

BHS Band Booster Association Meeting

March 12, 2013

A meeting of the Buckhorn High School Band Boosters was held on March 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Band room. Mike Keel, President, presided over the meeting.

I. General Announcements – Mike Keel

A. Mike Keel reported that minutes from the February 12, 2013 booster meeting were emailed and parents voted to approve as submitted. Meeting minutes are posted on the BHS band website under the Parents tab in Documents.

II. Financial Report – Anne Harris read the balance of the general band account. The profit for the band, so far this school year, was read. The amount of money marked as student credits was given. The school board will be billing the band for the school buses in the near future. There is no way to tell how much the bill will be for transportation, but it should be similar to last year. The budget for this year is on track with where we were last year. There is a large amount of overdue student fees from marching season and concert season. Mr. Souder said that next year the policy will be that you can't be in band if your fees are not paid. True hardships would be looked at individually and possibly be helped out by the band.

III. Officer Reports –

A. Marcia Anderson reported that the chili cook-off was a huge success. The total money earned that day was \$8,737.00 and the profit for the band was \$8,372.00. There were about 250 tickets sold that day, which was great considering it was cold and snowy. Some of the people who made this day so successful were; Event Chairwoman – Wanda Reed, Donation Committee – Sherry Raines and Tammy Mendoza, Advertising Committee – Rodney Clough, Table Committee – Eric Moton, Games Committee – Keith Armstrong, Food Committee – Cathy Barnes and Ed Martin. Everyone that came to the event liked it and wanted to come back next year. A great big thanks to Mr. Knight and Jackson Way Baptist Church for making the chili cook-off possible at such a great location.

The Nominating Committee has been busy calling all band parents this past month. The following is a list of nominees for all Booster Board positions; President – Mike Keel, 1st V. President – Marcia Anderson, 2nd V. President – Jennifer Edwards, Assistant 2nd V. President - Terrence Hamil and Wendy Pemberton, 3rd V. President – Wanda Reed, Wendy Pemberton and Julie Spee (considering whether she wants to run for the position), Secretary – Benita Moyers

and Cindy Ericsson, Treasurer – Phil Harris, Assistant Treasurer – Charlie Armstrong and Lisa Martin. All other nominations that anyone would like to be considered should be turned in by March 31st.

B. Phil Harris gave a power point presentation on the new fee structure and credits. The last two years the band has grown quickly, but when looking at how big the Middle School numbers of band students are the growth in the next few years will be much quicker. We need to start looking at how to run the band more like a business. It is not a little country band anymore. During the 1970's and 1980's the BHS band had around 40 members. Then, in the 1990's and 2000's there were about 60 members. In 2010, the band had grown to 80 members. In three decades we have doubled in size. At our current size we need to look sharp at competitions. Other bands our size don't have instruments that don't match.

Our area of the county is the next area of expected growth. The middle school band current numbers are; 8th grade – 52, 7th grade – 97, 6th grade – 121. The director, Ms. Parker, is a very stable instructor and has a great band program. Our band program has seen a 75% retention rate of 8th grade to 9th grade over the past several years, and if we maintain this rate, our growth will be enormous in terms of numbers and the need for revenue. It looks as though we could see an even higher retention rate this coming year and the need for instruments is great.

Instruments like the horns, baritones, tubas and percussion are typically school owned instruments and the students rent them from the band. They are expensive and not something students normally own. With this expected growth we will need to purchase many more instruments or students will not have an instrument to play. During our Christmas concert we had to use borrowed instruments and marching instruments so that everyone could participate in the concert.

Mr. Souder explained that we can fix old instruments, but eventually they don't respond and perform like they need to (like our current bari sax – it will play but is a constant struggle to maintain a good sound on). It would cost just as much to get an instrument like this overhauled as it would to purchase new. We simply need a lot of new instruments, not only for growing numbers but because so many are outdated. Sometimes we get instruments donated like the new keyboard stand and the drum set that were given to the band recently from anonymous donors. But we will have to buy many instruments in the next few years, so that every student that wants to be in band will have an instrument to play. We may need to purchase another marimba soon and replace percussion instruments. Once the growth plateaus, we will not have to purchase instruments as frequently. We currently have enough uniforms for 150 students in stock. The uniforms still look good and we shouldn't need to replace them for quite awhile. They are still in style and we can try and have more jackets made to match if we grow larger than 150 students. The white bibbers are always available to purchase. When Mr. Souder

came to Buckhorn all of the concession money went to parents. The next year it changed to the 70/30 split that we now use. Last year when we had to repair a sousaphone and fix 3 baritones it became apparent that the band can't be sustained on the current amount of profit that has been coming in from concessions.

