

## McCourt Middle School Band Booster Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2010

6:30 pm

McCourt Middle School Library

The meeting started at approximately 6:30 pm. Band director Paul Bowser, Band Booster President Gail Dubois, Treasurer Beth McCarthy, Fundraiser Maria Costa, Secretary Mary Alberg, and 1 parent were present.

Guitar lessons start up after school on Wednesday, February 24. Seven students have signed up and the cost was \$61.72 for the 10 week session.

We still have 39 chocolate pops left from the Christmas concert. They were originally priced at \$1 per pop. Maria Costa will try to sell more at work.

The band is still in need of ties. We borrowed ties for the Christmas Concert from the high school. The requisition that Mr. Bowser placed for the ties was denied. Band Boosters has decided to fund the ties. We shall look on the website [uniformwarehouse.com](http://uniformwarehouse.com) where they are advertising ties for \$39 for 20 ties. Hopefully these ties are of good quality. Beth McCarthy has taken on this task.

Band pictures were taken on February 23. It went well except for one or two minor problems.

We are planning to take the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band to B.F. Norton, Garvin and Ashton Elementary Schools in March to introduce band to these elementary school students and to get them excited about joining band. The program should last about 20 minutes. The dates will be determined by the end of the week.

We are planning to take the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band to a Boston Pops Concert on Friday evening, June 4 for a Tribute to Duke Ellington. Prices range from \$19-\$24 per person. This will be a joint venture with North Cumberland Middle School. There are approximately 38 students from North who may attend and 31 students from McCourt. At least 3 chaperones from McCourt will be needed.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will be going to the RI Philharmonic on May 11 or 12 for a special performance. There are 27 sixth- graders and 2 chaperones will be needed. This trip will take place during school hours.

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 would get into the game for free, while parents and other family members would pay a reduced price of \$7 per ticket through Band Boosters. The band would receive ½ of the proceeds. Meanwhile, Mr. Bowser will teach the children how to march for the performance. A bus will provide transportation for the students to the game. Families will take their children home after the game.

We are also looking into buying or making a banner for the band.

The McCourt Band Booster link on the McCourt website has been updated to include all band minutes from the meetings of the 2010-2011 school year.

The treasury reports funds of \$3166.43. Band Boosters has paid \$535 to Winsor Sportswear for the band sweatshirts and had \$22 in refunds to parents. Future expenses include funding our planned field trips and purchasing band ties.

All Band Night will be on April 28. We shall be sending invitations to the members of the school committee. We shall also hold raffles and perhaps other fundraising events that night.

The spring concert will be in May, but a date has yet to be determined.

We have \$300.00 worth of wood that was used on a parade float several years ago. We need to decide if we want to sell it.

It is imperative that as many band parents (and students, if possible) attend school committee meetings in February, March and 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.

Mr. Bowser will email the school committee chairman Don Costa to see if the town bands can perform the Star-Spangled Banner before the school committee meeting on February 25.

The next Band Booster meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 pm in the McCourt school library.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Submitted by Mary Alberg  
Band Booster Secretary