

Band Booster Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2003

President Betty Wakerly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance included: Renata Allelujka, Barbara Baxter, Ginger Brese, Monika Cunningham, Joanne Djuric, Mimi Fruehe, Carla Harrison, Mimi Johnson, Charlene Kelley, John Knepper, Ed Kopytko, Margaret Legel, Michael Legel, Sandy Liedtke, Deb Massa, Karen Mink, Peggy O'Dell, Russ O'Dell, Nancy Poch, Craig Roselieb, Betty Wakerly, Nancy Warmoth and Tom Warmoth.

Absent executive board members included: Julie Benes, Lynne Carr, Kelly Mueller, and Renee Vollrath.

President Betty Wakerly welcomed Monika Cunningham to the General Board, as she will chair the cheesecake sales for the band.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Betty Wakerly presented the report in Lynne Carr's absence. She reported that the budget was accurate as of last Wednesday but, because there was a lot of activity, the figures may already be obsolete. She explained the categories of the budget stressing that the "Unassigned category" was actually money that was not at our disposal because it is a savings account holding jazz band money, percussion money, etc. She said there was actually about \$13,000 in our grasp at the moment.

Prior to this month we had a \$500 Music Bowl merchandise expectation and decided it would be easier for the merchandise committee if that wasn't kept separate so \$500 was taken out of the Music Bowl income for merchandise and moved to band specialty. They are well over expectation so it is not a concern.

Lynne has been speaking to M & I Merchant Services about getting approval so we can accept credit cards for large purchases with a set of fee of \$95 but we would have to pay 2.16% on each transaction. Phone transactions would cost 76 cents each and the fees would be deducted directly from our checking account.

When people request reimbursements for things they purchase for band, they are not using our tax-exempt number so we are being asked to pay taxes that we shouldn't have to pay. She asks that people remember to always use the tax-exempt number when making band purchases. Deb Massa noted that some organizations don't reimburse the tax if someone pays it instead of using the number.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Mimi Fruehe reported that there is currently a balance of \$11,348.18 in student accounts. Revenue for the month was \$2157.02, which included revenue from Market Day, ValuCards, and Music Bowl Ads. Expenses for the month was \$538.25 which included money drawn out for students for their fundraising expectations, Booster fees, band merchandise, ads, Color Guard expenses and others.

BAND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Roselieb reported that the Board currently does not have a policy for offering scholarship money to students except for summer camp and he would like to offer scholarship money for students who take private music lessons. He made the motion to offer scholarships of \$150, which would pay for 1/3 of their annual lessons. Barb Baxter seconded the motion and discussion followed. Since there currently is a healthy amount in the scholarship line item of the budget, it seemed to be a good proposition. Students who drop out of band and seniors who don't take their money when they graduate replenish this fund. The question was raised as to whether there be a limit as to how many scholarships we would offer and how they would be awarded. There currently is an application process for camp scholarships and we could have a similar one for the private lesson scholarship, Craig suggested that the parents could fill out this application instead of the student. A vote was taken and it was determined that a Scholarship Fund would offer private lesson fees of \$150 each for up to five students. It passed unanimously. Craig will design the application.

Craig also reported that the School Board was approached about the Carnegie Hall/New York trip for the Wind Ensemble and they gave their nod of approval for the group to get estimates and present a final package. A travel agent is working on getting a price package for air, hotel and a Broadway show. Craig asked if anyone on the board would be willing to be a trip chairperson and get competitive prices, etc. The position would entail overseeing the collection of fees and acting as our own band agent for the trip. Mimi Fruehe said she would be willing to handle the money collection. Craig said that, hopefully, by the November meeting he would have something on paper that included a fund raising plan, etc.

Craig commented that the band received a lot of accolades for their Homecoming Show participation.

He also reported that we are about a month away from our November band concerts. He expressed his gratitude to everyone that is helping out at Music Bowl and reported that the Bowl Volunteer meeting was great.

