

# **PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND BOOSTER MEETING**

**JANUARY 20, 2009**

In attendance: Marybeth Miller, Sharon Long, Robert Page, Valerie Page, Heather Reddout, Jeanette Soebbing, J.J. Fleming, Jeanine Marco, Jeff Sager, Darcie Condon, Jeff Kleinmaier, Annette McCammon, Brent Rathgeb, Karlee Van Kley

## **EXECUTIVE MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

November minutes approved at 6:06 PM

### **Candy Sale:**

Candy sale dates are confirmed for February 2, 2009 to February 20, 2009. We will use any left over candy to sell at the Solo and Ensemble Contest in February.

It is recommended to order a couple more cases than students. Directors will e-mail the number of students in their bands so we will know how much candy to order. It is easier for the candy to be distributed directly to each school. The candy bars are smaller than last year, but the cost remains the same at \$1.00 each, for a total of \$40.00 a box. Jeff will confirm that there is no fuel surcharge added to our cost.

Prizes for the top 3 candy sellers at each school will be \$75, \$50, and \$25.00 Also, for every box a student sells, their name will be entered in a drawing for a McDonald's gift card. Each school gets about 20 \$5.00 gift cards, so we will need a total of 140 cards.

Directors should send the names of the top sellers to Jeff. Jeff will also take care of getting the gift cards. He will pay for them and get reimbursed by Sharon.

### **Solo and Ensemble:**

We will sell Papa Murphy's pizza again for \$2.00 a slice like last year, but use smaller slices so we can order fewer pizzas. We had about 16-18 pizzas left over last year.

Annette will handle soda and water donations. Students donate drinks for prizes.

We need a cooler, tables, crock pots, and an outlet available. Marybeth offers to supply the coffee urn. We should only need access to the kitchen to bake the pizzas in the oven.

We can get muffins at Sam's Club. Jeff will check the Dunkin' Donuts by him for doughnuts. Jeanine can follow up on Papa Murphy's to order the frozen pizzas. We anticipate we will need about 8 pizzas

this year. Jeanine will also check at Jewel for Krispy Kreme doughnuts and look into rates for organizations.

We have some paper products and 1 can of nacho cheese from last year. We also have some leftover sweeteners, creamers, and possibly some condiments.

Band Boosters really only need to provide help for serving food. Contest hours are from 8:00 AM until 3 or 4 PM. We will need to set up between 7-8:00 AM and try to get the coffee ready as early as 7:00 AM. Our heaviest time is anticipated to be between 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Lisa and Jeanine will be available to help out during the contest, and other Band Booster parents can cut out as needed to watch their children perform. Jeanine only needs to get volunteers for food help. All other volunteers and runners will be recruited by Annette. Directors at other schools who have parents and student volunteers will send that information to Annette. If it looks like we will be a little short on volunteers, Jeanine and /or Lisa can help recruit more.

All parent and student helpers will have about a two hour shift. We will need about 100 helpers in all throughout the contest building. Last year the helpers were given coupons to receive 1 food item and 1 drink. Annette gives these coupons to the volunteers. When redeemed we just need to put them in the cash drawers to keep track of them.

Last year we had a Band Booster Shop table, but since there are other districts attending the contest, there is a limited audience for Plainfield items. We can possibly put the Band Booster shirts with the food items and have it all together to sell, rather than have a separate Band Booster Shop. There will be about 10-15 schools attending the contest.

We need to check on kitchen staff help. Last year it cost us about \$100.00. Annette will be checking on the kitchen contact to work out the schedule.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer report began at 6:33 PM.

The statements have been reconciled, and Sharon has printed the check register for November and December so each director can have a record of what they've spent. Sharon was sent back some insufficient funds checks, but these checks belong to Plainfield East High School Band Booster parents, not us.

Sharon did have an insufficient fund check for Jeff. He's already collected from that parent.

Jeff suggests to write on the bottom of check requests to mail them. Sharon can send them if directors notate on the check request forms.

We've received the interest form from the bank.

The three e-mails from our website for the web master, the treasurer, and the general band boosters contact are not yet working. So please continue to send requests to Sharon's personal e-mail.

**Honor Band:**

Honor band will be April 24<sup>th</sup> this year. The directors met this past Friday. One director will organize parent help. They will also need help with organizing dinners. They are trying to scale down the band this year. We can wait until next month to continue this topic.

