

TKOB – Band Parents Association

General Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting started at 7:35pm

Director's Report:

- We are still doing virtual Marching Band. We have a Google Drive to put all the video recordings. We need all the students to upload their videos. The goal is to have every single student participating. Melissa's nephew is starting to put everything together and should have it soon.
- Another piece of music picked by the Seniors has been given out. "I Feel It".
- Melissa has been communicating with Ms. Keiller. They are not sure if they can play in class because of the wind instruments. The school is not comfortable playing in school. There are studies being done, but they are still not comfortable. There are protective covers, but they still need to be ordered.
- In the meantime, they are starting to think about indoor percussion. Since wind instruments are not involved, they can put something together in the next couple of weeks maybe outdoors since the weather is nice. Maybe once a week for two hours. Starting to think about what precautions will be taken.
- The governor signed an executive order for indoor sports. We don't know how Old Bridge school will react since it is relatively new.
- Question from Tracey Paul: What is going on with front ensemble? There haven't been any practices since September. Only video assignments have been given. They moved Monday practices to Wednesday to accommodate the techs, but none have shown up.
 - Melissa: I have been seeing the techs and students interacting, going back and forth. But I will look into it.
- Question from Kerryann Silvestri: Is there anything we can do collectively to make sure we aren't overlooked? Not that Melissa is not advocating for band. But is there something else we, as parents, can do to help?
 - Melissa: It seems like Middle school and High school levels are trying to get indoor started because the weather is getting better. We have been on hold because of the wind instruments. So now we can concentrate on Indoor percussion. We are compiling everything in order to start in a week or two. With marching band, we were nervous with the wind instruments and didn't think it was safe. For indoor percussion, we don't know if it will be competitive or fun. Maybe something fun and outdoors so they can get together.
- Question from William Walsh: Anything with regard to winter guard?
 - Melissa: We will now be pushing for color guard. Don't know if you heard, but Jeremy will not be joining for this year. He needed a year off. Ryan will be replacing him as the director. A discussion needs to happen with Ryan to see if he would be comfortable working with the students and in-person rehearsals as well as his availability since he attends Rutgers. If not, there are other options, other people to help.

- Question from Al Wester: Did you get to see David (Neilson)'s Facebook post about the University of Maryland band? They are not playing at football games, but playing in a pod environment. They play 30-45 minutes and take a break for 5 minutes to "clear the air". Then play for another session. They have two masks. First mask has a slit to play the instrument, the second mask is used over the first mask when not playing.
 - Melissa: No, I have not seen the post. Even with that sort of slit in the mask, air stills comes out of the mouthpiece and instrument. Still not comfortable with wind instruments. God forbid one of the students get sick, although you can catch it anywhere. I'm just not comfortable. The school is not comfortable either.
- Question from Julie Formica: Have you seen the instrument covers from Seavine?
 - Melissa: I'm not opposed to start marching band in the spring. We will need to look into protective gear since this may be going on longer.
- Question from Noella Alvarez: Since I'm a sophomore, will we be getting lettered?
 - Melissa: Haven't asked the question yet. It depends on if sports are getting letters. If they are, then I'm sure we will. If they are participating, the students will get lettered. But they have to attend meetings, put in videos, participate in virtual performances. We are in the same boat as sports. I will ask the question. You are not the first to ask.
 - Noella Alvarez: The saxophones have been meeting weekly.
- Julie Formica: Shared Seavine website with bell covers and woodwind instrument covers.
 - Melissa: Has seen flutes have face shields. Air comes out of the keys and bottom, most is through the mouthpiece. Should look into that since we don't know how long this will last. There has been talk about plexiglass dividers in the classroom.
- Question from Iman Diab: The marching band season is pretty much over. Can we put all our energy into indoor percussion? The executive order allows high risk sports to continue, I don't want us to be overlooked. As parents, we must get administration to hear us.
 - Melissa: We don't have wind instruments to worry about. I don't think we will get any resistance. We can make the kids space out. If they let all indoor sports play, we should too.

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Motioned by: Donald Bennett

Seconded by: Al Wester

Minutes: Approved

Treasurer's Report:

Motioned by: Kerryann Silvestri

Seconded by: Karima Alvarez

Report: Approved

Committee Reports/General Fundraising:

- Membership: Tracey Paul – we have 25 families

- Sweetheart Super 50/50: Winners will be drawn on Valentine's Day. It will be a Facebook live drawing.
- Tricky Tray Spring 2021: Date TBD
 - We need a venue, not too expensive.
 - We need volunteers to help with solicitation of businesses for donations.
 - Disney Park hopper tickets – Disney is not doing them right now.

Old Business:

- Clothing Drive: Rosie DeSimon has not heard back from the company yet.
- Tour shirts have been ordered. We had 105 shirts. The owner is giving us extra shirts for Melissa to promote the band.

New Business:

- We still need committee chairs
- We need tricky tray volunteers

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm

Motioned by Donna Tropea

Seconded by Tracey Paul

Next meeting: November 11 at 6:30pm via Zoom