

BAND BOOSTERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD WWW.WBBANDS.INFO

Parent Meeting Minutes May 6, 2014

Board Members Present: Mary Ingweiller, Heide Dronchi, Natalie Walls, and Claudia Bologna. Absent - Marguerite DeBello
Directors Chad Mielens and Karl Stein were also present.

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Approval of Parent Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2014 by Kirstin Watkins-White and Deb Ringuette.

President's Report – Mary Ingweiller

Mary introduced the board members.

BBAWB or Band Boosters Association of West Bloomfield is a 501c-3 non-profit charity that exists solely to support the band programs of West Bloomfield. This equates to making sure that the directors and students have all that is necessary to put forth a "superior" show, whether it is at the Concert, Jazz, Marching, Winter Drumline or Winter Guard level. (We don't want to be satisfied being last or having low scores in any area that we participate in. We always want to strive to be at the top of the heap). The most important way we support these activities is by providing the funds to help the directors of each program do their best work, and hire the best supporting staff. The Band Boosters of West Bloomfield is a non-profit organization in place to support the West Bloomfield Bands program and its directors. We are a superior competitive program and prefer to finish high in the rankings. We are not a sport or club. We do receive a music stipend from the school district and the district pays for our transportation. We also do not have to pay to rent rehearsal facilities.

Marching Band is minimally supported by the district and is considered a club not a sport. That means that we do not pay the \$250 "pay to play fee". However it also means that we do not have access to any of the Laker fan club funds and that if a corporation supports athletics we do not have any claim on those donations. In the past, the district has provided us with a stipend to aide with bus and truck fees. We understand and thank the district for all the help that they are able to provide and appreciate that they waive fees whenever possible. (ie: We are not charged rental fees when we host an invitational or require practice space for Winter Guard and Winter Drumline.) There are other districts, such as Walled Lake, that charge their programs rental fees to use the school facilities and the groups have to practice around the athletic programs needs, sometimes having to practice as early as 5am.

Why was it necessary to raise the price of Marching Band? As you can see from data below, there are many aspects that go into the creation of a competitive Marching Band. There is staff, camp, equipment, show design, etc. The following chart represents the cost per student based on 80 members in the band.

The 2014 Marching Band fees include (Powerpoint slide):

Staff	381.25
Band Camp	250.00
Prop/percussion/guard equipment	156.25
Show Design (music and drill)	196.88
Transportation/Truck/Trailer Inspection and Licensing	93.75
Camp Shirts	15.00
Entry Fees	8.13
Lift Maintenance and Licensing	7.50
Award/letters/rockers	6.25
Uniform Maintenance /repair/gloves	5.00
Homecoming Tailgate party	5.00
MCBA membership	2.50
Music rights and fees	1.88
First Aid Kit Maintenance	1.00
Licensing fees for camp	0.44

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Marching Band trip to Dayton fees include (Powerpoint slide):

Transportation/Buses	75.00
Food	31.00
Hotel	25.00
Finals Tickets	25.00
Transportation/truck	10.00
BOA Entry Fees	8.13
Bus Driver Tip	2.50
Practice area rental	1.25

Total cost per Marching Band student (Powerpoint slide):

Marching Band Fees	875.00
Marching Band Expenses	1308.69
Balance to be paid by fundraising	433.69

As you can see the Marching Band program costs \$1,308.69 per student and we are charging \$875.00 which leaves a balance of \$433.69 to be fundraised for each student in order to put on the show.

We currently have 63 students enrolled in Marching Band. Our projected enrollment is in the 80's.

We understand that many of you are struggling with our decision to finally face reality and raise the price however if you take a look at the chart below you can see what other competitive schools in the area are charging. Some of these prices do not reflect the full cost. For example, for Walled Lake, the fee shown here is only for Marching Band it does not include their trip to Indianapolis. If you look at Troy Athens they have a mandatory fundraising fee built into their price.

Marching Band Cost Comparison (Powerpoint slide):

	Amt Per Member	Number of Members	Base Budget
Plymouth Canton (1200-1800)	1500	175	262,500
Lake Orion	1200	200	240,000
Rockford	600	300	180,000
Walled Lake	950	180	171,000
Troy Athens (2013) 450+575(required fundraisers)	865	130	112,450
L'Anse Creuse (could be higher)	700	150	105,000
Farmington Harrison	905	90	81,450
West Bloomfield (2014)	875	80	70,000
Lakeland	1000	65	65,000
West Bloomfield (2013)	575	74	42,550

Vice President's Report – Heide Dronchi

No Report.

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Treasurer's Report – Natalie Walls

Natalie passed out a Year-to-Date Financial Status report. The report shows line by line where we currently stand. We are currently at 53% of our budgeted income, 79% of budgeted expenses. We should come in under-budget and have spent \$11,000 more than we took in this year.

Student Accounts Report – Marguerite DeBello

Marguerite was not able to make the meeting but passed along the following report: The accounts should be accurate through December (please check your accounts and let us know if you see anything inaccurate). She is sorry and thanks you for understanding but she has misplaced the Hungry Howie's detail and the student account withdrawal forms from the first band fee payments. She has requested a new report from Rene Floer and she will input it as soon as possible. Also if you had filled out a student account transfer when making your first payment please resubmit the form.

Secretary's Report – Claudia Bologna

Website: Claudia has updated the Marching Band registration pages and online registration form. New photos have been added to the color guard webpage.

Newsletter: continues to go out every Sunday evening – please read it!

Recruiting: flyers have been distributed and posted on the webpage and Facebook to promote Experience Night and Marching Band Registration.

Band Directors' Report - Chad Mielens, Karl Stein

Middle School Honors Band: was held last weekend (5/3/14).

