

McCourt Middle School Band Booster Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2010

6:30 pm

McCourt Middle School Library

The meeting started at approximately 6:35 pm. Treasurer Beth McCarthy, Fundraiser Maria Costa, and Secretary Mary Alberg were present.

Guitar lessons started up after school on Wednesday, February 24. Five students showed up and another will start on March 17. We are hoping to offer this program again next year.

All 39 chocolate pops left from the Christmas concert have been sold.

McCourt Band Boosters purchased 25 ties for the band. The cost was \$2.50 per tie and the total cost was \$57.10

Band pictures were distributed to the 38 families that ordered them. We hope to do this again next year.

We haven't heard anything from BAMM. We'll try to get in touch with them after the school committee meetings concerning music have taken place.

The 7th and 8th grade band went to Garvin Elementary School on March 29 to introduce band to these elementary school students and to get them excited about joining band. The program lasted about 30 minutes. The band will also be going to BF Norton and Ashton Elementary Schools on April 9.

We are planning to take the 7th and 8th grade band to a Boston Pops Concert on Friday evening, June 4 at 8 pm for a "Tribute to Duke Ellington." Ann Alexander and Paul Farrell will help chaperone.

The 6th grade band will be going to the RI Philharmonic on May 11 at 9:45 am for a special performance. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin will be chaperoning.

Band students will be going to the Pawsox game on Saturday, May 15, where they will perform the Star-Spangled Banner before the game. The students will get into the game for free, while parents and other family members will pay a reduced price of \$7 per ticket through Band Boosters. The band would receive ½ of the proceeds. A bus will provide transportation for the students to the game. Families will take their children home after the game. Ticket orders are due by April 16.

The treasury reports funds of \$3013.29. Future expenses include funding our planned field trips.

All Band Night will be on April 28. We shall be sending invitations to the members of the school committee, either by mail or email. Beth has agreed to take on this task. We shall also hold raffles and are thinking of selling snacks. North Cumberland will be selling water bottles. Maria needs a new letter to ask businesses for donations. She also suggested buying gift cards to popular businesses as raffle items. We also need to give ourselves plenty of time to set up before the concert, since parents tend to arrive early. The admission fee is \$1 per adult.

The spring concert will be on May 18 at 7 pm. We are hoping to have raffles and perhaps the PTO may hold a fundraiser.

There was another school committee meeting held on April 7 at 7:30 pm, but many items were tabled until the next meeting. We do not yet know when the next meeting concerning music will be.

It is imperative that as many band parents (and students, if possible) attend school committee meetings in April that concern the music program. Band Boosters will try to send out notice of these meetings to parents. Presently, the school budget for 2010-2011 has the middle school band program as an after school activity, similar to intramural sports. This would greatly reduce the amount of instrumental instruction for our students and greatly reduce the quality of the middle school band program. Parents and students can sign up to speak at these meetings. Also, parents can also write letters to the school committee member in their district telling him/her the importance of keeping instrumental music in our schools. It is important for all band parents to stay informed. It would be a shame to see a weaker band program after parents have invested so much money in purchasing and/or renting instruments for their children.

The next Band Booster meeting will be held in April, sometime before All Band Night.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

Submitted by Mary Alberg
Band Booster Secretary