

PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND BOOSTER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

In attendance: Charlene Krueger, Sharon Long, Heather Reddout, Marybeth Miller, April Enos, Darcie Condon, Annette McCammon, Brent Rathgeb, Robert Page, Jeanette Soebbing, Lisa Wohead, Jeff Kleinmaer, Justin Koszarek, Jeannine Marco, Jeff Sager, Michelle Burgess

Meeting called to order 6:10 PM

August minutes read, spelling corrections made

Motion to accept modified minutes: Jeff Sager, Aye's have it- accepted at 6:18 PM.

Treasurer Report:

Detailed breakdown by school is available. We had 2 accounts for a while. There is a question if there is still money in one account or if it has all been moved into one account. Jeff understands that the other one has been closed, but the Quicken report shows that there is still money in the old account. Charlene will verify with the bank statements. Annette wants to see what each school has spent in order to keep track. There are roll over funds as well. Charlene will do an updated report in Excel. Jeff will ask Jacquee about old accounts. JFK is close to their budget limit, if not over. Some schools are saving for big ticket items, so it appears there is more roll over money.

Co-Treasurer:

Motion to accept Sharon Long as co-Treasurer accepted at 6:26 PM. Sharon will be doing deposits and can use internal mail directed through Timber Ridge for deposits. Sharon's e-mail is: longhomemom@hotmail.com.

Interoffice mail envelope: An envelope with enrollment forms and other miscellaneous items but no checks was sent to Jeff Kleinmaer. We do not know where these forms came from or if there are checks associated with the forms anywhere.

District Chair of Performing Arts: This new position has been filled by Susan Blatz. We have yet to meet her or know what kind of influence she will have with the Band Booster organization.

Event dates:

The Solo and Ensemble Festival will be held February 28th, 2009 at Drauden Point.

The candy sale is usually held around Valentine's Day but before the Solo and Ensemble festival. We do not have dates for the candy sale yet, but considering February 6th through February 20th.

Cookie Dough Sale: The cookie dough sale is running from September 29th through October 10th,

2008. Cookie dough pickup is scheduled for November 20th, which is a Thursday from 5:30 to 8:00 PM in the cafeteria at Ira Jones. However, there is a basketball tournament scheduled for that time, and parking may be an issue. There are also concerns about parents getting there after work and having the dough distributed. There may be problems storing the dough before distributing it, since usually students wait until the weekend to distribute it, and may not have adequate storage until then since we are not doing the pickup on Saturday this year. We are still liable after the students pick up their dough, during the time they store it, and until they distribute it. So we have two issues here: 1) Storage and keeping the cookie dough safe and unspoiled, and 2) parking and facilities.

There is a question if we can rent out space from the kitchen staff to store dough not picked up. There is also a question if we can change the pick up time and location. There is a problem that the packets with the pickup time and information have already been distributed to each school, even though they have not been confirmed and finalized yet. If we want to change the pickup date for Friday the 21st, which would still leave us with storage problems, we need to pull the old sheets from the packets and provide new ones. There is a possibility that we may be able to use the ConnectEd phone system as well, or we may call parents directly. The vendor may also send the truck out to take cookie dough that was not picked up.

It is determined that Thursday is bad for about half of the directors, and most want to move pick up to Friday or Saturday.

Jeanette Soebbing proposes Saturday the 22nd and is ok-ed by the directors.

Jeff Sager will push to have Mike change the information in the packets. Mike also based the number of packets prepared on last years numbers, and many schools are short on packets.

Timeline for pickup: Help shows up at 8 AM and we would open for pick up at 9 AM until 1 PM @ Ira Jones. Kaylee will ask the kitchen staff about moving pickup to Saturday and each school needs to ask if we can store dough that was not picked up. (As an aside, after the date of this meeting cookie dough pickup location has been changed to Timber Ridge for Nov.22, with dough delivered at 8AM and student pickup scheduled for 9AM- 1 PM.)

Buy-out option for the cookie dough sale is \$20.00.

Electronic Banking:

Charlene would like to do electronic banking to make checks . This would eliminate our safety of the dual signature process, since the bank would generate and send the checks. This may affect our audit process. We would still like the dual signatures.

Checks:

We also need the invoice numbers on checks to know which school they are for. The treasurer should send checks to the vendors.

Due to time constraints, we will shelve funds discussion until next month.

Website:

We need feedback on the website, and we need to strengthen the director biographies, instead of a Question and Answer format. We also need pictures of the directors, and a copy of each band's handbook so we can upload those to the website. We can also add practice logs and important dates.

As of this time, only the middle schools are linked, no elementary school bands are linked.

There are some problems and compatibility issues with the hosting site. We will be moving to GoDaddy hosting, which is cheaper.

Block schedule:

We need feedback on how the block schedule is affecting band. We would like to know if we have the ability to have band not attached to the lunch schedule. Dan Thorse said scheduling adjustments can be made, but we haven't seen that demonstrated.

Indian Trail had trouble with pulling out kids for lessons. Principals seem to be resisting pull out lessons, but it is working at Heritage Grove. With the block schedule we are close to room capacity.

With the block schedule we should have 40 minutes of band, but it is really closer to 38 minutes because of the passing period.

There will be a meeting Friday with the administrators about the block schedule. Despite director concerns, the superintendent has said only Robert Page has complained. Principals are probably not reporting director concerns to administration. Jeff Sager is willing to write a letter to Dr. Harper, and perhaps all of us should come to his coffee in order to express all of our concerns about the impact the block schedule will have on band, since we do not feel that anyone is trying to hear our concerns.

