

**MCHS Band Booster Meeting
July 6, 2017
MCHS Band Room**

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by the president at 6:15 pm.

The minutes for the June meeting were not available to be read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Approximately \$6,700 - \$7,000 in account
- Karen is pulling together end of fiscal year finances
- Karen will be stepping down as treasurer as of June 30th
- She will help transition with new treasurer. Looking to create new systems for expense reimbursements.
- Need new version of Quickbooks

MOTION: Lori Norman made motion to accept treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We understand that Jill Rowney asked if there are practice pads for elementary school students. She is going to require that all drummers provide their own drumsticks.

GUARD REPORT

- Color guard participated in clinic in Modesto. They did a great job!

OLD BUSINESS

- **MSO bake sale.** Made \$140. Got lots of great feedback from community.
- **End of year party.** Everyone had a great time. Thanks to Lisa for her hospitality!

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Focus for 2017-2018

- Discussion took place regarding letter submitted by Rod Fiester on July 5, 2017 (attached).
- A suggestion was made to raise rental fee in order to cover costs of repair. Suggested increase to \$40/year. (Gottschalks is \$25/month).
- Perhaps do a "sponsor an instrument" drive.

List of instruments from Gail Vanderslik

- Gail brought a number of percussion instruments for the band to use throughout the year. She has misc. older instruments for sale. She asked if the Boosters would want to purchase them from her. (Need to clarify

what is at Cathy's Valley school.) Need director to determine what is needed.

Funding music in Mariposa

- Group discussed forming an exploratory committee to conduct some basic research on music programs and potential funding streams.

Poker tournament

- Brainstormed ideas around a modified tournament. Considering alternate location that can save money and consolidate amount of effort needed for planning.
- Group will continue exploring idea. Considering November 11?
- Need to make decision on a date at the next meeting.

Calendar Forecast

Sept. 2	Labor Day Parade (band participation TBD)
Sept. 8	Home football game vs. Minarets (band participation TBD)
Sept. 23	Coulterville Coyote Howl parade (band participation TBD)
Sept. 29	Home football game vs. Oristimba (band participation TBD)
Fall	MSO
Oct 13	Home football game vs. Waterford (band participation TBD)
Oct. 14	Rotary Outhouse Races (Boosters)
Oct. 20	Home football game vs. Ripon Christian (band participation TBD)
Oct. 28	Selma Band Review (band participation TBD)
Nov. TBD	Veterans Day performance
Winter	MSO
Winter	Merry Mountain Christmas parade (band participation TBD)
TBD	Winter concert
March	Arts Night (band participation TBD)
March	Storytelling Festival (Boosters)
Spring	Raymond Parade (band participation TBD)
Spring	MSO
May 4?	Law Day (band participation TBD)
May 10	VFW Ladies Dinner
May 12	Bucking Bull (Boosters)
May 26	Rotary Art and Wine Festival (Boosters)
June	Spring concert
July	MSO

NEXT MEETING: August 3, 6-8pm at location TBD

MOTION was made by Kristina Rylands to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. It was seconded and passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted and prepared by Kristina Rylands, Vice President acting on behalf of Tina Dearing, Secretary.

MARIPOSA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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ROBIN HOPPER
Superintendent

CELESTE AZEVEDO
Principal



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July 5, 2017

Dear Grizzly Band members, parents, volunteers and Band Boosters:

As I return as the director of the Grizzly Band for the 2017/18 school year, I am instituting a new framework for operations that is intended to provide for increased student retention (we are starting the year with 13 students), greater student growth in musical execution, and to provide a structure that will make the full-time music position appealing and less daunting to a new music teacher taking charge once I retire (my intention is to retire at the end of the forthcoming school year). Additionally, the new framework will allow me to function in the aftermath of health events that have resulted in a diminished capacity to work beyond the contracted school day and school week, as well as a lessened ability to multitask while teaching. These changes have the approval of Mrs. Azevedo and were compulsory in my acceptance to, once again, conduct the MCHS Grizzly Band.