There are several issues that must be addressed after the Music Bowl. First, we have five wonderful staff members who have reorganized and restructured the band. What is being learned from them is also being applied to the concert bands. The problem is that there isn't a budget for the second percussion instructor who is working with the pit (Bart

Bates) and we would need about \$1800 more to pay him. Also, Gina, who is working with Color Guard, wants to be paid \$3000 instead of \$2000 after seeing how much work is actually involved. Finally, Andy wants \$2000 instead of \$1500. Mike was given an additional \$500 out of the Director's Discretionary fund because of a need that came up. The budget, as it is outlined, will not retain him for next year. We are looking at a substantial increase in the Marching Mustang budget than we originally considered. We need to look at the profit from the Music Bowl and fundraising expectations, etc. If we don't have the money to pay these people the extra money they desire, then we don't, but Craig wants us to look at this so we can support these people and keep building our program. We also have some money collected from the Bike and Hike for Mike. The Samels are on vacation and there is some money in the mailboxes. Mark Samel has offered to help us not only with the drums but also with the ramp, which cost about \$3000. Craig asked that, if profits don't come in, we "borrow" money from the savings account and have the Music Bowl pay it back at \$1500 a year over a couple of years. He does not, however, want to use the savings account to pay for staff. Craig wanted to put this one the table so next month we can get to the "nitty gritty".

The question arose about the indoor winter seasons and it was determined that students would have to pay a fee for participation so these activities could be staffed. At this time, it is not known if the school district will support this for this year so nothing has been posted about winter season for drumline and color guard. Hopefully, these will be paid for by the school district but if the school is unwilling, it would have to be a fee program or put on hold for the year.

Craig expressed concern that he has been hearing some unrest from the band parents about the direction the band is going and why we aren't winning trophies this year. He said that we went to BOA early this year and the points at the beginning of the season are lower. They have a plan of attack that will add more visual effects and add more musically as well. The team is working well together and Craig is very impressed at how well they work together after such a short time. If parents who are discouraged would look at the big picture they will see that we have lots of new freshmen who have never competed before. Ron, Mark and Craig said they are attracting great kids into Marching Band but they may not be the best musicians and some of the great musicians are doing other things besides Marching Band. He said that we could go to some "rinky dink" contests and win but what would we win?

He also commented that the newsletter looked great on the web and offered kudos to Renata.

When asked about the PE exemption, Craig reported that the subject has been brought up to the Assistant Principal and he said that if anything were to be done, North would have to be involved also. Their program is apples and oranges to ours. The PE department would also be concerned because they would lose three sections of PE if Marching Band members didn't take PE in the fall. Craig does not feel it can be won politically. He noted that, aside from popular belief, the cheerleaders and Fillies do NOT get exemptions. Barb Baxter suggested getting the press and going to a Board meeting. The exemption is state

law but it is not being honored here. We have a connection with a Tribune writer so maybe we should stir it up a bit. Geneseo has this as a class and gets the exemption. They involved the press and made noise and got it. We haven't actually applied for it yet because we can't do it without North. Barb Baxter felt we needed to do our homework and find out how many other schools have this.

Carla Harrison asked if there were any plans for winter percussion and whether people were aware that it was tenuous right now. Craig reported that we are evaluating the value of the whole indoor percussion thing since we don't have Dwayne here anymore. Adam has been telling the percussion that there will be heavier activity than there ever has been but the directors are not in support of this. Mark Botti works during the school day with percussion and steel drum ensemble. Carla expressed her disappointment.

The question arose as to whether there was any news on the new drums. Craig said they were supposed to be shipped last Friday so they should be here tomorrow or Wednesday at the latest. He was asked whether we were doing anything at the Music Bowl for the people who donated money for the drums. Craig wants to do it at the band banquet but John Anderson wanted it done sooner so they don't feel left out of "presentation". It was noted that the Benes and Horner families made considerable contributions toward the drums.

