

Draft Band Booster Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 11, 2020, 5:30

Room 37, Middletown Middle School

Facebook: Middletown Band Boosters

Website: band.middletownusd.org

1. Call to Order/ Introduction. Sign in (21 people present)

Patricia shared:

Purpose and role of Band booster club.

Volunteer - Help at concerts, events, field trips,

Administrative/Organizational help

Advocate for music education and strong band program in our schools

Tell your principal

Letters, calls, Board meetings....BE VOCAL!

Goals of today's meeting:

1. Create a Band Boosters Club.

2. Determine a day of week/time for future boosters meeting. (Thursdays at 6 pm was proposed, and set dates of future meetings.

2. Establish Interim Positions and By Laws

3. Communicate issues/challenges

(7th year of the band program).

Patricia explained that this is a two person job. The Elementary position needs to be expanded, and it needs to be more frequent. Beginners should only be able to begin later (given the fact that there is only one teacher, there's no beginner opportunities beyond Elementary School.

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.

The current room takes place in is insufficient. It's too loud, there are no practice rooms, and the band is limited to only 30 students (because that is how many fit in the current room). There is limited storage space. The room is not soundproofed. All other schools within the county have an appropriate band room.

Senior Awards need to be discussed too.

3. Review of potential by-laws. Approval at April meeting

The draft of the positions in a Boosters Club were introduced (President, VP, VP of Logistics, Secretary and Treasurer).

The Bylaws were also discussed, specifically having a voluntary contribution to go towards transportation to events, and to meet other financial needs (uniforms, additional band equipment, registration fees for competitions, etc...) Is \$50 sufficient, \$100 per family?

*Petty cash was discussed (change is needed for fundraisers like bake sales). Nikki Sabatier mentioned that MMS writes a check to the bank across the street so their is alignment between the petty cash used, and the amount that is in the till at the beginning of an event.

A copy of an example of bylaws was shared and discussed. Some concerns regarding volunteer clearances

Donation/fees were discussed for sports. One example that was used was the \$75 sod donation to help pay for the cost of maintaining the sod. There's also a \$100 fee/donation to participate. The sum total for baseball was estimated to be \$175.

4. Election of **Interim** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, liaison for each school site with PTO/PTSO, Bond oversight comm.

Nikki Sabatier nominated Cindy Leonard to be the Interim President.

David Leonard was nominated as the Interim Secretary.

Greg Rodgers was nominated as the Bond Oversight representative.

Helena Welsh was nominated as the Interim VP, and will be a Cobb liason to PTO.

Heather Ochs - MMS Rep

Lisa MC Rep

1. Duration of interim positions will be till election in April

5. Discussion of potential meeting dates:

Monthly meeting dates were suggested so the Boosters program doesn't lose momentum. It was recommended that Thursdays might be a better night than Tuesdays.

March School Board meeting is on March 11th. It was suggested that we have our next Boosters meeting on:

Thursday, March the 5th at 6pm Room 37

Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:00 Room 37

5. Discussion of issues to bring to School Board meeting March 13:

A. growing pains for our growing band! We need an additional band director for the elementary schools. (perhaps use stipend or getting a grant to hire Victor Hall or having the Band Boosters raise money for a CVE general music instructor?) We want to include 4th/5th grade, but not possible with 1 instructor.

B. Solutions are still needed for the MMS schedule conflicts

C. Facilities issues (hearing loss for Patricia and students)

It was suggested that these concerns be brought to the March Board meeting.

It was also suggested that these concerns be shared via email, and ask for them to be placed on the agenda on the March board meeting so that the board can actually respond to our concerns.

Patricia feels that these issues are paramount to the success and continuation of the program. The band room issue is really significant in terms of the damage that is happening to her hearing, and that of our students.

The Bond has a band room slated to be built, but it's not likely to be done for years. In the short term, getting sound proofing done in the current band room should be our highest priority. This is something that was requested last year at a board meeting, and nothing has yet been done.

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.

Cindy spoke to Dave Miller (interim Superintendent) about the Bond Oversight committee. It's suggested that someone from our Booster group become part of this committee. Greg Rodgers said he would be willing to be part of that committee.

Helena mentioned getting additional support for Patricia. There are stipends for a Performing Arts Coach. One potential solution is to offer a local person (Victor) to offer percussion lessons. It's possible that our current PTOs can help support this process on a budgetary level. We cannot just offer this to Victor. The position would have to be offered to everyone, and Victor can apply, along with others.

Master schedule was discussed for electives. Music concerns were a challenge last year. Ms. Sabatier got creative with the Middle School schedule. An additional itinerant teacher for the Elementary School would help to offer a schedule that will work. Sports conditioning takes place during HS band, which means that Varsity athletes take the semester off

during football season. Baseball leave the second half of the year. Communicating with coaches and principals about the desire to have students in both band and sports. There are work arounds, but all of us need to be more vocal to find solutions. The conflicts with sports make a zero period difficult.

6. Upcoming events:

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

- Mendo Lake Honor Band (March 27/28) - A Junior Band and a Senior Band are offered. Many were nominated from MMS and MHS.

- Lower Lake Master Class - Conflict with the date for Patricia.

- Spring Concerts - Tuesday June 2 evening.

- Fall 2020 MMS Band Camp

- 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?

7. Fundraising:

- analysis of current funding

- 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. PTOs at each school need to have a liaison from the boosters.

8. Adjourn at:6:43 pm

Everyone is encouraged to join our Facebook page. Meeting minutes will be posted on the band website (see info at top of first page)

Next meeting on March 5th at 6 pm.