As you read these mandates, please, remain mindful of the aforementioned objectives. The mandates are not a rebuke of past practices by the Band Boosters or volunteers that have resulted in the many outstanding experiences that have been afforded Grizzly Band Students in recent years. These are simply needed adjustments to facilitate current realities and challenges that affect the Grizzly Band.

Mandates, Rationale and Resulting Actions

1. Students will not be involved in fundraising other than selling tickets for the Fall and Spring Concerts and turning in Pioneer Market receipts.
 - a. This allows the music classroom time to be dedicated solely to musical execution.
 - b. Mr. Fiester will not be able to participate in weekend/after-school fundraising functions and provide the mandatory supervision of the students.
 - c. Persistent fundraising has adversely affected student retention.
 - d. See recommendations regarding how fundraising can still continue on back page.
2. Other than visits for instrument maintenance and repair, Band Boosters and volunteers are asked to refrain from being in the Band Room during class time.
 - a. The conductor and students are unduly distracted from attaining musical goals when other activities are coincidentally being conducted in the classroom.
 - b. As the continued housing of Band Boosters' equipment in the Band Room would potentially necessitate booster visits during class time, it is requested that a different facility be found to store booster assets before the start of the 2017/18 school year.
3. Weekend and after school rehearsals and performances will be greatly curtailed.
 - a. Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and the Fall and Spring Concerts will be performed.
 - b. Participation at football games, the Labor Day Parade and the Selma Band Competition will be assessed at the beginning of the 2017/18 school year as determined by Mr. Fiester's health status.
4. Communication with Mr. Fiester regarding band issues will be conducted through his school email: rfiester@mcusd.org and the Facebook Members Only MCHS Band Page.
 - a. Facebook, Facebook Messenger, cell phone, home phone are reserved for non-school communication with my family, friends and for my wife's work.

Excellence in Education

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Recommendations for Band Boosters Instrument Needs

As I have discussed with several adult leaders, now is an excellent time to shore up and expand the instrument pool. While Ray Genung has kept instruments in excellent repair and condition, many of them are in need of new cases. There is a shortage of trumpets which may be a reason for a shortage of trumpeters at the high school level. Another plea to the community to donate instruments similar to the effort carried out eight years ago would certainly be helpful and prudent at this time. Emphasizing this area will certainly be a drawing card for a new director.

Fundraising

With the limitations placed on fundraising, I suggest that the Band Boosters consolidate and double down on major fundraisers. While the Marathon may not be possible under the current limitations to use students, the Fall Concert could be expanded to include a silent auction similar to that offered at the Marathon with an emphasis on trends of the Holiday Season. The captive audience is greater than that of the Marathon, so it's reasonable to assume that the participation and profit may be greater in that sector of fundraising. Casino Night (is expansion here reasonable?), a Letter Drive to contributors to fund new instrument purchases, and an expanded Spring Concert venue with a meal option and silent auction are other possibilities that come to mind. Ultimately, a new director will be put at ease if there are fewer fundraisers. A music student does not go through college thinking about the notion that his/her weekends, afternoons, evenings and class time will be dedicated to raising money. Rather, a new teacher will rightly want to establish and execute the musical goals that are important to that individual. Furthermore, the elimination of several fundraisers may engender greater participation by parents and volunteers.

Recruiting a New Director

Once an official retirement announcement is made, the Boosters must be prepared to act quickly to aid in getting the best possible candidates. All efforts will have to be coordinated with the district. The district advertises through Edjoin.com, but doesn't have the resources to advertise directly to university music and credentialing departments. A well-designed flyer placed on bulletin boards in a timely fashion at Fresno State, Stanislaus State, UOP, etc. may give Mariposa an upper hand in recruiting a new director.

In numerous ways, The Grizzly Band Boosters organization has rescued music in the MCUSD from dire circumstances over the past nine years. This year, the challenges are to increase the number of students in the high school program while increasing music instructional time, shore up the instrument pool, create an attractive work environment for a new director, and to help in securing a highly qualified director to fill the fulltime music position in the MCUSD. I am confident that, as similar hurdles were overcome before, these goals will be met through cooperation by all involved. I look forward to working with the Grizzly Band students and to do my part assist into succeeding in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Rod Fiester,
MCUSD Music Instructor

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