



EBPO Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Kelly Andrews, Steve Andrews, Dorit Askenazy, Sue Berry, Pat Bown, Scott Chesson, Kathryn Cook, Karen Ehrlich, Ginger Fletcher, Jen Goeglein, Rasha Ibrahim, Dave Kolo, Sarah Kolo, Debbie Labriny, Karen Maline, Chrissy Martinez, Jaime Martinez, Charlie Mitchell, Gretchen Regehr, Darwin Regehr, Karen Ruthrauff, Betsy Sandstrom, Carl Sandstrom, Adam Sklar, Lee Ann Sklar, and Wendell Uddyback

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by EBPO President Karen Maline.

Approval of August 28 Meeting Minutes:

Comments: Sue Berry wanted to clarify a general statement in the minutes under “Hospitality” regarding parents receiving reimbursement for groceries purchased for band. Unless approved before hand, food purchased for hospitality should be considered a donation.

Dave Kolo moved to approve the minutes with the addition that reimbursements were only for band camp and approved purchases. The motion was seconded by Karen Ruthrauff and the minutes were approved unanimously as revised.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Karen opened the discussion regarding Fairfax County School Board’s projected budget shortfall of \$100 million for the 2016-2017 school year, and the possibility that all electives including band, choir, etc. could be cut from the curriculum. **FCPS created an online budget proposal tool for community members to use to share their ideas with the Budget Task Force and is holding two county-side meetings to show people how to use the tool. The first meeting is on September 9 at South Lakes High School, and the second is at Mt. Vernon High School on Saturday, September 12.** Tammy Kaufax is our district school board representative, and she is supporting maintaining the electives, and our band interests. Karen will invite Tammy to an informal gathering at her house in the near future. It was discussed that there are many ways we can voice our opinion and support electives in the schools.

Karen had a discussion with Jim Evans, the President of the Athletics Boosters, while attending Eagle Soar, regarding the infamous, and very delicious, “taco-in-a-bag,” which is sold at the concession stand during home football games. She found that the Boosters buy all the ingredients and then offer other school groups the opportunity to staff the “taco-in-a-bag” table at each game, splitting the profit evenly. Karen proposed partnering with the Boosters for the home games on the September 25 and October 16. Dorit will add this feature to Sign-Up Genius to coordinate volunteers to assist with selling the “taco-in-a-bag” at those games. She suggested there be at least 4 volunteers from the band to represent our interests. Karen said she had already talked to Mae Pattison, who agreed to help, and thought this would be a good

thing to ask “Friends of the Band” to do, since current band parents like to see their kids march during half-time.

FINANCE REPORT

Sue Berry distributed copies of the Treasurer’s Report and reported that the reserve (uniform) fund has \$15,336.39 and we have an operating balance of \$10,094.97 for a total of \$25,431.36. She stated that the format of report will be revised so that it is easier to read, but she kept the current formatting to show some of the categories that were used last year. Sue said that the balances would obviously change when the proceeds from Tag Day, Spirit Nights, and other fundraisers were added.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chaperones/Volunteers

Dorit confirmed that chaperones volunteering via Sign-Up Genius is going well. Mr. Mitchell added that the band would only travel to two away games this fall, and his focus was to make sure those games were on weekends when there were no competitions. **The pep band will not perform at the away football game this Friday, September 11, 2015.** Details about the schedule for each competition aren’t known yet, but Mr. Mitchell will let Dorit know as soon as he knows anything. The Oakton H.S. event will involve an early morning for the students, who should arrive at 7:20 a.m., and the band will stay through the award ceremony. Mr. Mitchell will let us know which college band is performing, and whether the band will stay through the performance. He said the weather can get very hot and that band members should bring sun screen, etc., for hot weather. Mr. Mitchell requires that the parents who want to take their students home directly from the competition sign-out their band members, and then the student can leave with the parent. Band students CANNOT sign themselves out and leave during this event.

First Aid

Karen and Jen Goeglein discussed the need for a chaperone to take responsibility for the First Aid Kit at each band event. Jen has been responsible for four years. Karen noted that the bylaws require a chair. Jen noted that we could meet that requirement by having a chair review the kit each year, and have the kit assigned to a volunteer chaperone for safety reasons at each event.