MUSIC BOWL

Barb Baxter and Deby Massa reported that the meeting with the parent volunteers went very well and instructions were given and leaders were met. They expressed their gratitude to everyone in the room who helped last year and this year. Barb said she is watching the weather channel and hoping for a nice day. Last year we had a huge amount of start up costs and this year we had very little start up costs and have watched the budget closely. She is excited about the new concrete driveway. This will make it much more convenient for the pit to move equipment onto the field. It is a concrete ramp leading from the parking lot, which will mean the trailer, will no longer have to park on Springside. The water people will also be able to use it.

It was reported that all Marching Band members have some sort of duty that they signed up for and a meeting will be held for them from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. tomorrow. Students who did publicity will not have to attend the meeting. All students will get nametags to get them into the stadium.

The time of the Music Bowl was adjusted to start at 6 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. Eisenhower Junior High Band will do the National Anthem and the stadium will have a clean up crew for before and after the event.

Bands of America

Barb Baxter hoped that we got good reports about the accommodations in Pontiac. They tried to do food ahead of time at a restaurant because time was an element but the food ended up cold as it was laid out on the tables in advance. Constance Markham does a fabulous job with these types of details.

The band will be staying at the Marriott in Indianapolis. The room rate is \$89 a night and includes breakfast. They will work on a group dinner again. There is a food court but it is very crowded as it is connected to the Dome.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Betty reported that she was curious as to where we stood financially so she created a revenue/expense sheet to get a good grip on our standing. Revenues should be at \$61,762. The difference is due to Marching Mustangs who dropped out of the program. The expenses are broken up by variables depending on the number of students while fixed expenses remain the same regardless of how many students are in the program. We are currently at \$61,265.46 in anticipated expenses so we are looking good. It appears our revenue will cover our expenses with a little leeway of \$496.54. This does not include any of the staff issues the Craig mentioned or the driveway. This shows we won't have to depend on Music Bowl money to support our program this year.

Betty will start getting busy collecting fund raising expectations next week. She will work with individual families through email to get this collection.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Renata Allelujka reported that we have strong communications with the band parents through our web site so the question was raised as to whether we need a formal newsletter anymore. The last one was done without a publishing program. Renata produced it using a text program. Mimi Johnson commented that the newsletter looked very nice and Nancy Poch said that it downloaded very quickly in this format. Margaret Legel liked the idea of having the newsletter continue as it kept her informed beyond what she gets at the meeting.

A question arose by Craig Roselieb as to whether we would be replacing John Anderson as Marketing/PR Coordinator. Renata said that she always thought her job was to create the newsletter and she was fine doing it.

There will be a newsletter in November. The deadline will be adjusted to October 29th to include a wrap up on the Music Bowl and results from ISU. Betty Wakerly asked the group to give Renata a round of applause as she put out the last newsletter with only two days notice.

Website

Sandy Liedtke reported that there are still issues with the email and that some people are still not getting all the emails. They created an email archive so people can check that they are receiving all the emails. This is the best fix they can do at this time. She asked if there was anything going out snail mail so people could be reminded to check the website. There are four people who do not have web access and they are in the dark about what is happening most of the time.

Sandy hopes people are looking at the blue box on the website for late breaking news. This has information about trips and when buses are returning.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Candy Sales

Nancy Warmoth reported on candy bar sales. She said they started with 154 cases and had to order 60 more the first week of the sale. All have been distributed except 24 boxes. The students have done a great job of getting the money in. There was a problem with the last boxes. They were packed so fast that they were short some bars in the box. Last year we sold 153 cases so we are way ahead this year. The year before that only 80 cases were sold.

ValuCards

Joanne Djuric reported on behalf of Mark Yahoudy that 625 ValuCards have been sold and five more have been requested for a total of 630 cards. We are ahead of last year with a profit of \$1706.25.

Cheesecakes

Monika Cunningham reported that we are using the same company as last year and the same order forms, etc. She will put a cover letter on the order form with some selling points on the back. The kickoff date is November 10. She asked if Craig could put the date on his white board and he suggested she make a poster so the students will see it continuously. She reported that samples will be available at both the November 13th and November 25th concert. There will probably be refreshments in addition to the cheesecakes. The delivery date will be December 16 with pick up from 6 to 7 p.m. She will be asking for volunteers to help with pick up. Joanne Djuric said she would get the volunteers. We will be unable to use the Market Day freezer because of Market Day so Craig said he could take the extra 10 cheesecakes home after the concert and put them in his freezer at home.