Fifth Grade Registration:

Ira Jones did not receive any complaints about the 5th grade registration. Jeff Sager thanks everyone for their help, and says he has not heard of any negative feedback. However some parents said that they did not see the point of going anywhere to register for band.

The fifth grade directors report that the organization was good. April did not have any real complaints. Robert thanks Kaylee. The only hitch was a vendor issue. Some parents wanted more than t-shirts and wished there were more choices in the Band Booster shop. We sold out of some t-shirt sizes.

T-Shirts:

Regarding t-shirts, Jeanette says that the only time we really sell t-shirts is at 5th grade registration. We need to decide when and how many t-shirts we need to order. We need to order the 2 smaller sizes- we already have 80 larges. We also need to add the new house color of orange to the t-shirts.

Jeff Sager suggests we sell t-shirts at concerts and get feedback from the kids on what kind of t-shirt designs they would like. Perhaps we should add sweatshirts and jackets. These however, are higher priced items. We need to see if we can get monthly orders, but by doing one big order we get a price break. However, if we do monthly orders, people can buy them as they want them, and we won't carry as much stock.

J.J. Sports is our vendor for t-shirts.

General Meeting:

Director's Reports:

Timber Ridge:

Upcoming performance dates:

Saturday, September 27- Homecoming Parade- out piece is Superstition.

Saturday, October 4- IMEA concert and Jazz auditions at Granger Middle School

Thursday October 16- Sounds of the stadium Concert at PHCS

River View Elementary:

Recruiting/play-testing finished with 99 kids expressing interest in band. As of today, 65 have registered. Sectionals started meeting today without instruments. Instruments should arrive Friday and be in hands next week.

Crystal Lawns Elementary:

Recruiting/play-testing finished with 45 students expressing interest in band. As of today, 25 have registered.

Heritage Grove:

Heritage Grove Bands are going strong- about 70 very smart 6th graders. And 35 each in 8th and 7th grade. Not too bad for a school of 600.

We are implementing a leadership curricula based on Dr. Tim's teaching. This is a new thing that I picked up and pieced together from the Conn-Selmer Institute this past summer.

The bands each have monthly concepts, scales, and leaderships goals. This month is tone production, Concerts Bb, Eb, and Ab, and "Taking risks" for the months of September.

Our first concert will be on October 5th at the Family Fun Night at Heritage Grove. The 8th grade band will play and demonstrate how they rehearse.

Walker's Grove: has 75 students.

Eagle Point: has 45 students.

Thomas Jefferson: has 55 students

Meadowview: has 75 students

Super huge thank you to Karlee VanKley and Jeannine Marco for taking care of food for 5th grade band registration.

Drauden Point:

September 27th is Homecoming Parade. They are playing Wooly Booly.

October 3rd is 8th grade band plays at PSHS football game.

Seventh and Eight grade have 40 students each.

Sixth grade has 40 to 50 students.

Ira Jones:

The Ira Jones Band Program has 160 members this year. (65, 62, 40) Erin Thukkaram has been a huge help with managing the huge classes.

North Side Marching Band has about 85 kids in it. That is about 20 or so more than last year so the word is spreading about how cool a group it is. Parade is on September 27th!

5th grade band registration was here this past weekend and from the hosting aspect, the only disaster was a spilled soda can which was cleaned up within minutes of it happening. There were no teacher or custodial complaints about room usage or anything.

Trying something new this year to ward off the many students who want to join the percussion section. Today was the first non-percussionist percussion ensemble. It is basically beginning band for all the kids who had wanted to be percussionists but ended up playing instruments.

Jazz band auditions will be on October 7th and 8th. Expecting a large turn out based on how often I hear the question "When are jazz band auditions?"

Jennifer Thompson Band Booster Report:

After a week of demonstrations, two weeks of play testing and a weekend of registration I am proud to announce that there will be 45-50 students participating in band at **Freedom Elementary** and 45-52 at **Liberty Elementary**. We look forward to getting our instruments next week. First concert is February 12th at Liberty Elementary.

Ridge: has 34 students

Wesmere: has 35 students

Aux Sable:

Sixth grade has 120 students.

Seventh grade has 76 students.

Eights grade has 39 students.

A total of 235 band students.

The Homecoming Parade us September 27th. They are playing “Paint in Black” by the Rolling Stones. Jazz information will be given tomorrow. Auditions are the 1st week of October. October 3rd they will be playing at PSHS football game.

Lindsey Rathgeb Band Booster Report:

Ridge Elementary has 34 students compared to 20 last year.

Wesmere has 35 students compared to 80 last year.

There seems to be a problem with kids being able to afford band.

Freedom Elementary: has about 45-50 students.

Liberty: has about 45-50 students.

First concert will be a combined band at Liberty on February 12th.

Kennedy:

Kennedy Directors report

9/16/08

- We have a student teacher from Northern Illinois University this quarter. His name is Justin

Koszarek and he will be with us through the October 16th concert.

- Final student enrollment is up significantly this year. We have grown from roughly 95 students last year to 140 students this year.
- Uniform fittings will begin tomorrow. We will working on this over the next two weeks with the goal of having them ready by the October concert.
- Jazz Band auditions are coming up on October 6th and 8th. Music will be available on September 22nd.
- The North Side Marching band has again worked out well for our students. They will perform in the Homecoming parade.
- We will have several students auditioning for the IMEA district band this year on October 4th.

Other items:

Jeanette wants to know if directors are keeping a list of stickers they have distributed and how stickers will be distributed.

Michelle Burgess has a spreadsheet of those who filled out enrollment forms. She will add a column for whether they received their sticker.

Fifth grade registrants received their stickers at registration.

We should ask non-paid “members” for help.

Move to adjourn accepted at 7:40.