, Jennifer Henry, Soozi Cole Hamilton, Doug Lach

Zoom attendees: Todd Fessler, Ben (student teacher), Kolin Redman

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications manager