Cub Foods

Peggy O'Dell asked that people remember to turn in their Cub Foods receipts. She also wanted them to remember to turn in only receipts from the Downers Grove store. She has received receipts in the past from the Lombard store and we can not get credit for these.

Equipment Coordinator

Craig Roselieb commented that the trailer looked fantastic. Tom Warmoth reported that all the lights in the trailer are working and that the inside wiring is almost completely covered. He did note that the trailer needs to be swept out but was otherwise in great shape. He expressed some concern over the back up lights and turn signals but Craig reported that the school repaired them. Tom relayed that he had an email conversation with the person who drove the trailer to Pontiac saying that there was some swaying, etc. South people who do maintenance on the van are addressing the concerns. Tom shared an advertisement for something that would control the trailer sway and costs \$140. He felt it would be a good investment and works with the weight distribution hitch.

Pit Equipment

Cathy and Mike Christensen are looking for volunteers to help move the equipment onto the field. They also need help for one more football game.

HISTORY/TRADITION SECRETARY

Kelly Mueller was not present and there was no report.

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS

John Anderson has resigned as chair of Marketing/Public Relations. If anyone has any leads for someone to fill those shoes, they should let Betty Wakerly know.

Band Merchandise

Margaret Legel reported that \$80 worth of pop was sold on October 3 but no stadium blankets were sold, even with the free band cookie offer. She reported that we still have the potential of bringing in another \$400 in income if we sell the leftover pop in the next couple of months. She reported that they also sold \$150 in candy bars. She said we have made \$934.20 profit so far this year. She has also drafted a Merchandise Committee Guideline and wants feedback.

Videography

Mike Legel reported that video is being made with two cameras at most competitions. The goal is to put together a video that would feature everybody's children. His intent is to get all the competitions on video except for BOA where videotaping is restricted. He hopes to get still pictures from BOA that can be added to the video. He believes the collection will be ready by the Banquet and can be marketed as Christmas presents. There will be videos and dvds available. He plans to work with the person in the booth to assemble a Music Bowl video which he would like to give to sponsors to show them what they paid for. He is also considering videotaping concerts.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Nancy Poch reported that everyone was fed for homecoming and that is about all that is new at the moment. She is looking for volunteers to serve at the concerts. She has bakers but not servers.

Football Water

Ginger Brese reported that they have been buying water at Sam's Club for 14 cents a bottle. She needs to know how many students are in the Downers Grove North band so she can buy water for them. There are 175 students. Betty asked Ginger if she felt she needed some help as both bands would come off the field on our side and would need water.

Competition Water

Renata Allelujka was congratulated for providing water for competition. She saw the need and went shopping and filled that need.

UNIFORM COORDINATOR

Mimi Johnson reported that the uniforms would be going out next Sunday or the Sunday after that for a cleaning. They will be cleaned before the competitions at ISU and BOA.

Color Guard Uniforms

Joanne Djuric reported that the performance uniforms needed some sewing adjustments and Betty Wakerly helped. The girls were told to take their pregame uniforms home to wash. They tend to pick up stains very easily and aren't getting clean.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Julie Benes was not present to give a report but it was reported that everything is going well but there is a need for one more volunteer for the Davenport trip.

MISCELLANEOUS

Renata Allelujka reported that it has been very dangerous in the corner where young patrons are playing during football games. There have been fights and acorns have been thrown at the band members. She felt this safety issue needed to be addressed. Craig reported that there is to be police officers on duty but they aren't in this corner. Craig asked Renata to email her concerns to him and he would forward them to Administration. Betty Wakerly asked if we could bring trash bags to the games to collect the empty water bottles from the band so they wouldn't fall through the stands. Ginger Brese agreed to do this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Band Banquet will be held on November 18th and everyone will want to attend. The next meeting will be held on November 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in Room D180.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Mink