

Gulf Breeze High School Band Boosters Meeting

February 13, 2017

Called to order: 6:45 pm

Attending: Lisa Buchanan, Dan Hecht, Keith Whelan, Scott Stonebraker, Theresa Moore, Brendalee Johnson, Heather Cady-Bragg, "T" dykes, Karen Snow, Barb Scott, Wendy Hoeflich, Tonya Duke, Zach Dykes, Don Toole, Grace Hofius

Minutes: Scott Stonebraker moved to accept the minutes with a wording change to the minutes: the word "thing" in the uniform update section should be 'think'. Keith Whelan seconded. Motion passed.

President report:

Don Toole reported that we had our first Indoor Percussion competition on Saturday, February 11th. They earned 2nd place. It was the best 1st run. Everyone is very proud. There are 41 members in the percussion section. Winter Guard had their second competition on Saturday. JV placed 3rd. At the first competition Varsity placed 5th and JV placed 3rd. Well done!

In regards to the Will Do grant, the band tried to get matching funds from the county in order to double the amount allotted to spend, but the county did not match them this year. The drums will be ordered this week. We need to do something public to show our appreciation to the Will Do committee. Other grants are also being written.

We need a selection committee for the election of next year's officers. Theresa Moore and Lisa Buchanan have volunteered but we need one more.

Band Director's report:

Mr. Dykes reported the concert and symphonic bands have been vigorously practicing and should be practicing at home as well.

MPA is on Saturday, March 4th at Fort Walton Beach High School. Concert band performs at 11:00am with sight reading at 11:30am and symphonic performs at 2:30pm with sight reading at 3:00pm. He needs chaperones and a truck driver for the equipment. He is trying to work it out that symphonic band doesn't have to travel with the concert band.

Friday, February 17th is Solo and Ensemble. There are 15-20 participants. Mr. Dykes said he will distribute times tomorrow (Feb. 14)

21 students made the All-County band and Johnny Gibson made the All-State band.

Several students also made the Troy and Auburn Honor bands.

The Spring Concert is still 'To Be Announced'.

The band banquet is May 19th.

Mr. Dykes announced that our new Winter Guard trainer/director is Jackie Sims.

The schedule for summer band camp has been sent out and will be posted in Charms. The full band camp will be one week earlier.

Treasurer's report:

Wendy Hoeflich stated that we have approximately \$53,000 in cash. Our liabilities of \$3110 and \$350 are due to Indoor Percussion and Winter Guard. Our 'other donations' came from the West Florida ad and Amazon.

Are largest expenses were due to insurance and bus fees to the high school. Wendy also reported that under "Other Expenses-#132 and 135: The \$725 is for Indoor Percussion's fees (\$425) and writing music (\$300). She will get a check to Patrick for the difference between \$725 and what the parents have paid. It is unclear at this time who has paid because both Indoor Percussion and Winter Guard's expenses and payments are being run through the school now instead of the band boosters.

Don Toole and Wendy Hoeflich addressed the question about a surplus for Winter Guard. Last year it was thought that Winter Guard had a \$2000-\$3000 surplus that was on our books and needed to go to them. Wendy was still not sure which parents had paid their fees, as well. The previous treasurer found an entry of \$2226.25, and found that more money had gone out than had come in. Looking through past minutes it was discovered that the band boosters fronted Winter Guard over \$4300, for fall uniforms, but records showed we only received less than \$1000 in reimbursements. At one of the last meetings last year it was voted to let the money go and not collect it. At the last meeting the treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$2400 (owed to the boosters) for Winter Guard-items that were purchased without permission or approval, and would have covered any 'surplus' if there was one. All of the records point to no surplus. A question was asked if we would be reimbursed for the extra expenses by the Winter Guard and both Don Toole and Mr. Dykes said that without an updated accounting of who has paid, they did not know. Don Toole asked Mr. Dykes if Ms. Sims could make a spreadsheet of payments and MFS payments and he said yes. Don Toole said that he would address any more parents who still believe there is a surplus.

Wendy Hoeflich stated that there needs to be better records on who paid, for all sections of the band, not just Winter Guard. Don Toole agreed and stated that we need to give Ms. Sims the tools to make it happen.

Within all this discussion were questions about Jerry leaving. Don Toole addressed that, saying that things were not taking place that should have and that there was more to the story than being said.

In regards to MFS, there are still some parents that have not paid anything. The question was asked if the banquet could be used as an incentive. Mr. Dykes stated that we can charge for the dinner, but the awards portion was open to all, regardless of payment. The question was asked, "What can we do to get parents to pay?" Mr. Dykes said that one alternative was to have a volunteer trip, something and somewhere that is not required. Only those who are paid can attend.

Don stated that with our growth came other needs-good things- and we are still trying to figure it all out. The band has grown 71% in the last 4 years. Mr. Dykes said we could be as high as 180+ next year.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality: Brendalee Johnson reported that the banquet will be held at the CLC down the highway and the cost will be \$20 per person. The room rental was about \$537.

