



**Apex High School Band Board
Minutes from 11/12/14**

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

Band Director's Report – Paul Rowe (prowe@wcpss.net)

Concerts next week:

Tuesday, November 18 7pm Concert Band I; 8pm Concert Band II

Wednesday, November 19 7pm Wind Ensemble Concert

December 18- Christmas Concert

Ladies have concert dresses, Gentlemen have been fitted for tuxes, but 9 are still at the store to be picked up. We will send a general email to the concert band parents to let them know that those need to be picked up before the concert.

Mr. Rowe attended a Music Educator's conference over the weekend in Winston Salem.

Fri/Sat- Orchestra

Sat/ Sun- Choir and Jazz

Mon/ Tues- Bands

He was able to attend on Sunday and Tuesday. He felt energized after this conference, and hopes to pass on this enthusiasm to his students.

Parade practices-Thursdays. Music should be memorized by Thursday. They will do 2 laps around the parking lot. This week students need to bring Dinkles and black socks for section photos. VE will wear uniforms. We may take photos of kids involved in chorus due to a concert that day.

Disney Trip- We have excellent instrumentation with the exception of the drum line. We do have 7 or 8 pit percussionists who may do drum line for the parade. They need to be trained. We have 3 snare drums and one bass drum so far from the current drum line.

Non-marchers will learn to march for the parade. They will pick it up quickly. Prop kids can march or carry banners.

Disney dress code is very strict for the performance. Students MUST have their Dinkles or they will not be allowed to march in the parade. This happened to an Apex student one year who left his Dinkles in his hotel room.

Booster President's Report – Terri Piasecki (bb_president@apexhighband.org)

See Carnival report below.

2nd Vice President's Report – Debbie Friedler (bb_2ndvp@apexhighband.org)

NCSU game- in need of ushers. It is about a 6 hour commitment from 12:15pm. The slots are on Sign Up Genius.

Shop with Scrip- Chris McCarthy- Chris has one order this month for physical gift cards. She will place one order for Christmas on December 9. On November 27 (Thanksgiving) They will offer specials of higher percentages. They can offer as much as 15-20%.

Treasurer's Report – Dick Warner (bb_treasurer@apexhighband.org)

See Financial report. We still have some outstanding payments to staff.

Sergeant at Arms Report –Indira Valencia (bb_saa@apexhighband.org)

2nd payments are due. So far she has received about 46. For the trip, 124 have committed with 16-19 chaperones, so 140 total. The buses hold 165. We now have a waiting list due to the number of people in a room. If we have 4 in a room, it keeps the cost down for all. The ratio of chaperones to students is 1:8. The students will have wristbands to get into their hotel rooms, they will have meal tickets and parkhopper passes.

If parents are taking their children with them in Orlando, they should be picked up on Wednesday morning. They will also have to sign a form to release them. It will be available at our next meeting.

Carnival Report:

We had 408 students under 18, so approximately 800 people assuming these kids each had one adult with them. Last year we had 327. We did not meet our goal of 500 students. Each Elementary school that advertised the carnival received \$100 for their music programs. We made money, but the total is still not known. A very approximate estimate is \$3500, which is a little less than last year. The reason for this is that we had more

expenses: gave more to schools, equipment rental, balloon artist was more.

Feedback: These were items mentioned and suggested in the order they came up.

Mr. Rowe and others liked the students performing at the open mic. The band performance of the show was decided at the last minute because we were waiting for stadium approval. Next year, maybe we will plan on performing the show, and then cancel if necessary. There were a lot of people in the stands to see the show.

Student expectations need to be clarified. Many students considered their responsibility to be their two hour shift, and then they were done. We need to make it clear that they need to stay the whole time through the clean up. The clean up process would go much faster with more help. They need to see it as a competition as far as commitment level. This is our fundraiser like other bands host competitions (which we are unable to do).

Games: had the most kids signed up to help in this area. However, the prize tent had no help and the volunteer had no break, even for the bathroom. Next year, we need to have someone wandering whose sole job it is to check on workers and ensure they have breaks.

Next year we could give the band students nametags with their volunteer slot and schedule on the tag. This could also serve as their meal ticket. It was suggested that the band students put in their order ahead of time to know which meal they would like. We could also consider having a student only window at the concession stand.

We ran out of pizza. This was somewhat intentional as we made more money on the other concessions. However, this is somewhat of a problem as cheese pizza was our only vegetarian meal option.

Need a volunteer to make coffee in the morning next year. We need more parent volunteers in general.

Registration went ok, except that even middle school kids who attended alone still need to have a parent release signature.

We need more volunteers in the food tent. There were supposed to be 14 adults, but there were only 8.

We need more people to help with planning, and divide the jobs up into small, concrete jobs so that a small group of people is not overwhelmed with their tasks.

Note: This is a huge amount of work for \$3500.(It may need to be discussed if the money is worth the effort)

Next year, we need to get kids more involved by involving the section leaders in the carnival planning. They can help with communication and getting info out.

Dawn Gawldi had vendors and volunteers, and was trying to communicate with section leaders. These jobs were too much for one person. Next year the volunteer coordinator could be divided into one for adults, and one for students.

We can develop an organizational chart of what is needed.

Kickoff meeting- We need to push the carnival, and even at the spring banquet. Freshman parents did not know about the scope of the carnival. It was suggested that we show photos of the carnival at that meeting. (we did not want to overwhelm parents at this first meeting, so we did not stress the carnival this past year)

Texting section leaders was an effective means of communication with them.

Sign up slots need to include subs and floaters.

It would be good to get band student feedback, maybe we could email Mr. Rowe a ½ sheet survey. If we do the performance again, it would be helpful to have rehearsals the week before the carnival.

Truck on the field made deep ruts in the soccer practice field. Mr. Phillips was notified.

Students performed the Star Spangled Banner to begin the carnival, however, then there was a delay for them to put away their instruments and report to their volunteer duties. Originally, the National Anthem was done because it was the only time the students were playing at the carnival. If they do their show at the end, maybe we could not play at the beginning.

Mr. Jackson with hand drums was a big hit.

Rock Climbing wall cost \$1200. Maybe we don't need this. Not that many kids can participate in it. We also don't need the colossal slide. That would save some money. Also don't need skee ball. Other alternatives to consider: Zorb balls (where you get inside the ball and roll) and Outdoor Laser Tag.

Sponsors sought us out this year: Primrose and Vision Martial Arts.

We had a liaison with the 6 elementary schools. It would be good to give the schools a checklist and timeline.

We should immediately change the carnival tab on the website to say 2015 carnival and add photos of this year's carnival. We could also bring up photos at different times during the year.

We are losing our graphic designer (senior parent). We could re-use the logo.

Parent involvement needs to be better: Schools that do competitions require parents to participate.

Things suggested for improved parent communication:

- film video with band kids and parents about why they enjoy band. This could be on the website.
- Photo clips of band season- camp, competitions, games, parades, carnival
- Host a meet and greet with new parents that is very informal, and does not appear "cliquey"
- An explanation of different volunteer commitments, eg. What does pit crew do?
- Committees with photos: senior night, banquet, pit crew, props, etc.
- There is a Wiki for every committee
- Include booster meetings on the calendar handed out at the kickoff meeting.
- On the online registration, have them click where they would be interested in volunteering.

Mr. Rowe noted that in general it's the 80/20 rule, where 20% of the people do 80% of the work.