

EATON RAPIDS BAND BOOSTERS

Meeting Agenda – May 11, 2010 High School Band Room, 6:30 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Mary Kay Boulanger, Chris Larson, Patsy Baker, David Mestelle, Chris Rupp, Adam Gumbrecht, Cheryl Smith, Karen Malcangi, Lori Althouse, Ruben Green, Jim Crandall & Joyce Crandall, Angie English

Special Presentation – Ruben Green

A couple of years ago, the Masonic Lodge in Eaton Rapids closed and merged with the Springport lodge. Mr. Green requested a donation from the Masonic Lodge after reading the article in the paper about the new band uniforms. The Masonic Lodge donated \$150 toward the purchase of new band uniforms.

Standing Business Items

- Present and approve April Meeting Minutes (vote) –Mary Kay Boulanger/Chris Larson
 - Moved by C. Rupp, seconded by L. Althouse, motion passed. Since no paper copies were available, corrections can be made later.
- Present and approve financial report (vote) – Patsy Baker
 - Uniform payment has been made.
 - Boston payments—all students paid in full before trip.
 - First band camp payment was received.
 - Motion to accept financial report by M. Boulanger, seconded by L. Althouse, motion passed.
- Present and approve bills – none

Director and Band Council Reports

- High School – Adam Gumbrecht
 - Dean Winter, former ER Band Director from the early 1960's, passed away and the family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the ER Band Uniform fund. Since that time, two donations were received each for \$25.
 - Lots of things are going on as the end of year approaches and we begin to prepare for next year.
 - Spring concert next week – time changed to 7:30pm.
 - Student scheduling for next year's classes has occurred. We are starting to get a picture of what the band will look like next year. It will be right about the same size as this year.
 - State Band Festival – It was a good learning experience. Wind Ensemble earned a second division rating.
 - Win the Band Raffle winner performance on Friday, May 14th at the Eaton County Medical Care Facility at 6:30pm. It will be a 20-30 minute performance. Students will wear summer uniforms. One bus will take some students. Some students will travel by themselves. Bus should arrive back at the high school at about 7:45pm.
 - Co-teaching – Mr. Rupp has been able to be here at the high school this year. There is a possibility that Mr. Gumbrecht might be able to co-teach in 5th or 6th grade next year. The directors are optimistic that this might happen for next year.
- Middle School /Greyhound Intermediate – Chris Rupp
 - State festival – The students performed very well. Straight ones on stage, 4/5 grades were A's, 1/5 was a B+. The sight reading was very difficult and the students earned a 2 rating. Great lessons learned. Mr. Rupp wrote an article which should be in the local papers.
 - About 30 students/groups went to Solo and Ensemble Festival. The students got lots of positive feedback.

- Two students, Kyler Hadley and Claire Sullivan, will be performing with the Junior High Honors Band.
- Concerts all next week.
- Mr. Rupp and Mr. Gumbrecht will be attending a district “Marketing ERPS Arts” meeting tomorrow during the school day.
- Lugnuts game – The eighth grade played the national anthem at the game. They did a wonderful job and were very well behaved.
- Band Council – Anita Peebles – no report

Old Business:

- Marching Band Uniform Purchase – All is set for delivery in August
- Retiring Marching Uniforms (vote) – Chris Larson
 - See information on attached pages
 - Motion to accept uniform proposal from Chris Larson by M. Boulanger, second by L. Althouse. Discussion ensued about Chris Larson’s report. There was much appreciation for all of the hard work that Chris Larson put in to this. Motion passed. Cheryl Smith offered to invite the Arkansas band director to stay with her family.
 - It was recommended that one of the old uniforms be kept in the archive with the others in the tuba storage closet.
 - Complete old uniforms should not be sold. These could be used for costume purposes. There has been some interest in the jackets. The uniforms that are not donated would be sold for fabric or framing.
 - Band boosters will continue to offer uniforms to current band students and band alumni for suggested minimum donation of \$10/per item – no complete uniform to one person. Moved by L. Althouse, seconded by D. Mestelle. Discussion of saving shakos for selling on Ebay. Motion passed.
 - Angie English and Patsy Baker volunteered to coordinate the offering of uniforms to current and former band students.
- Marching Band Uniform Donor Recognition (see following page) – Chris Larson
 - Moved by P. Baker, seconded by A. English. Discussion and amended motion to eliminate the platinum level of recognition. Motion passed.
 - We need volunteers to help with the recognition levels.
 - Recognition will be in programs for next week’s concerts.
- Fundraising –
 - Valu-Card Sales – Chris Rupp
 - Two weeks 13th – 27th
 - Email sent home to 5th – 8th grade students on 5/11/10. One will go out to High School students soon.
 - July 4th Fireworks Concessions – Patsy Baker
 - Athletic boosters will be selling concessions, so we will be selling other items (glow sticks, ...)

