



FCHS BAND BOOSTER MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

Kathy Hines called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Cathy McKinnon – Chaperone Report

Cathy thanked all for the help and the wonderful season we had. Next year will be her last year (Mark will be a senior) and she needs someone to train for the following year. Next year shouldn't be too much different than the year we just had.

Sherrin Arocho – Uniform Report

Sherrin said everything was in good shape. Thanks for all the help.

Debbie Young – Concession Report

Debbie thanked all who helped with the concessions this year. We need more volunteers for next year, especially for clean up. Debbie will also be in her last year and needs someone to train.

Bob Nelson – Sponsorship Report

Bob was not at the meeting but Maureen reported that the sponsorship package was about complete and first round of potential sponsors identified. Wayde Trent mentioned that Mr. Mike from Chick-fil-a provided 155 coupons for the kids to have free milk shakes since they made finals at BOA.

Robin Vale – Treasurer Report

Robin stated that we had \$11,002.65 in savings, 25,057.05 in checking. There is still \$9800 in outstanding student fees. She solicited suggestions on how to get people to pay other than the letters, calls, etc. This amount involves about 20-30 students. The GBC income was \$27,000.27, the expenses were \$13,377.28 and that left us with a profit of \$13,622.99!

Kathy Hines – GBC Recap/Feedback

Lydia suggested a new fee schedule – possibly a reduction for children under 10 years old. Also, is it possible to reduce fee based on time of arrival? We had fewer bands this year and this was the first year we didn't pack the stands. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need to make money. The staff/teachers in the county were upset since they needed to pay even if they were employees – they didn't understand it was a fundraiser and different from a football game.

Jim Cox did an amazing job with all of the tractors and everyone was ready on time.

Daniel Arocho mentioned that from feedback he had, assigned seating might not be the way to go – go ahead and assign a section but set seats tend to cause conflict.

Debbie Young spoke about the volunteer pool. It is the same people all the time and they are getting worn out. There should be a requirement that all families have to work at least 3 hours of volunteer service or pay an extra fee. We need to watch wording of such a plan since we are a nonprofit. We know that people have jobs, and we need to be sensitive to this – however, almost everyone could put in an hour or two.

Wayde Trent said we need to make it part of the contract the parent sign when the kids join the band.

Robin suggested an attachment to the contract with a list of all games, events, and etc. with the needs and job descriptions with them. This way, volunteers will know what is expected of them and that they are expected to volunteer. We need to set expectations.

Kelly Bishop suggested a type of booster member/parent mentoring program for incoming freshman parents. It would be a great way to bring them into the fold and let them know what is needed and what to do. It is hard as a freshman parent to know what needs to be done – it needs to be spelled out and there should be a “friend” to help them along the way. We could use a volunteer committee chairperson to oversee this.

Lydia said that if your committee has too many volunteers, never say “no”, but to help them find something else to go in another area. A volunteer chair would be a resource to help them.

Some parents are told no and they feel shut out. Jodi Garcia suggested that each committee make it a point to communicate with all their volunteers on a regular basis.

NormaJean suggested that each committee as it is now, write down all they do, step by step. We have chairs coming and going and if there is detailed description/plan in place a new person will have little trouble stepping in. Job descriptions, procedures, etc. need to be documented. Figure out how many people are needed and document it. Debbie Young offered to head a volunteer committee if necessary – if we have a list of what is needed, she can call and fill those positions.

Let’s try to have a “Booster Manual” manual ready for the spring. Is it possible to have it on the web? Connie suggested a power point ready for the booster meeting with the incoming freshman parents.

Alyson Shelton – Pit Report. Thank you for a great year. BOA allows a limited number of field passes and we were able to make it work. We need to be more efficient next year.

Rudi Hulseley made a point of saying that the way we shared ticket expenses was very fair and worked well.

Jim Morrow added that if you pushed up the hill at the dome – he has a shirt for you!!

Dale Shelton – Prop Report. The bases of the props are very heavy – we are looking to modify that for next year and make them easier to handle. The prop trailer is in sad shape and needs repair. It needs to be rebuilt before drumline. An estimate of the cost is about \$500 with Dale and Jim Morrow doing the work – there is money in the trailer budget for this work.

Rudi Hulsey – Fundraising Report. \$5K raffle – we made \$645. We need to consider if we should continue this next year. A few suggestions were made. 1. Split the prize up with more chances to win. 2. A \$10K prize with a \$100 ticket. The group with the least amount of ticket sales participation was the color guard. 3. What about a sponsor that had a product to raffle off?

Citrus Sales are due by Wednesday and they will be delivered before winter break. There are tickets available for Belk's charity days this weekend. Sondra Gross will be organizing the Scrip Sale effort – details will be forthcoming.

Hot Dog Sale at Kroger – Kathy, Dale and the Morgans' made \$85. Lydia said the manager really wants to help us raise money. We sold leftovers from the concession stand and we want to do more in Nov. and Dec. We need to use the Drumline to perform at these events.

Band Pictures – they are finally in from In & Out Photo and the kids will be getting them in class to bring home.

Terry Morgan is working on articles for the newspapers. If you have any photos to share, please get them to her. They will be taking an officer picture during symphonic band class with their trophies. If you have pictures for the web site – please send in a flash drive or CD to Mr. Tucker – don't e-mail them to him.

John Mashburn – Director's Report. Thank you all again for an amazing season. You all deserve as much credit as the kids for a wonderful season. Do we want to take the next/last step and go to Grand Nationals in Indianapolis? If we do that instead of St. Louis it won't cost much more. It would involve 3 days – 90 bands on Thursday/Friday, 25 on Saturday and 12 bands for finals Saturday night. If we are to do this... Performance needs to be better – we need individual consistency. There needs to be talent and growth. A higher achievement level will be necessary by all. Some kids won't be at that level, they will need to work harder. A smaller band is not out of the question.

Kelly Bishop asked what makes Cobb County so different from Forsyth County – their bands composed 9 of the Dome finalists. Well...there is lots of reasons – their facilities are second to none, Gary Markum is the county music coordinator in the central office – it is a priority. The Cobb county middle schools have 300 kids with 2/3 band directors in

each program – lots of talent to pull from at the high school level. Give what we have and what we do – we are AMAZING.

Your county wants to hear from you – check the web site and fill in your “Wish List”.

Wayde Trent asked about Grand Nationals. If we choose to go it would be 2 weeks after the Georgia Dome BOA. It would mean 3 more full band rehearsals. Mr. Mashburn has gotten some wonderful essays from the freshman after the BOA at the Dome – he will have several student quotes in the future. If students are not up to the competitive level could they take part in pushing props/equip?

NormaJean will take the lead in organizing parents to approach the Board of Education with our needs for the band program including a new band room. If you would like to help, please contact her.

Mr. Mashburn told us about “Smart Music”, a music program to enhance individual student performance. The cost is nominal and it would allow kids to learn, practice and test at home. They would need a computer at home with a DSL or Cable connection – dial up won’t work. This would save hundreds and hundreds of hours of individual testing and feedback!!! While it is not a requirement, if we get 30% of the students to use it, we would see an immediate benefit to our music program. It would also help with “performance anxiety” with Mr. Mashburn. The bottom line is this – if we are to continue along the BOA path, the kids need to perform well. They need to get better, the winterguard and drumline need to continue so they can get better.

Reminder: Attend the VA Ceremony tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

Sue Mashburn – Guard Report. We are working on getting the winterguard started for the season.

Tom Tucker – Drumline Report. He is looking for a list of volunteers and parents to help the drumline.

Kathy adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Nelson