**District:**

With the district in general there are no big changes. However, there have not been any team meetings. They used to have them about once a month, but now that there is someone in charge there are no longer any team meetings. Directors feel as if they've taken a step backwards. There is no communication between the directors and the district. There have been no meetings where the directors had any input or sharing information. The only meeting they had was for a demonstration. There have not been any meetings with the new supervisor Susan Blatz. Directors don't feel like she is championing the issues important to the directors. There is no feedback from the administration.

Jeff says we will look into this.

J.J. Fleming does say that she does seem to be trying to get Indian Trail caught up with equipment, but he hasn't actually gotten anything yet.

So it looks like there's been some information gathering by Ms. Blatz, but no action yet.

**Block Schedule:**

Directors report that the new block schedule is horrible, and it's going to get worse every year. Sectionals are going to go away. Karley found out today that she may lose a whole day of band due to enrichment turning into a study hall one day a week.

Some parents are saying the kids have less homework now with the block schedules and have concerns on how this will prepare them for college if they are not being set up to learn proper study skills.

Dan Thorse has been the biggest supporter of the block schedule. However, directors are losing 5 minutes a day, which adds up to 20 minutes of rehearsal time a week. Some directors have lost an entire section. It is adding up to more kids in fewer groups, which all adds up to less time.

Brent says he is projected to have about 390 students, and will need 6 band periods.

Ms. Blatz liked Darcie's pull out sessions for sections, but now they are going away.

Valerie reports that Ms. Blatz told her that Mr. Thorse says she needs to go to 3 elementary schools, but experience shows that is not the best practice.

Many school do their sectionals outside of the school day or outside of the band period and are now being told they cannot do anything outside of the school day anymore. Each school is different in how the sectionals are being handled.

The Timber Ridge principal is allowing pull out sectionals during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> blocks, but was told he shouldn't be allowing it. Many other principals are not allowing pull out sectionals. However, students are being pulled out of band to finish enrichments. Parents are supposed to have the option of pulling out enrichment for band. Parents are supposed to be asked, but in many schools are not being asked.

Jeff's meeting with Mr. Thorse and Ms. Hayhurst never went anywhere when we first brought these concerns to them. Directors think before approaching Dr. Harper and the school board we should try to take our concerns to Ms. Blatz.

## **GENERAL MEETING:**

General meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

### **Director Reports:**

**Timber Ridge:** Winter Concert was on December 9<sup>th</sup> for all bands. Jingle Jazz concert was on December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Jazz Band and Combo Band. T.R. is currently preparing about 60 students for Solo and Ensemble. Pep Band night is scheduled for Feb. 6 at Plainfield Central High School.

**Heritage Grove:** Students are preparing for Solo and Ensemble. There are about 22 soloists and 22 students in ensembles. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are traveling to Minooka. The Holiday Concert was a success. Jazz band is playing at Target in February. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders going to North met last Friday. The band and the choir are going to see "Funny Girl."

**Thomas Jefferson and Meadowview:** Concert is coming up Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at Thomas Jefferson. Meadowview's concert with the choir was Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. Many braved the show and the concert was a big success.

**Aux Sable:** the 8<sup>th</sup> grade performed at Plainfield South High School with Drauden Point during the basketball game on Friday. They are preparing for Solo and Ensemble on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Kennedy:** December concerts at Plainfield East went well, and the Plainfield East staff were very helpful. The Blue Man trip was postponed due to weather and is rescheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, with 162 people attending. The Jazz band is going to Naperville for a Jazz festival on February 7<sup>th</sup>. They are also performing at the CAPE dinner in early March. Fifty solos or ensembles are going to the contest, with 38 solos and 12 ensembles.

Jazz Band concert with Walkers' Grove was canceled. I'm sure it would have been wonderful. Now the Jazz Band's first performance will be on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Naperville Jazz Festival. WE have 45 students participating in the Solo and Ensemble contest at Drauden Point on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Drauden Point:** Solo and Ensemble information has been distributed and students are on their way. The contest is at Drauden Point on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The band contest songs have been chosen.

**Indian Trail:** The Holiday Concert went well even though it was moved by one way due to weather. The Candy bar sale will be Feb. 6- 20<sup>th</sup>. Solo and Ensemble is on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. On March 5<sup>th</sup> all bands

will have a concert. March 14<sup>th</sup> is the Organizational Contest at Minooka Junior High School, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands are attending. Indian Trail's principal ad Susan Blatz are working with J.J. To catch up the school so they have the same equipment at the new schools.

Move to adjourn, seconded, ayes have it at 7:11 PM