

HOWARD BISHOP MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND BOOSTERS
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2008

I. Opening

The meeting was called to order by Band Director Kathy LaVay at 7:00 p.m. Present were Assistant Director Amy Beres, Vice-President Joanne Leopold, and approximately 20 parents.

II. Approval of Minutes

Reading of the March 3 minutes was waived, and the minutes were approved.

III. Financial Report

Ms. LaVay reported that a number of Fair Share contributions remained outstanding. Although a final figure was not available, it appears that the last Pancake Breakfast raised around \$1000. The band has some outstanding bills to pay, including about \$300 for the last Red Apple Morley fundraiser. Principal Thorne provided the band with additional funding for about \$3000 in instrument repairs. The band incurs ongoing expenses for sheet music, and fees for specialized instructors cost \$20-40 per hours. Ms. LaVay emphasized that the band's books are always available for inspection.

IV. Old Business

A. Orlando Competition Trip

The band directors were awaiting final notification from students as to who was going on the trip. Between 70-80 students are expected to attend. 12 chaperones have volunteered; more may be needed depending on the final number of students. Final trip costs for chaperones are being determined.

B. Blizzard Beach

Very few permission forms have been returned. Beginning band parents may be needed to make calls to get the forms turned in.

C. Spring Concert

i. Concert date is Thursday, May 8.

ii. As of the date of the meeting, a venue had not been secured. The Phillips Center is available, but donations would be needed to offset the \$2600 cost. The UF Auditorium would cost \$1600. GHS is still an option. Ms. LaVay emphasized the benefits to the students of performing in a nice venue. Parents need to solicit corporate donations to offset such costs. The band could sell tickets to help cover the costs, but most venues require payment of a portion of ticket and refreshment sales. Ms. LaVay suggested forming a Band Booster committee to make contacts in the business community for donations.

V. New Business

A. Recruitment of New Band Members

Brochures and letters were sent out to prospective Academy applicants. Due to changes in class scheduling, it is anticipated that band membership could significantly increase with the addition of more students from the mainstream program as well. However, due to impending school funding cuts the band may lose a director position. The band is starting a jazz band and a percussion performance group. Ms. LaVay encouraged parents to contact the school board regarding funding cuts. Funding for the arts is going to be especially severely affected. Principal Thorne is working to try to retain both director positions.

B. May 6 Orientation Performance

Symphonic Winds will play for Orientation at 6:00 p.m. on May 6. Parent Volunteers are needed to help with organizing the band and serving food to the students.

C. Band Instrument Upgrade Night

On April 29 at 7:00 p.m., representatives from Hoggetowne Music will be available to discuss instrument upgrades. Better-quality instruments sound better, are easier to play, and make a big difference in the overall quality of the band. Having a better-quality instrument can improve a student's chances of getting in All-County bands as well.

D. Beginning Band Instrument Night

On May 20, at 7:00 p.m., parents and students entering band next year will meet to learn about the available instruments. The Directors would like several Band Booster representatives to attend to talk to beginning band parents about the band program and

the Boosters.

E. Fundraisers

i. Spring Break Silent Auction: Joanne Leopold is coordinating baskets for the Silent Auction. Lists will be sent out telling parents what is needed for donations.

ii. Belk's Coupon Fundraiser: Belk's provided the band with \$5 coupons, which can be sold and then redeemed by the purchaser at a special Charity Sale on Saturday May 3. The Band incurred no cost for the coupons.

F. Volunteer Assistance Needed

i. A volunteer is needed to repair the zipper on the soft tuba case so that it is useable.

ii. The Directors need someone who has access to making hard plastic ID tags for the instrument cases.

VI. Directors' Report

Ms. LaVay reported that the bands are doing very well. There are plans to have additional social events, and the Directors will continue to push the students musically as well.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.