New Business:

- 2010/11 Officer Elections - Lori Althouse
 - Ballots were discussed and handed out. The Treasurer position is a 2-year term. Patsy Baker is completing her first year so no vacancy will exist for 2010/11 year. Nominations from the floor – two for Secretary – Boulanger and Weston. All other positions were uncontested.
- 2010/11 Budget (vote) - Chris Larson

- Proposed budget was presented at the last meeting.
- Moved by D. Mestelle, second by C. Smith, motion passed
- Marching Band Fee Payment and Follow-up Plans – Chris Larson
 - 1st payment due at concert next week. Volunteers to help at the concerts are in place.
 - 2nd payment due June 15th
 - Last payment due July 15th
 - Very little time between the last payment and the time the bus leaves for camp. Band boosters will need to send continued reminders for those who do not submit payments on time so that students can attend camp.
 - Be sure to use the band camp coupons if paying by check. Paypal payments do not require the coupons.
- Band Camp –
 - Chaperones are needed – especially women. We will need a nurse / health officer. This person must be first aid/CPR certified.
- 2010/11 Officer Election Results –
 - Ballots were counted and reported by Mr. Gumbrecht and Mr. Rupp. Band booster officers for the 2010/11 year from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 are:

President:	Chris Larson
1 st Vice-President:	Lori Althouse
2 nd Vice-President:	vacant, no nominations
Secretary:	Mary Kay Boulanger
Treasurer:	Patsy Baker
MS/GIS Representative:	Cheryl Smith

Completed Projects, Activities and Events

- April 7 – 11: High School Band Boston Trip
- April 30: 8th Grade and Wind Ensemble performed at MSBOA State Festival in Perry
- May 5: 8th Grade Band performed at Lugnuts Game

Planned Projects, Activities and Events

- May 18: Middle School Spring Concert
- May 19: GIS Spring Concert
- May 20: High School Spring Concert and Senior Farewell
- May/June: Uniform fittings/ordering
- June 2: Band Banquet – We need a parent volunteer to work with Band Council. This year's banquet will be in the GIS Auditoria.

Next Monthly Band Booster Meeting: June 8, 2010, 6:30pm High School Band Room

Noteworthy Information to Share

- Marching Band Uniform Donations:
 - \$575 Consumers Professional Credit Union
 - \$100 Brenda Stohr, community member
 - \$100 Eric and Chris Larson
 - \$ 50 Joe Coleman and Sonja Jurzysta, community members
 - \$52 Keith and Dawn Gibbs, band family
 - \$20 Mary Raymond

- ?? Tim and Kris Zimmer (from family account)
- ?? Bob and Linda Clarke (from family account)

Retiring Marching Band Uniforms - Chris Larson 5/9/2010

Proposal:

Donate a minimum of 160 jackets, 160 pants, plus 150 shakos to Life Way Christian High School, a private, faith-based school near Little Rock Arkansas. This leaves approximately 20 pants, 40 jackets and 30 shakos to sell to ER band families, alumni, supporters and crafters for fabric, embellishments, etc.

Attempt to sell the remaining shakos on eBay, including the 11 brand new ones.

Background: Prior to the April meeting I looked at various options for selling and/or donating our old uniforms.

What I reported at the April Band Booster meeting I still believe to be true today. We are kidding ourselves if we think we are going to sell our uniforms to another band and profit at least \$10 a uniform, especially if the buyer pays for shipping – let alone our “people” time in selling, packing and shipping 180+ uniforms.

There are web sites for selling used uniforms. Most (if not all) uniforms for sale are 10 years old or newer, dry cleaned and listed for \$15 and up. These sites charge a commission (25%) or an ad posting fee.

Several options were discussed at the April meeting with the hopes we could entice donations including offering up the material for memory quilts, etc, to band families, offering uniform pieces to another band and taking orders for pillows. Everyone understood at the meeting the uniforms needed to be gone by late-July/early-August.

I left the April meeting thinking I had the OK to go ahead and try to get rid of the uniforms and (hopefully) earn some money.

Here is what I have done since the April meeting.

Manchester High School (south east of Jackson) had our same pants as part of their uniform. They are getting new uniforms for next fall, so are not interested in ours.

Lansing Civic Players is not interested in the uniforms.

Neither Ingham County nor Eaton County Resource Recovery offices could provide me with fabric recycling options. I did not find any fabric recycling businesses on the internet either that would get us any money.

Three local school districts that had replaced uniforms recently either sent their old uniforms to the

dumpster or were still storing them. All were much newer than ours.

One school did NOT recommend going through DeMoulin for pillow orders made from old uniforms. There was a minimum order required and the turnaround time was very, very long. Many people were no longer interested by the time the pillows arrived. It was money-loser for them.

Angie is willing to try and make up a couple pillows. The pillows could be on display at the May concerts for anyone who would like to order one, depending on how the sewing goes with the fabric, design, etc.

The Rosie's agreed to check in with a family member involved with a quilting group about the possibility of making a quilt from uniforms fabric and then raffling off the quilt. Given the timeframe, I am doubtful this would be available for the May concerts and interest would decline over the summer.

