

Band Boosters Meeting Minutes, 14May2024, 7 PM, Upper Arlington High School Band Room

- I. Past president Jane Brown called the meeting to order. Attendees were provided handouts of the finances, budget and sponsorship program plans.

- II. *Director's Report*

Mr. Fessler said that ten students performed Dixieland/New Orleans style swing music for a UA community concert. They provided a transitional act in between two other jazz performances. For the second year, there was an 8th grade informational meeting for new high school band parents. He said the presentation was very well organized, but there is a need to improve overall parent attendance for this presentation. The May 1 concert went well. Mr. Fessler said that he feels this was the best year yet as far as the senior class pushing through to the end of the year during concert band season. Mr. Fessler likes the format of the current end of year "bandquet" program and how that has evolved. He has ordered the student awards, but they have not arrived yet. Squad leader interviews start tomorrow. Drum major tryouts will be held next Wednesday and they are open to anyone to attend. So far, only two students are trying out for drum major. The process for collecting hats and school owned instruments from seniors will be starting soon. Senior graduation cords should be arriving soon. Soozie will be collecting baby photos from current junior class (upcoming seniors) for the football program.

Mr. Redman said the middle schools just had their two concerts. The incoming 6th grade class will have 74 at Hastings and 41 at Jones joining band. Attrition is almost none for students transitioning from 8th to 9th grades. The 8th graders have already started learning 4th of July parade music. In past years, students focused on only learning the fight song and now they have already accomplished this and are currently working on learning the parade sequence music.

Mr. Fessler said the football show themes for next fall are *Shrek*, *Queen*, a Latin show and the senior show. The seniors selected "Gonna Fly Now", "Rocky", and "Crazy Train" for their show.

Michael asked if there is a better way to "get the word out" for the 8th grade parent meeting, perhaps through Canvas. Mr. Redman said that there was a QR code in the concert program, and an email was sent out. He suspects the lower turnout may be due to the timing of the meeting as spring sports were ending at that time. He thinks it may be better to schedule the meeting closer to when band class registration is submitted, earlier in April. Mr. Fessler thought perhaps a district wide posting would be something else to consider. Soozie requested that there be chairs set up on the stage for the next end of year bandquet presentation so that students are clearly visible and not in the shadows for parents to take photos. With the larger numbers, some students were not able to squeeze onto the stage for the class photo opportunity. Mr. Fessler said he would work on staging that in the future. Kristin announced that uniform fittings will be happening this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for current returning students.

Executive Board and Committee Reports

A. *Financial Updates:* Karin reported that the band booster organization is now compliant with both the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. We also got an extension with saved us money. All taxes have been submitted. Both Karin and Ryan now have account access and are working on getting credit card access. Checks from January and prior have all cleared. There have been multiple checks issued for recent expenses. We are waiting on the uniform cleaning bill. Drum major uniforms have been ordered and paid. That leaves ~\$2000 for racks and hangers. The financial report indicates a deficit of \$28,000 for this past year. A new drums purchase for ~\$8266 and ~\$9140 in unpaid fees necessitated a previous transfer of funds between our accounts. Karin moved to amend our previous vote on money transfer among our booster accounts to move ~\$6019 from checking back to savings. This was seconded and the motion passed.

Michael mentioned the district policy is that there will need to be pre-approval from the school board for new instrument purchases. Karin said there will be a 3-4 year plan for instrument purchase projections to provide to the district.

B. *Development Updates:* Elaine provided attendees with a proposed sponsorship plan that will be provided to student's families. There will be a Google form for students to enter which businesses they are contacting for sponsorships. This will hopefully prevent businesses from being contacted multiple times by different students. Community posters will be printed with a photo of the seniors to hand out as a thank you for donations/sponsorships. The sponsorship program can commence as soon as we have the contact information for 8th grade families in order to make the sponsorship program equitable among the students. We also need to make sure we have methods for accepting payment set up prior. The goal is to have the community poster ready by August 9 (pre-football season). Karin expressed reservations with the proposed plan for students to receive 10% of corporate level funds for their individual accounts. Elaine said that students should receive a percentage of the funds raised in order to have increased motivation to seek out sponsorships. Renee asked if the plan is for students to still approach local businesses in groups for sponsorships. This was confirmed. Karin noted that raising collective funds for the program is important. Elaine stated that 90% of corporate level fund sponsorships would go to the collective funds for the band. Rada asked if there is a listing like a Chamber of Commerce for UA businesses. Elaine will keep a running list of businesses contacted, but doesn't want to only limit it to UA businesses. Ryan asked if sponsors will want to know how the sponsorship money would be spent. Elaine said from her experience with other organizations, this question didn't arise. Karin said her experience in another organization was that it was outlined what types of expenses would be covered through sponsorships. Ryan asked if 5% of corporate level sponsorships could go to the specific student's account that obtained the sponsorship and 5% to a scholarship for students that may need additional financial assistance. Elaine stated that the general booster organization should offer scholarships instead of splitting up sponsorships for this purpose. The sponsorship plan should be approved

through the district. Karin requested that the sponsorship committee specifically should be informed of the changes to the proposed sponsorship plan as they may act as future ambassadors for this program. Jane made a motion to move forward with the proposed sponsorship program with the current general outline. It was seconded and the motion passed.

Michael said that for overall development, concessions and sponsorships are moving forward. Money raised at the car wash and flower sales will still go to individual student accounts. Other plans remain the same. We could explore raffles and other fundraisers in the future.

Jane moved to approve the budget as presented in the handout for the 2024-25 year. It was seconded and the motion passed.

Nancy mentioned the executive board decided that the proposed minor updates to the by-laws will be tabled until the fall.

Amy will be stepping down as upcoming past president from the executive board. Jane is willing to continue her involvement as a past president on the executive board given Amy's departure from the board. A motion was made and no objections were voiced for Jane to continue in this capacity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Attendance: Renee Rodabaugh, Elaine Alicea, Kristin Lach, Nancy Stevens, Karin Richard, Michael Geygan, Brad Conway, Ryan Babb, Soozie Cole Hamilton, Jane Brown

Zoom attendees: Todd Fessler, Kolin Redman, Rada Terzieva

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stevens, Communications Manager