Fundraising

Spirit Night – Ginger Fletcher mentioned that the school administration has issues with scheduling our fundraising Spirit Night at the local restaurants. Ginger, Karen Ruthrauf, and Mr. Mitchell plan to meet separately to resolve this matter.

Car Wash - Mr. Mitchell will revisit this issue to see if the competition and performance schedule permits a Saturday car wash this fall.

Tag Day – Parents were encouraged to mention and post details about Tag Day on social media, and mention it at the local schools and neighborhood organizations. Sign-Up Genius has plenty of openings for drivers yet per Sarah Kolo. Many drivers are still welcome and needed to make this our best year ever! The principal has requested that the drivers return forms to her before

the end of the week so she can review information and sign each form. Adam Sklar requested information about Tag Day for new band members, and Sarah Kolo and Mr. Mitchell provided a thorough summary of how the event is organized. Lunch will be provided (pizza). Signs will be distributed for the parent drivers to place on their windshields. Ponchos will be available in case it rains. The band members will wear their jackets and bibbers only (no shakos or guantlets), with show shirts and athletic shorts underneath. **Mr. Mitchell discussed how great the band members did last year, and that their positive attitudes and the appreciation they expressed for any donation was witnessed by neighbors, and generated even more donations!!**

The forms for parent drivers to sign were sent home with students on the first day of school. Mr. Mitchell will tell Guard members about Tag Day. **Thanks to members of the band who helped fold the tags during band class!!**

Fruitcake/Cheesecake - No fruitcake/cheesecake sale will be held this fall. Kathryn Cook provided details of the prior year's sales events. The choir will be continuing the cheesecake sale. Sue Berry discussed how that would change the budget this year and that we should try to find a replacement fundraiser.

Uniforms

Jen noted which parts of the uniform will be worn for Tag Day: jackets, bibbers, and shoes only. Sizing for new band members went well. Jen opened the discussion about band students using their tuxedos for functions other than band concerts, including last year's musical. Everyone agreed that a policy should be developed whereby students must ask for permission to use their uniforms, and the uniforms must be checked out.

Spirit Wear

A reminder will be sent to band members that show shirts will be handed out tomorrow at band practice. Jen also let parents know what types of spirit wear are available. One new item for sale is shorts. Spirit wear is a great fund raiser. Karen asked who designed this year's show shirts. **Jae-Woo and Kruti Shah designed the fabulous new show shirts! Great job on that!**

Pit Crew

Steve Andrews is the new Pit Crew coordinator. He had several questions about the budget for the Pit Crew, repairing the trailer, and other logistics, including whose insurance covers the trailer. Mr. Mitchell said that the school's insurance covers the trailer. The Pit Crew is shaping up and includes: Jim Berry, Pat Bown, Adam Sklar, Hank Cook, and Steve Andrews, of course! Steve and Jamie Martinez will inspect the trailer's lighting system and other required repairs. Everyone agreed that we have to fix the trailer, but that we will continue to rent a truck to get equipment to competitions. The weight of the trailer was discussed. Steve Andrews confirmed that the pit cart wheels are in good shape and were inspected before the first football game.

Publicity

Sarah Kolo encouraged parents to reach out to former band alumni and connect them with our *Friends of Edison Band* e-mail list, Facebook page, and other social media. We need more parent drivers to sign up for Tag Day using the link provided in the e-mail and on the website, www.edisonband.org.

The band website is updated regularly with calendar events or news announcements, and we recently partnered with Chorus for Tag Day publicity, as well as publicity for other performances and events throughout the year.

BAND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mitchell expressed his appreciation for the high attendance of the parent's meeting and how it shows that the parents care about the band program. He indicated that band classes were going well, and that he will request that the administration remove the cap on how many band members can come to the band room during Eagle Time. He mentioned that the policy was meant more to deter students from attending other classrooms, but that the band room should not have this policy. He will talk to the administration about removing the cap.

Charms, the software program that collects band fees, is successfully up and running with only one person having issues so far. The fee to participate in band is \$200. The program will designate which fees are for marching band and which are for concert or symphonic band or percussion ensemble. He encouraged anyone who has issues with Charms to let him know.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Labriny
EBPO Secretary