I wrote a short article for the local papers announcing our decision to purchase uniforms. This was in the April 18th Community News and the April 20th Flashes. The article offered "material and embellishments from the existing uniform jackets and pants" for a suggested donation of \$10. I have been contacted by 6 band alumni parents/grandparents who are interested in a fabric from 9 uniforms (which includes 4 drum major jackets. Everyone I have talked to was more than willing to donate \$10. In fact, I received a check for more than the suggested \$10.

Over the last few months I have been watching eBay sales of uniform pieces. Like the on-line internet used uniform selling sites, this will not be significant money maker for pants and jackets. A possibility is selling jackets and pants in small lots. Angie and I have come up with suggested wording and pricing should there be interest in going this route.

Selling shakos on eBay, however, is a different story. I have watched new shakos sell from about \$7 up to over \$30. Believe it or not, a lot of 14 "vintage" very used blue shakos sold for \$88. Selling shakos on eBay seems promising. We have 11 brand-new, never worn shakos and closets full of "vintage" ones. I envisioned some income possibility and have pictures ready of a new shako if we want to give this a try.

Uniforms Offered Up For Free: On April 18, 2010 I posted an ad on the DeMoulin advertizing the old uniforms with the "buyer" responsible for shipping/pick-up costs only. The ad showed up on the DeMoulin site on Tuesday, April 19th. I did this assuming there would be little or no interest, given the other uniforms that are for sale on their site as well as other used uniform selling sites.

Yes, I offered the uniforms for free with the notion that any interest of any quantity would get us that much closer to having the uniforms gone by mid-July. We are simply running out of time.

Saturday, April 24th Mr. Gumbrecht and I communicated with Christine Sullivan, the band director at the Life Way Christian School near Little Rock Arkansas, who is interested in 125+ uniforms.

Christine Sullivan started a marching band 2 years ago with 15 students. Last year she had about 55 high school students. This coming fall will be their 1st half-time show. She is willing to drive here and pick up the uniforms. In fact, Christine was ready to come the following weekend to get them. *This would entail no packing or shipping preparation by us. The only "people power" required would be to help move the uniforms from the closets to a truck/ trailer outside the band room.*

I put together a proposal which included a combination of donating the uniforms to the faith-based school and reserving a small number for our fundraising purposes. Over the course of that weekend I had phone conversations with all Band Booster Officers and directors.

Here are the concerns-suggestions:

Dr. DeFrance needs to/should approve donating the uniforms. Adam contacted Dr. DeFrance the following Monday. We have approval from the ERPS Policy Committee to donate the uniforms as we see fit and hold on to some to make available to the community as we see fit.

Band families need to be offered the opportunity for fabric, etc. Current band families have had this opportunity since April 18th. My recommendation of holding back 20 pants and 40 jackets will allow us to continue offering these to current band families as well as anyone else.

Is it right to charge our families for fabric, etc. and then give the uniforms to another band free? I understand the concern but do not see an equal comparison myself. I can go either way.

Can this director not come any other time? The director is very willing to arrange a pick-up date.

Surprised our uniforms are now being offered up for free. I thought we had discussed that we would really like a minimum amount offered for the uniform. See above.

Can they not come up with a minimum amount of donation although since they were offered up for free already it seems that this ship has sailed? I did not ask for a donation as it does not seem appropriate given the circumstances.

My Bottom Line: I left the April meeting believing I had everyone's agreement to proceed with getting rid of the uniforms while trying to raise some money along the way. The offer from Christine Sullivan took no one off guard more than me.

The new uniforms are scheduled to arrive the last week in July (the last I knew). We have an offer to get 150-160 uniforms out of our closet with **very, very little "people time" and effort and time on our part.** This show of good-will on our part to help a beginning band program, the opportunity to get rid of 150-160 uniforms that have a good chance of going into a dumpster, and some positive publicity for our school seemed a wash to any money we would receive. Additionally, there would be enough pants, jackets and shakos left for us to make some money on.

What Next?

For Discussion: Marching Band Uniform Donation Levels

Platinum: ~~\$500 or more~~

- ~~Gold-level recognition~~
- ~~Special musical tribute at the 2010 Greyhound Spectacular~~
- ~~Sponsorship thank you included in parade and marching band performance introduction/announcement~~

Gold: \$325 or more

- Silver-level recognition
- Stitched label/tag in a uniform (for each \$325 donated)
- Special recognition at 2010 Greyhound Spectacular with “their” uniform(s)
- Sponsorship thank you announcement at home football games

Silver: \$100 or more

- Bronze-level recognition
- Listed on (a new) donation recognition plaque to be displayed in band room or auditorium lobby

Bronze: \$25 or more

- Certificate of Appreciation presented at the 2010 Greyhound Spectacular signed by directors, band booster officers and all 2010 marching band members
- Listed as a 2010/11 band sponsor on web site
- Thank you listing in all (GIS/MS/HS) fall and winter concert programs

All contributors will receive a

- Thank you letter from Boosters at the time of their donation
- ER Hounds-Band window cling
- Listed in a community “thank you” ad in an early fall edition of The Flashes
- Invitation to band tailgate party at the 2010 Homecoming football game
- Personalized invitation to the 2010 Greyhound Spectacular