

***Band Booster Meeting Minutes***  
Thursday March 5, 2020, 6:00  
Room 37, Middletown Middle School  
**Facebook: Middletown Band Boosters**  
**Website: [band.middletownusd.org](http://band.middletownusd.org)**  
**email: [middletownbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:middletownbandboosters@gmail.com)**

1. **Call to Order.** 6:05pm/ Introduction (Helena Welsh -Interim VP, Cindy Leonard – Interim President via phone, David Leonard – interim secretary, Greg Rodgers – Bond Oversight rep) - . Sign in

All others names can be found on the sign in sheet

## 2. **Comments on Positions and By Laws:**

Comments from Site Principals: Mr. Roderick stated the importance of Treasurer to not be signer on checks and two signers needed for all checks. \*Petty cash was discussed (change is needed for fundraisers like bake sales). Mrs. Sabatier mentioned that MMS writes a check to the bank across the street so there is alignment between the petty cash used, and the amount that is in the till at the beginning of an event.

Comments from Band Booster Parents: Voluntary contribution to go towards transportation to events, and to meet other financial needs (uniforms, additional band equipment, registration fees for competitions, senior gifts, etc...) \$50 is what people were leaning toward at the February meeting.  
Add “and have passed MUSD’s volunteer clearance” to the chaperone approval under Article X Chaperone Committee b.

## 3. **Elections**

Cindy Leonard is the Interim President.

Helena Welsh is the Interim Vice-President

David Leonard is the Interim Secretary.

Ben Hittle is the Interim Treasurer

Greg Rodgers was nominated as the Bond Oversight representative. He has contacted Larry Allen to let him know.

Helena Welsh is the Interim VP, and will be a Cobb liason to PTO.

Heather Ochs - MMS Rep (CVE rep?)

Lisa Corsetti MC Rep

Elections for positions (which will run until Spring 2021):

Helena nominated David Leonard to be Secretary and for Cindy Leonard to be president.

Colette Milliman was nominated to be the treasurer.

Nikki Sabatier nominated Helena Welsh to be the Vice-President.

Helena also nominated Greg Rodgers to be our Bond Oversight representative.

Greg reached out to Larry Allen, and is waiting to hear back.

Nominations were voted on.  
All in favor: 13. All opposed: 0  
Motion passed 13 – 0  
All elected positions will be until spring of 2021.

#### **4. Discussion of meeting dates:**

Monthly meeting dates on Thursdays at 6:00.  
This works for everyone here.

It was suggested that we have our next Boosters meetings on:  
Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:00 Room 37  
Thursday, May 7

#### **5. Discussion of issues to bring to School Board meeting on April 15:**

##### **Communicate issues/challenges**

Discuss the posting of the band stipend position. With the stipend, we could encourage Victor Hall to apply right now.

**Nikki has sent a request for the stipend position to both Superintendent Miller and Heather (CBO). She's still waiting to hear back.**

There is only one high school band, but there should be additional types of band (jazz, ensemble, etc...)

8th grade is a major loss of music students (due to a single elective schedule). This student loss results in a very small high school band. Leadership class has a major impact on this loss of students, and the tutorial class (which is there to support students who are struggling) also impacts band enrollment.

Discussion of the band moving from room 37 to room 1 which is bigger and has a new roof. Dave Miller is working with Mike Morris to purchase soundproofing (actually decibel-reducing panels) for this room.

The Bond has a band room slated to be built, but it's not likely to be done for years. Greg Rodgers said he would be willing to be part of the bond oversight committee. It is possible there is something band related in Phase 2.

It was suggested that bringing these issues into the LCAP, which is a public document, and is the primary budgetary document. It is aligned with School Site Council Site Plans. The LCAP is required to get parent input, and is something we need to pursue. Patricia will be meeting with Dave Miller and Union rep. regarding schedule

David has a potential petition to present to the school board regarding the LCAP and parent support for the band program. (*see this draft at the bottom of meeting minutes*) Perhaps this is what we can present in April at the school board meeting, as well as having the band play one song for them.

Action: We'll be working on refining the language for presentation to the board in April. Band will be performing at the April 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Patricia and a Union Rep from MTA will be going to meet with Superintendent Dave Miller regarding many of these issues.

**6. Vote on parent letter to send home.** Any changes needed? Does everyone agree that \$50 is appropriate for this letter?

The only changes to the parent letter is to get rid of the word interim. We can also add Please make your check out to Middletown Band Boosters. Your child can turn your donation in to the MHS office.

Helena will be getting a PO Box set up for us in Middletown. We should also add some encouragement to have Booster parents get the MUSD volunteer clearance done. We meet every first Thursday in room 37 on the Middletown Campus.

Vote on the favorite design that has been created from Konoctees. Should we send a parent letter home for kids to order shirts? We're going to wait for next year on the tshirts.

