

TJ BAND BOOSTER MEETING

March 16, 2021/6:30 PM/Virtual Meeting via Zoom

ATTENDEES (partial list)

Steve Ballard, Lisa Barker, Anais B, Aditi C, Ely Chen, Sunghee Chon, Claire Chua, Susan Essman, Katharine Hansen, Mary Huaman, Ricardo Huaman, Michele Hyde, Val Kreider, Elaine Maag, Vagul M, Helen Miller, Nathanael T, Amy Yamashiro, Jennifer Zhuang

AGENDA

Call to Order and Welcome – Val Kreider

Approval of February 16 Meeting Minutes

UPDATES from Band Director—Steve Ballard

- Concurrent lessons are now happening at school; some groups are larger than others, and the trick is to make sure virtual students stay engaged.
- Students are doing a great job with carefulness and compliance with protective procedures.
- Musical PPE: waiting on woodwind bags; have bell covers and lanyards for masks. FCPS is supplying play-through masks, which have reportedly arrived at the warehouse. Mostly an added layer of protection, like the woodwind bags.
- Have begun signups for in-person activities, following an interest form to gather feedback about the schedule for curricular opportunities.
 - 27 students on the list; not enough for a full band, but there might be more signups before tomorrow. Would need about 15-20 more. Val: will send an email reminder tonight.
 - Have talked to Dr. Bonitatibus about the plan; she wanted to make sure we knew that being able to perform for an audience is not a given. (Has to do with the 250-person cap on attendance for events on school grounds—not her call.)
 - Where could we have a performance outdoors? Courtyard? Concerns about weather and acoustics.
- TJMC info: virtual meeting this Thursday; in-person outdoor meeting cancelled due to weather. This is not usual! But we can't move indoors.
- Pep band: first 8th period meeting tomorrow; normally all of TJMC performs at football games, but this spring it's a separate signup. May not be able to bring the band this Friday night (supposed to be cold and rainy), but we'll see. That decision will happen 48 hours in advance.
- Budget items related to this unusual season: we haven't raised as many funds as usual, but haven't spent as much, either; could have some money available for infrastructure purchases?
 - Tent canopies for rain cover: Need to research possibilities for durability, size/shape, and price. About \$1000 for tents, but it'd protect \$100,000 worth of pit equipment.
 - Generator: we have been borrowing from the Cox family, but it would be good to have our own. Need to research regulations: are students allowed to operate it? Where to store it? Can

we use a gas one? The battery-operated one was never sufficient, and now doesn't hold a charge at all.

--New instruments are still on the agenda, some brass, to be bought with donation funds.

- Val: With outdoor performances coming up, we could really use those tents. Could get into motion on research now, so they're available when we need them. Financially we're in good shape, with generous donations and fundraising. Half the income we usually get, but many fewer expenses.

--Any objections on tents? No.

--Volunteers to research options? Claire Chua will take that on.

QUESTIONS re: Curricular Band:

1.) How many students are present in person?

SWE: 12 on Tues, 10 Thurs

Symphonic Band: Three or four (six enrolled) on Tues, two on Thurs

Percussion: all virtual one day, two the other day

Symphonic Percussion: Three one day, two the other (five total in the class)

8th period: 10 or 12 for pep band, capped at 20.

Jazz: two in-person

2.) Amy Yamashiro asks: What is the deadline for solo & ensemble contest?

Mr. Ballard: It's going to be a little different this year; they're combining all three districts to be one event, which will be all virtual. It's taking a little longer to put together, so there's no signup yet. Price will be lower: around \$7 per performer.

--We do have our own recital option; Addison G has been preparing, and there may be more. 13 interested, so we might need to hold more than one event? May have 'auditions' to make sure they're prepared.

3.) Are we losing much money to the MySchoolBucks fees?

The fee that parents see is the exact amount that is ultimately paid; FCPS may budget for the MySchoolBucks fees, or there may not be any extraneous fees.

BAND COUNCIL UPDATES - Aditi C and Anais B

- Alumni lunch hangouts were successful! Two planned meeting dates have been completed, with a good turnout.
- Cross-ensemble partnerships in action: informal pairings between new members and more experienced players, strengthens community. Great to have a contact point for newbies/rookies who have questions about the program and/or TJ in general.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES:

- **Gift Cards/Shopping Cards**--Michele Hyde: We made \$50.65 last month and \$435.21 for the year to date. Represents over \$9000 in actual sales. Our cut is lower on some types of cards. Hoping to sell physical cards at in-person events, and trying some other strategies to increase amounts.
- **Jewelry**—Susan Essman: Planning to offer in-person sales at Thursday rehearsals, as well as the two performances. We can also take orders then, too. You can reach her by email at sessman02@gmail.com , or by text at 301-675-7387.
- **Spirit wear**—Ely Chen and Helen Miller: We have 23 orders (73 items), with sales totaling \$1,049.00! Purchasers can pick up outdoors, and that will mostly happen on March 23.
- **TJMC Show Shirts** – should be here March 18. Helen will try to have them ready for distribution on March 23 along with other spirit wear. Have bags with the band logo to put all the spirit wear in.
- **Fund Drive**—Lisa Barker: Did make over \$10,000, which was our goal.
- **License plate brackets**—Geeta Thapa: Still available.
- **TJMC extra gear**—Val Kreider: Invoices going out through Charms. Some funny things from older statements in Charms, but working to correct for people.

PayPal option for spirit wear items is more expensive than we'd anticipated (and more than we charged people this time). May need to revisit that in the future.

BUDGET UPDATE—Jennifer Zhuang

- Outlay this month included Dropbox subscription renewal.
- Income this month was very good. \$50 from gift/shopping cards, \$53 from jewelry. Spirit Wear – collected \$831.93 already. \$1000 donation from the AYCO Charitable Foundation.

TJMC UPDATES –Mr. Ballard

Homecoming pep rallies may interfere with rehearsal on Saturday, April 17th; may need to change location.

Uniform update—Val: April 10 was the intended uniform try-on and photography date; may need to adjust. Our parent photographers will include Katharine Hansen, Colin Harbison, and Ricardo Huaman.

TJMC questions:

- 1.) When is Homecoming? Per SGA, it's April 12-17.
- 2.) What to wear under uniforms--Val: section shirt, show shorts, joggers, hair bands for sleeves: Nathanael Taewodros will work to gather examples of the gear, and coordinate with student leadership to communicate info to students and parents.

3.) Mr. Ballard: Any initial feelings from parents about how we have been handling payment processes? How does MySchoolBucks (with some emails via Charms) compare to Charms alone, as far as ease of use?

Parents respond: easier to have incidentals paid, and easy for Mr. Ballard to get reports, through MySchoolBucks.

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

- April 20, 6:30 pm

March minutes are submitted by Susan Essman, with contributions from Anais B, Aditi Cr, and Helen Miller.

Links and Codes

Opt-in Directory and Volunteer Interest Form: <https://tinyurl.com/TJBandsDirectory2020>

Gift Card/Shopping Card Program enrollment code: 231LLC678861

Download the mobile app at www.raiseright.com, or go to GooglePlay or to Apple's App Store.

You may also shop at www.shopwithscrip.com.

Donations: www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1251587

Amazon Smile: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1819971>

Elden Street Tea Shop: www.eldenstreettea.com promo code TJBAND (online or in person)

Weird Brothers Coffee: Select *Thomas Jefferson High School Band Boosters* from the *Choose Your Charity Organization* dropdown menu at

https://www.weirdbrothers.com/store/p164/EOTH_Charitable_Blend.html.