There will also be a need for a 4th bus, probably beginning next school year, as the 3 buses we use currently are full. The equipment trailer we purchased is already full and there could be a need to purchase a 2nd trailer.

Phil then explained the fee structure. The plan is to lower fees and make it easier to pay the fees on time. The band will begin accepting electronic payments at the end of June to help make it easier for parents to pay fees. In exchange for lowering fees the band will implement "Fair Share Work Credits" so that the workload is more evenly distributed. This will also allow more parents to be involved with their child's band experience. Parents will also see the amount of work that goes into the band's success. If this causes a true hardship for a family then please talk to Mr. Souder. There have been parents who have volunteered to help another student by donating their money left over in their Charms account to pay for this student's fees. There was also questions asked about whether work credits might be able to be donated and the board will take this into consideration. All money left over in Charms will roll over to the next school year. Freshmen and anyone with no money left in Charms will owe the \$200 fee before they can march with the band. You cannot accumulate work credits for the next year. You must work 8 fair share credits or pay \$20 per fair share credit. The following are the changes as they appear in the by-laws.

"Band fees can be adjusted yearly based on prior years expenses and estimated expenses for the upcoming year. Fees for the upcoming year will be announced prior to the end of the current year to allow parents to make arrangements. Fall fees will be assessed in two payments. Payment one is 50% of the total fee and is due not later than the last day of June preceding the affected year. Payment two is 50% of the total fee and is due not later than the last day of July preceding the affected year. Additional students from the same family in band will be assessed fees at 50% of the regular rate. Spring fees are due by the end of the first nine week period in the spring semester. Failure to pay fees will result in limited student participation until fees owed are paid. Parents for whom this presents a true hardship should bring their hardship to the Band Director so that alternate arrangements can be made.

In addition to the monetary fees, each band member will be assessed a number of Fair Share Credits (FSC) to be worked off throughout the year. The number of FSCs required will be determined each year by the Executive Board. Additional students from the same family will be assessed FSCs at 50% of the normal amount. FSCs can be worked off in the concession stand during Varsity, JV and Freshman

football games, stadium cleanup, chaperoning home and away games, pulling the equipment trailer, equipment wrangling and other activities so designated by the Executive Board. FSCs can be purchased in lieu of work at a rate determined yearly by the Executive Board. At the end of the school year, any unworked FSCs will be treated as unpaid fees at the rate determined for that year. Parents for whom this presents a true hardship should bring their hardship to the Band Director so that alternate arrangements can be made.”

The BHS band booster officers’ fee structure will allow the 1st child’s fees and FSCs to be waived and all other children of a board member will be half of the regular fee and half of the FSCs and the board member’s work on the board counts as their fair share credit.

The work credits will be enforced by the board. At the end of the school year if you do not have 8 fair share work credits accounted for then you will be billed \$20 per fair share credit hour you lack and the student will not be allowed to sign up for band the next semester until it is paid.

The effects of the new fee structure to Color Guard were discussed. Color Guard is a part of the band. The band uses money for choreography, transportation, instructors, etc., all of which benefit the Color Guard. As a result, the Color Guard will also fall under the new fee structure and fair share credit system. There was a discussion about the possibility of the winter guard and indoor percussion eventually becoming their own independent organizations with their own boards.

This new fee structure and work credit system is still a work in progress. Mike has been looking at the way other bands run their organization all year. The beginning of the 2013-2014 school year will be the start of the new fee structure. The board thinks we have enough jobs for all parents to work off their “fair share work credits”, but we may adjust the number down if there are not enough jobs for everyone to work off their work credits.

Mike is sending out all of the changes to the By-laws via email. All of the changes made to the by-laws will be in italics. The board will be meeting to discuss all the concerns that have been or will be brought up. If you have questions or concerns please email Mike Keel and he will try and address individual concerns. At the April meeting there will be a vote for approving the By-laws and officer elections will also be held. Please remember to submit any nominations by the end of March.

Fruit sale money was due by March 15th.

Director’s remarks-

Mr. Souder thanked all of the board members for all of their hard work and dedication, especially Phil who put together the power point for the meeting and Marcia who has invested a lot of time this year to the band.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.