**All MHS students have a t-shirt. Sweatshirt can be ordered and paid by parents.**

-order High School shirts first, then the other schools with appropriate color and design. (One unified logo for elementary with different color shirts?) **Patricia will be sharing the different logos and getting votes from MHS band students. Boosters voted as follows. The students will be wearing them, so we should give them the most significant votes.**

**Option 1 received 2 votes. Option 2 received 2 votes. Option 3 received 7 votes. Option 4 received 3 votes.**

**7. Award for Seniors from our Boosters** - Patricia would like to award the Seniors who have participated all four years of High School. Total number of seniors is 7 this year. One of them took a semester off. Does taking a semester off due to sports disqualify them?

Some student input from students indicated that a plaque and a blanket wasn't as significant as the cords and the letters.

-See attached budget for costs of senior awards. Keep in mind delivery might be 2 weeks. Senior awards were a priority. The plaque, blankets and t-shirts were not as important. The money will be used for cords, letters (and maybe blankets).

-In the future we could offer a band scholarship.

-What is the criteria for our students to "letter"?

All four years as a commitment? Some kids could letter in their freshman year depending on the criteria. If a student participated in honor band or a solo ensemble. Lettering should mean going above and beyond. Just showing up each year would be a bare minimum. Some students have no choice due to sports. They could have left, but they stuck with it. Patricia will try to outline this clearly. Criteria could stay in the band handbook.

**8. Upcoming events:**

-Solo/ ensemble at Chico State (February 8) - successfully completed. One of the High School students will moving on to the State Competition in May at Sacramento.

- Mendo Lake Honor Band (March 27/28)* - A Junior Band and a Senior Band are offered. Many were nominated from MMS and MHS.
- School Board April 15, 6:00* MHS Present petition and band plays a song
- Elementary Schools will be April 30 in the Multi-Use on the Middletown Campus
- Spring Concerts - Tuesday June 2 evening. (Sell baked goods as fundraiser) Sell t-shirts or some other logo item?
- Senior Award Night (May 28 at Tallman Gym)*
- Fall 2020 MMS Band Camp*

## **9. Fundraising:**

-We need to set up a bank account. Which bank? WestAmerica for convenience in Middletown? Redwood Credit Union because they have good rates (and they might give us some funds?) Cindy is looking into donations from RCU. No fee once we become 501c3

Discussion ensued about opening a bank account. Options were discussed (West America, Redwood Credit Union, Tri-Counties Bank). Cost was discussed (there will be a cost until we are a 501c3. )

Cindy will put together a simple spreadsheet covering costs for each. Proximity to the treasurer was something that was mentioned as important.

Signers for the account: Upwards of 3 signers might be a good idea given some people are out of town. Patricia should not be a signer due to a conflict of interest. Cindy Leonard, Colette Milliman, and Helena Welsh should be signers. Treasurer can be the signer given that there are always two signers on every check.

-We need to get a P.O. Box Band PO box would be a good idea in case spending needs to take place in the summer.

-Band booster email address is now: [middletownbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:middletownbandboosters@gmail.com)

-discussion of current instrument needs (repairs)

-discussion of current uniforms (elementary, middle and high school)

Bake sales, donation jars at band events/talent shows are additional ways to make ongoing contributions to our program to support our students.

## **10. Adjourn at: 7:25 pm**

**Next meeting on April 2, 2020**

**Everyone is encouraged to join our Facebook page.**

**Meeting minutes will be posted on the band website (see info at top of first page)**

## **Text of Draft Petition that David created:**

To Whom it May Concern (School Site Councils, MUSD School Board Members, the MUSD Superintendent, School Site Administrators and families),

As stakeholders of the Middletown Unified School District, the families of the Middletown Band Boosters are hereby submitting input to be considered for the Local Control Area Plan (LCAP). We know this plan is updated and revised annually. We feel that there are some important ways that our band program would benefit from further growth and support, and we feel it should be prioritized in the LCAP because of the potential costs related to staffing. We also feel that the program has reached a stage of expansion now that it spans seven grade levels and five different school sites within the district.

We are proud and honored to have Patricia Jekel as our band leader. She has done an excellent job of restoring our band program from its non-existent status a decade ago, to a program that now spans 5th - 12th grades. The program's restoration into the High School has brought a dynamic level of growth and development to our students, and the music that they play is exceptional. This fabulous growth has also resulted in Patricia Jekel being stretched to a point where we, and she, feel there's need for additional music support. Obviously a hiring decision of this nature is something we have little power over, but the LCAP is a fiscal document that represents priorities of the district, and the stakeholders therein.

As a means of continuing the growth and development of our musicians young and old, we would really like to see some additional band electives being offered, including smaller jazz and ensemble band opportunities. These opportunities are not likely to happen with Mrs. Jekel having to travel to all five school sites. Zero period opportunities for classes like this are impacted by sports conditioning, and traveling sports teams, which are equally important, but provide difficult scheduling obstacles to overcome. The addition of a strictly elementary level music position would free up some of Mrs. Jekel's time to expand into some of these areas. This additional position could also conceivably help bring in late start band students (those who find an interest in band in the Middle and High Schools, but fail to take advantage of classes offered at the elementary level).

More reasons for elementary position would strengthen our push here....Deeper level of instruction at the 5th grade level. Perhaps a music literacy class using recorder at the 4th grade level.

Please see the attached petition of names from all of the school sites.