

## **RMHS Music Boosters Meeting Minutes: OCTOBER 10, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the RMHS Music Boosters was called to order at 7:10 PM by Mat Krawczyk. Vice President Tom Toussaint, Treasurer Mary Fava, and Recording Secretary Evelyn Wills were present. The meeting was attended by Amy Carroll, Meg Sioui, Kobra Hall, Julie Birenbaum, Christina Krawczyk, Sandra Heck, Sharon Hernandez, Susan Herold, Zaya Keefer, Kevin Carroll, and Christopher Buti.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** Mat Krawczyk welcomed Boosters to the meeting.

**Treasurer** Mary Fava presented the RMHS Music Boosters Monthly Activity Report for September 2017, as well as the RMHS Music Boosters Treasure's YTD Report 2017-2018. These reports were approved and filed.

**Secretary** Evelyn Wills distributed draft minutes from the September 5 meeting; the minutes were approved with one change.

### **NEW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Marching Mustang Grade School Tour:** It has been cancelled due to Institute Day.

**Junior High Band Night:** Julie Birenbaum will order pizzas. Although unannounced volunteers generally come in to help, requesting help is still needed for set-up, serving, and clean-up.

**2017-2018 Budget Review:** Mary Fava shares that the beginning of June is when the budget year begins and the end of May of the following year is when it ends. She has tracked patterns and has carefully prepared, so that there will be money in the budget to write checks for Jazz in the Meadows, as a large amount is needed up front. JITM takes in a lot of money the day of the event. It is our biggest fundraiser. Every other year more will be spent on securing a big name band to attract people to the event; every other year local bands will be hired as they are less expensive. Local band years will coincide with Band Tour years so a stipend can be given to students to help cover meals, etc. This year the goal is to give each student on tour \$75.00. Less will be given if there is significantly less profit than expected at JITM. Also, the Music Boosters purchase the marching show; this years marching show was purchased by the Boosters last May. The 2017-2018 Budget is tabled until Band Director, Chris Buti arrives.

**Volunteers:** Mat Krawczyk reports that people are helping. However, we still need to encourage and to identify shadows for positions to be filled. This is an ongoing quest.

**Fundraising for Spring Trip:** Mat Krawczyk reports that four fundraising opportunities are going on right now. The number of students participating in some is low, but the profits are high. We offer them to give kids who may not be able to otherwise afford the

trip a chance to go. Two new fundraisers are being offered. We will evaluate whether they will be run again. Next, Kobra Hall provides an analysis of fundraising statistics via Student Account records. In 2016, 52/203 students participated. (25.62%). In 2017, 55/187 students participated (29.41%) of those 14/55 participate in two or more fundraisers.

**JITM Program Sales:** Mat Krawczyk reports that Tom Toussaint has good leads to follow up on. Students who sell ads earn a percentage, which would go into their student accounts. Tom agrees we should begin early. He suggests contacting the U of I Jazz Band to see if they may want to advertise. Typically a good number of District 214 grads will attend U of I and participate in music related majors and activities. This is an area we need to start on now. An early start on sales will be essential to getting ads from businesses. We should begin contacting local merchants. Wheeling HS's ad book brings in about \$10,000 profit for their program. However, they require their students to bring in \$100 worth of ads each, which we do not. There, many parents just pay the \$100 and put in a shout out. Reminder to businesses: it would be a tax-deductible item and they would have to layout the ad, although our students can help and/or provide artwork. A discussion is started about whether we should keep the price at \$500 for a full page. It is considered to offer a full page for \$275, \$250, or even \$100. This discussion was tabled and will be revisited at a later date. For now, no changes have been made.

**Sign Up Genius:** Tom Toussaint puts the link to the schedule, call time, and performance time in Sign Up Genius.

**Cookie Sales:** Tom Toussaint will put Sandy's name under "Bake" so others realize they don't have to bake alone or at all. Some volunteers are concerned they will have to bake or sell alone, while others feel the baking and selling is overstaffed and only want to come if they are needed. We will attempt to make all volunteers comfortable and needed. We need about 4 bakers and 2 sellers for play off games and fewer for other games.

**Music Booster Directory Coordinator:** There is value in having a music department directory. We would like to work with the directors to gather information even if its not officially printed so we can email volunteers, etc. Mr. Buti explains that this has been attempted, but parents are not filling out forms. He is looking for an app that streamlines/links information from forms.

**Uniforms:** Meg Sioui reports need for some button repair. She needs help for Sunday night and for the Spring Trip. In addition to our efforts, she will look for help herself.

**Hospitality:** This position is open. Tracy will help train a new volunteer.

**Student Accounts:** Kobra Hall updated the student accounts. She provided a detailed analysis of patters and numbers in this area, as per her distributed information.

**Junior High Band Night:** Mr. Buti is hoping to see more students sign up, especially 8<sup>th</sup> graders. However, he has gotten a good response from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Orchestra Director/Assistant Director of Bands**

Kevin Carroll thanks everyone for the help at the ILMEA Orchestra Auditions. There was a good response from the attendees. We made \$110 in profits, which is low. There were about 300 students here and also basketball and football player overflow, coincidentally. He feels it was good to host this event and thanks us again.

Mr. Carroll also thanks us for the support at the Fall Concert, which was trimmed to 1 ½ hours this year. Everyone agrees it was a good choice and it was a great concert.

Junior and Senior String Night will be November 29 and Junior and Senior Band Night will be November 28.

Collin Priller and Andy Vaughn will advance in ILMEA.

**Webmaster:** The website has been updated and the fundraising page is under construction.

### **Director of Bands & Color Guard and Fine Arts Coordinator**

Chris Buti arrives and we return to discussion of the budget. \$75.00 will remain as a line item for amount per student stipend for tour. Stipend amount per student will be lowered if profits from JITM are significantly lowered than expected, otherwise it will remain at \$75.00 per student. Some JITM judges have suggested that we are low in paying \$350.00 per day for the judges' stipend. Mr. Buti believes we are on par. Stipend per judge per day will remain at \$350.00. However, Chris will research this contention, as he doesn't want to lose judges for the event. The difference in the Artist Fee will be transferred to Program Support. The budget is voted upon. The budget is approved.

For Thursday Night Out, formerly known as the Homecoming Pep Rally, call is 6:15, performance is at 7:15 to about 7:30.

Mr. Buti will begin work on releasing JITM form for schools to sign up, as the guest artists have been decided upon. Similarly, everything is ready to go earlier this year. We can start advertising and the T-Shirt logo contest can begin sooner also.

Regarding Jr. High Band Night, he is trying online registration this year. He believes it is working well. Each student attending will receive a theme t-shirt. Ten students signed up just today.

We are in the height of Marching Band season, and he thanks parents for all the help moving equipment and videotaping, etc. The students are excited to wear the purple plumes for the Purple Out at Homecoming. The half time show is really coming together;

the students are playing with more confidence and volume. The kids are really selling the show and it is coming to life. Marching show judges like our uniforms and lots of compliments are still coming in from various sources. The students are proud.

The Fall Concert went well. The group has started music for the Holiday Concert, which will be a joint concert in the gym this year. It will be the same format and held during seminar, one week earlier than usual due to finals being before Christmas. This should be less stressful for the students. The calendar changes appear to be good.

Tom Toussaint and Mat Krawczyk request that it is shared in the program that the Music Boosters purchase the half-time show. Mr. Buti agrees it's a great way to share what the Boosters do and will honor this request. He will also invite any parent, who has helped in any way, to stand - in order to showcase how many people pitch in, and hopefully, to attract even more volunteers.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next general meeting of the Music Boosters will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Evelyn Wills