Marching Band Membership: the battery and front ensemble are almost set. We are looking to fill a few more spots.

Color Guard rehearsals began today.

Jazz Band rehearsals have returned after a break for the musical. They are getting ready for their performance at the Hard Rock Café on May 18th at 1pm.

High School Concert and Senior Night is next Tuesday (5/13/14)

Memorial Day Parade: the Marching Band will meet at Abbott Middle School and march to Keego Harbor's City Hall. The students will remain until the speeches are completed. Buses will return the students to Abbott.

Winter Drumline and Winter Guard finished their seasons by winning the State Championships! Winter Drumline went down to Dayton to compete in the WGI World Competition and made it to the semi-finals!. There were no problems on the trip and the kids were great.

Middle School Solo & Ensemble was held on April 26. Several students from OLMS and Abbott participated.

Cedar Point is May 17 and is being organized by Karl Stein. The schedule will be similar to last year and the itinerary will be sent out by the end of the week.

Marching Band Experience Night: went very well! We had about 30 new students attend

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Fundraising:

SCRIPS: Deb Ringuette explained what SCRIPS are. Parents purchase gift cards from the BBAWB and the profit is split 50/50 with the band. Orders are usually placed once a week on Sunday evenings and the cards come in by Wednesday. Using the SCRIPS program can potentially pay the majority of your Marching Band fee. SCRIPS now has a mobile app that lets you use your credit card. If you use the Pay Now option, you do not have to go through Deb to get your gift card. For out of state relatives, you can use the pay now option with an electronic gift card.

Bottle Drive: at each concert, bring your empty bottles and cans and leave them outside the auditorium. Mary will return the bottles to the grocery store and turn the money into Natalie.

Kroger: It's time to re-register your Kroger card for the coming year. Instructions are in the e-newsletter and website.

BINGO: We run BINGO every Friday night in Waterford and are looking for volunteers to work it. You will get handed \$30 cash to go towards your band fees. We also need players.

Spaghetti Dinner: The dinner brought in \$783 and cost \$350 (\$433 profit). The silent auction brought in \$649 with no costs incurred.

AmazonSmile Program: We are now registered with the Amazon Smile Program. Every time you shop at Amazon, start your shopping at www.smile.amazon and register your account with "Band Boosters Association of West Bloomfield". Each time you make an eligible purchase 0.5% of that purchase will go to BBAWB. If they give us details of each transaction then we will consider splitting the donation with student accounts. You can register for AmazonSmile by clicking the link in the e-newsletter you received on Sunday night or by going to smile.amazon.com and register there. Questions? contact Marguerite DeBello at studentaccounts@wbbands.info

Flower Sale: orders are due tonight. Turn in your orders tonight or place an order tonight. Pick up your orders at the parade practice on Friday, May 23 from 2pm – 5pm.

Old Business:

Marching Band Experience Night/Ice Cream Social: The ice cream social went over very well and we had a great turnout. This is something we will continue to do to kick off our recruiting efforts.

New Business

Presentation of the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget: Copies of the proposed budget were handed out. We are using a new format this year to make it easier to read and understand. Marching Band needs to raise \$33,000 in fundraising to balance. Winter Guard and Winter Drumline are balanced, but they also need to fundraise.

- Jazz Band is making money right now until they start to compete. The timing of the jazz competitions is difficult because of other commitments. The Jazz Band will make no money at the Hard Rock Café performance.
- The items in the BBAWB section are all general items and not related to one particular ensemble. The only income for the BBAWB section is from the resale of tarps and costumes. Sometimes it takes a few seasons to get the old tarps and uniforms sold.
- Fundraising: We will be bringing back the raffle this year. For a car wash, we need the district to approve it, otherwise we need to find another location. This year we will ask the students to get pledges (or sell coupons) before the car wash event.
- District Subsidy: We do not know the exact total yet.
- Uniform Fund: Uniforms are desperately needed at all 3 schools and in the Marching Band. Currently the high school girls do not even have a concert uniform. We need to consistently set aside money to save. Shakos need to be repaired and are holding steady. Marching Band is running out of suitable uniforms to wear because they are wearing out.

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- Instrument Fund: the front ensemble and battery instruments need to be replaced.
- To balance the budget, we need at least 100 members...so PLEASE RECRUIT!
- Wish List (Powerpoint Slide): The following list shows items that the band needs now or will need in the near future and is the reason why we need additional fundraising. Two new tires are needed for the truck. The metronome works sporadically. Sabres are needed and will help to increase our score. There was a question about the old Marching Band rain jackets. They need to be aired out so they don't smell so bad. If the weather is bad, the kids can wear them.

Wireless Microphones (soloist) - \$2,000

Painting of Truck - \$1500

Sabres for Guard (7X) - \$1050

New Wheels for Carts/Synth - \$320

New Wireless Metronome - \$250

Tires for truck (2) - \$1000

Fix/Paint Scissors Lift - \$700

UPS for Audio Equipment - \$600

New Wheeled Base for Pit Drummer - \$500

Shelves for Band Instruments - \$5,000

New Audio Equipment (Pit) - \$2,000

Guard Room Updates - \$500

Marching Band Uniforms/Shakos - \$72,000

Drumline Room Updates - \$500

Nominations for the 2014-2015 BBAWB Board:

President: Mary Ingweiller

Co-Vice Presidents: Sarah Boyle and Christine Long

Secretary: Natalie Walls

Co-Treasurers: Steve Bologna and Claudia Bologna

Student Accounts: Christina Nicolaides

New Fundraisers: please think about new fundraising opportunities between now and the next meeting. Poker can bring in money, but we need a chairperson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

- Next Parent Meeting is June 3, 2014 at WBHS, Media Center, 7pm