Suggestions were made about improving or changing the banquet for next year: have it at the high school, spend more money at a larger venue, find a different way to serve dinner to save room and money, have only an awards ceremony, or have a reception after the awards ceremony.

Don Toole stated that we need to have a flier made for the banquet, especially showing the payment deadline because we won't be able to extend the deadline this year.

Uniforms: Don Toole complimented Tonya Duke and her team on working miracles getting everyone fitted this year. Tonya reported that if there is an increase in membership next year, we would need some new uniforms. The question was how many. If we purchased 40 coats to add to what we have, it would cost \$12,000, but the rest of the uniforms would not look quite the same. If we ordered 200 new uniforms, the cost

is approximately \$36,000. Students would still purchase the bibbers, if needed, as well as the shoes and gloves. The band provides the coats and shakos.

The coats would be lighter and machine washable. Teresa Moore asked about the quality and who would clean them. Tonya said the quality is good and Don said that a plan would be made about the washing. Mr. Dykes said the new coats would not have the "GB" emblem sewn on. There are 2 ways to pay: 1) pay ½ when ordering and pay the balance 30 days before delivery, or 2) pay in full with a 3% discount. Brendalee Johnson asked about getting a grant for the uniforms. Don Toole said he didn't want to apply for a Will Do grant 2 years in a row, but he did apply for grants at Walmart in Tiger Point and proper, as well as Sam's Club.

The thought was that there was enough money currently to pay for the first half, but we would need to come up with the second half. Suggestions were made for raising enough money to get new uniforms:

1. Sell the old uniforms to current and alumni band members.
2. Apply for grants.
3. Have a silent auction, asking for donations for gift baskets.
4. Have a donation booth at the art's festival using the rattiest uniform.

Dan Hecht asked when the second payment would need to be made since we would not necessarily need the uniforms by the first game. There was no clear answer. Mr. Dykes stated that once they have the design, the company can give us a better timeline.

It was brought to the booster's attention that we had quite a few shakos in the shed but they are now moldy. We currently have enough, but that also might change. New shakos cost about \$35 each. Mr. Dykes was looking at getting a new style, one that would look more like a wrap with a visor, but it would be open at the top. The plume would be separate. Mr. Dykes and Tonya Duke will find out the prices of the hats and plumes for the next meeting.

*A motion was made by Wendy Hoeflich to go forward with a plan to purchase all new uniforms for the next year. Scott Stonebraker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising: We have a new chairperson: Dan Hecht. Don Toole asked Dan to work on an action plan to finance the uniforms for the next meeting. Dan Hecht asked how we could keep doing what we are doing, only better, not more. One suggestion was to use incentives to encourage more money coming in. Don Toole reiterated that we don't want to lose our momentum. For example, the March-a-Thon earned over \$16,000 with only 49% of the band participating; we need to have more participation. We need more than 67% of the band to pay their MFS. Don thanked Mr. Dykes for committing to having a trip next year as an incentive.

Concessions: Heather Cady-Bragg gave a very big thank you to all who helped clean the stand for 6 hours. Teens also helped. They removed the old shelves from the walls and hope to replace them with wire shelves. Items were lifted from the floor. Old food was discarded; good food was left for the art's festival. The band is operating a food booth at the art's festival on Saturday and Sunday, March 11th and 12th from 9am-5pm, with set-up only on Friday, March 10th. The registration fee was waived for us and last year we made \$1500 for only half a day, so Heather is hoping to do better. Heather asked Dan Hecht to put a notice on charms for volunteers. She would like the teens to wrap shrimp again. The menu will be: hamburgers, hot dogs, fish sandwiches, Cajun angel bacon wrapped shrimp and sodas. Kennedy's is allowing us to use catering items for the booth. Don Toole asked about pre-cooking the shrimp and Heather replied that it would not keep well. It was noted that there are conflicts on March 11th: an Indoor Percussion competition and the McGuire's run. Heather suggested having a prep day and the teens could earn service hours.

Transportation: Scott Stonebraker sent an email to the county asking about the policy of replacing tires and who pays for them on the yellow trailer, but has not received a reply; the trailer is in need of new ones. Don replied that the county might not pay for the tires and is now pushing to obtain the title for the big trailer as well. Mr. Dykes stated that he would find out who will cover the tires.

It was also noted that someone messed up the jack again.

It was restated that on the insurance policy several names were taken off the list of drivers to save money, but if a person not listed drives for an official event, they are still covered.

The trailer is fully wrapped now.

It was noted that one Winter Guard parent has volunteered to drive and pull a trailer for them if need be unless there is bad weather.

Communications: Barb Scott reported that Theresa Moore has generously agreed to take on the newsletter. She is still looking for someone to take over the website and social media aspects.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25pm.

Submitted by Grace Hofius, Secretary