



## General Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting using Zoom

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Meeting started at 7:32pm*

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Motioned by: Al Wester

Seconded by: Donna Tropea

Minutes: Approved

### Director's Report:

- Melissa was out with Covid last week, but now is back. The whole family got it.
- An email went out to students who are wind players about the winter concert. Administration feels it is too risky to have 50 students on stage unmasked for 30 minutes or more. We are going to cancel that concert. There are two options: Postpone it or cancel. It is tough decision because the students don't want to keep playing the same music over and over again for the next month and a half. The students want to play other stuff and move on. We will cancel and include that music in the spring concert. If we postponed until February, we would need to play the same music over and over again. We have some new music for spring. It will be more like a pop concert. We have Beatles, Elton John, Billy Joel. It will be a super uplifting concert.
- The orchestra will be performing next Thursday. It is not open to the public. There are only 17 students in the orchestra currently and they can be fully masked during the performance. So we didn't need to cancel it. It is only open to two family members per child.
- The Band banquet is postponed until February 24<sup>th</sup>. Administration really urged me to postpone and I heard from a lot of parents that had concerns about not being able to be reimbursed the \$40 per person if they got Covid. We're hoping it will look a lot better in February and it won't be as risky.
- For Indoor Percussion and Winter Guard, we just started an online fundraiser on Monday. Winter guard will start it on Saturday. It's like a Go Fund Me. We're trying something new. This company collects the money for us and it's an 85% profit for the members. So we're testing it out with a smaller pool of members to see how well it does just via social media. Family and friends that live far away can donate to the cause. If it works well, I'm hoping to implement it for Marching Band because I think it is an easy way for the kids to get funds for their fees and it is not something that requires a lot of legwork for any of us. They are just going to send me a check at the end for how much each individual kid makes.
- Indoor percussion and Winter guard are moving along nicely. Considering we've had some roadblocks for students being out quarantining and Covid. We are doing the best we can and just moving forward. They have show material done and both groups have

their uniforms that will hopefully be here the day before their performance. Usually we don't have them before their first performance, but the company is saying 2/11.

- Question from Julie Formica: Are they digitally printed or like the ones from last year or two years ago?
  - Melissa Thatcher: They are a custom costume. Not digital.
- Question from Julie Formica: If we have to alter it, there is going to be more to it than just cutting the legs on the pants?
  - Melissa Thatcher: It is a very involved uniform. The color guard is even more involved.
  - Donna Gillick: I can't promise them to be done in one day. I'm good, but not that good.
  - Melissa Thatcher: It's all good! They were measured to the kid's size so hopefully the company did a great job. I sent in the exact measurements. They didn't ask me to guess which size they were and they were supposed to tailor it to each individual kid. Hopefully, the uniforms will come in and they can wear them for their first show
- Winter guard the same thing. Their first performance is 2/26. I believe they will have their uniforms as well.
- Both their floors have been ordered. We ordered a custom floor to fit both their show themes. They should be ready in 3-4 weeks from what the company tells me.
- Meeting for parents about the Dayton, OH trip soon. So be on the lookout for that. There are a lot of new parents to the organization and it is a very involved organization especially if we are talking about going out to Dayton. It is a 12 hour trip for us and competing in the World Championships. There's a lot involved with that and I want to make sure all of your questions are answered. I know there is a possibility of parents going on this trip and you're not sure what it all entails. I want to provide you with as much information as possible.
- Question from Aruna Sangani: For the banquet, do kids have to pay \$40 too or just the parents?
  - Melissa Thatcher: The students have to pay \$40 this year. Julie, Was it two years ago we paid for the kids?
  - Julie Formica/Al Wester: It was pre-covid year. 2019 season. It was only that year that we paid. One of the parents motioned and it passed. It is a large expense for a night out for the band parent association so a parent motioned and it was passed. No one mentioned anything about it this year. It is a large expense for something that is not mandatory.
  - Melissa Thatcher: I know \$40 is not a small expense for dinner. But to pay for every student, we are talking about \$1000 for a dinner, where the money could buy a piece of equipment for a student to play on for 10 years. Thinking that way, equipment would be more valuable than a night out.
- Question from Al Wester: Was it ever raised to you to put in an order for the props?
  - Melissa Thatcher: No. I can order them tomorrow.
  - Al Wester: Talk to Chris about the exact item. We had a site that had those exact items in stock. We're also talking about building the flame pits that go into the back scaffolding unit so we can turn it into a makeshift cave by putting fabric around it.
  - Melissa Thatcher: I'd like to get that going as soon as possible now that I'm done with the uniforms and floor.

- Al Wester: Ask Chris if he has the exact item. Sam should be back from his trip if you can't find it. He may have it.
- Question from Tracey Paul: Did you ever find that piece you were looking for, scaffolding?
  - Al Wester/Melissa Thatcher: No. We have one more place to look. It is possible a teacher took it upon themselves to clean out the backstage after the show and it's possible it got tossed.
- Melissa is still looking for a volunteer nurse for the Dayton, OH trip. If we don't find a nurse, it costs \$4000-\$5000 to hire one for the trip. I'm trying to avoid that cost. It is a five day trip. We leave on a Wednesday and come back on a Sunday. It is over Spring break.
- Question from Kerryann Silvestri: Do you need a nurse in general because it is out of state or is it based on specific needs a parent could meet?
  - Melissa Thatcher: The only reason that we WOULDN'T need a nurse is if none of the kids needed NO medication or if the parent of the child needing medication was with us the entire time. But that never happens so I just say all overnight trips, I need a nurse. Day trips depends on if a student has a medical condition that would require a nurse to be there that can't be without a nurse on a bus. When we get to the school, there are EMT's or medical assistance there at the school.
- NJMBDA has reached out to us to host the State Championships as a secondary site for next marching band season. TCNJ hosted last year, but they had to turn down a lot of bands because of capacity. We would host our class i.e. all AAA bands. The following year State Championships will be hosted at another school. However, we would host that school's show. For example, the year after, if South Brunswick hosted State Championships, we would get South Brunswick's home show. Essentially, every year we would host two shows: One US Bands' show and one NJMBDA show.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Motioned by: Lisa Brennan

Seconded by: Kerryann Silvestri

Report: Approved

#### Committee Reports/General Fundraising:

- Membership:
  - No new members
- Spiritwear – Kerryann:
  - Personalized sweatshirts were supposed to be dropped off last week, they were not. I believe it was weather related, but have not heard back this week.
  - Thank you for patient! Hoping to get everything this week.
- Tricky Tray – Kerryann:
  - Back to the 80's theme tricky tray is on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - We have all our licenses. Thank you Donna!
  - Flyer is ready and donation letter has been approved by Julie.
  - Next is ticket prices we have to work on.
  - Already people reaching out with donations through a Facebook post I made. Donations have been put in Sandburg's band room.

- After the letter is finalized a SignUp Genius will have a list of businesses in the past who have donated. I will need help with getting donations. Julie said she is good with the email solicitation.
- Julie Formica: One thing with the flyer, the license number is not listed on there. We have always put the license number on the flyer. So that needs to be added.
- Question from Donna Tropea: If we have things to donate, where do we bring them?
  - Kerryann Silvestri: I'm always at the Burg (Sandburg Middle School). I can pick them up and bring them to work.
  - Tracey Paul: You can drop it off at my house and I can bring to practice and give it to AJ.
- Question from Kerryann Silvestri: What have you done about ticket prices in the past?
  - Tracey Paul: In the binder I gave you, there are previous flyers with ticket prices. It's been a long time. If not, I have it in some of the paperwork I have to give to you
  - Donna Tropea: Me too. I might have some stuff in the Treasurer boxes I have.
- When it gets closer, we will have a SignUp Genius for desserts because the flyer said coffee and dessert is included.
- Question from Tracey Paul: Before the clothing drive 1/29, is there a way to get the pocketbooks out of the loft? There are four totes.
  - Kerryann Silvestri: I can grab them.
- Joe Corbes Fundraiser – Rosie DeSimon.
  - 75% of the profits will go towards the student account. 25% towards the indoor program.
  - It wasn't that great. Not many people participated. There are a couple more days. Online is closed, but you can get back to me with orders.
- Clothing Drive is 1/29 Door 5 at the GNC 12pm – 3pm.
  - For money to count towards the student account, the requirement is four bags of clothes.

#### Old Business:

- Bylaw's review: We have a committee and we are meeting next week. We have to write in the Bylaws that Indoor percussion and Winter guard joining TKOB and also it just needs to be reviewed.

#### New Business:

- Krispy Kreme: We got approval.
  - There are two programs: Presale, like we did in the fall, and they also have a virtual dozen. For the digital dozen, you buy a gift card for a dozen donuts for \$6.50 and you sell them for \$13. We could donate some to the Tricky Tray. We will also be doing the presale. It will be split 75% to the student account, 25% for the indoor program. We are only going to do a two week lead time for the orders. Going to start around 2/1 and delivery around 2/18. Want to have it delivered after the first home show and not worry about handing out donuts.
- Lisa Brennan: Idea for a fundraiser – *The Nerds* band concert
  - Cost: \$3000 for weeknight Monday – Thursday. \$4000-\$5500 Friday or Saturday. \$3500 for Sunday.

- Have only six weekend dates left for 2022.
- Can be an outdoor event but they have electronic requirements and a tent requirement to cover their equipment. It is a rain or shine event.
- 120 minutes show. Can be broken down into two one-hour segments or three 40-minute segments. It can be paired with a tricky tray or games. It's just a fun night out.
- They advertise their event across all their social media platforms. If we did do something with them, it wouldn't be us posting.
- Their booking manager said if they plan in an area they usually don't play, they tend to draw bigger crowds.
- Question from Donna Tropea: Do they require a deposit and how much?
  - Lisa Brennan: yes, they require 50% upon signing nonrefundable.
  - Donna Tropea: Didn't Old Bridge host them at Cheesequake?
  - Kerryann Silvestri: Matawan had an outdoor afternoon thing on Halloween.
- Donna Tropea: Alcohol could be tricky with insurance, underage drinking.
- Lisa Brennan: It would have to be a 21 and over event.
- Question from Donna Tropea: Do they tell you how much you have to sell tickets for or is it open?
  - Lisa Brennan: No, what amount you sell tickets for is open.
- Lisa Brennan: I'm pretty sure you will draw a crowd. It's a matter of logistics. Where, when and how.
- Al Wester: Most of our events are usually parents. None of the kids come to our events.
- Kerryann Silvestri: I wonder how much it would cost to rent Fiore, used to be Abyss.
- Tracey Paul: Starland was \$5000 to rent out for a Sweet Sixteen.
- Al Wester: Melissa, does Chris know anyone at Starland?
  - Melissa: I can see if he knows anyone there.
- Nomination Committee: Next month we will be forming a committee for nominations for the officer positions.
- Tech gifts: Still collecting \$10 per family for tech gifts. They are for the techs during marching season. Melissa gives those out during the banquet.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm*

Motioned by: Donna Gillick

Seconded by: Lisa Brennan

*Next meeting: Wednesday, 2/9 at 7:30pm Depending on Covid numbers whether it will be Zoom or at the Grade Nine Center band room*