

## McCourt Middle School Band Booster Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2009

6:30 pm

McCourt Middle School Library

The monthly McCourt Middle School Band Boosters meeting began at approximately 6:30 pm at the McCourt Middle School Library on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

Mr. Paul Bowser was introduced as the new band director. Also present at the meeting were Gail Dubois (president), Mary Alberg (secretary), Beth McCarthy (treasurer), Maria Costa (fundraising), and Laurie Kissik. Lorie Beauregard will be in charge of Graphics for Band Boosters.

The Mission Statement of McCourt Middle School Band Boosters as of 1998 is as follows:

An organization of band member parents, in coordination with the Band Director, whose purposes are: to aid the band in fundraising, lend logistical support; represent the band on their behalf to the school board and administration, and to help foster goodwill with the general public.

Band Booster meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the McCourt Middle School Library. In an effort to save paper, meeting announcements will be posted on the band link from the school website. Also, Mr. Bowser will work on getting family email addresses of band members to aid in the communications between home and school.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Feeder Program is important because it provides a means of recruitment for students who are interested in playing an instrument. It is the *foundation* of the entire Cumberland Instrumental Music Program. Fortunately, the program is up and running this year. Band Boosters is planning to set up informational tables at B.F. Norton, Garvin, and Ashton elementary schools during parent-teacher conferences and target 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents in an effort to garner more interest in the 5th Grade Band Program.

Mr. Robert Rowan briefly attended the meeting to express his interest in offering an after school guitar lesson program at McCourt. He had successfully run such a program last year at North Cumberland Middle School. The program would last 10 weeks, with a 1 hour lesson each week. The maximum class size would be 10 students and the recommended cost for each student would be \$61.72, which includes a book (\$50 without the book). Students would need a guitar, pick and a pencil. He would need a room, similar to the band room, with a black/white board, access to copy machine and power outlets. Students can bring acoustic or electric guitars, and guitars can be rented from Rick's Musical Instruments. Mr. Rowan fee would be \$200 for the session, and Band Boosters could keep any surplus fees. This program would offer students and their families an inexpensive way to see if the student is truly interested in learning to play the guitar. Also, Mr. Rowan is experienced in teaching high school students. Mr. Bowser expressed an interest in integrating guitar lessons into the middle school curriculum.

McCourt Middle School Band Boosters added a band link on to the school website last year:

[www.mccourtmiddle.com](http://www.mccourtmiddle.com) click on the band link on right hand side of page

Mr. Bowser will be setting up a link to his band director website and will inform us when it is ready.

Mr. Bowser has distributed band folders purchased by Band Boosters to the students. Students are very happy!

Mr. Bowser is trying to organize full band rehearsals during regular school hours. It has been a difficult task since full band rehearsals have been held after school in the past.

We are working with Rick's Musical Instruments to try and find a lesser expensive way for families to rent instruments instead of the rather expensive "rent to own system" that has been in place. There is a possibility that next year a family could rent an instrument for 10 months for a total price of about \$85. At the end of the 10 month period, the instrument would be returned.

Last year, BAAM (Because Arts Always Matters) requested a list of what the band required from Mr. Delillo. Our band is in need of a bass clarinet (approx.\$1600) and other low brass and low woodwind instruments. Mr. Bowser has agreed to contact members of BAAM to check on the situation.

The funds raised by band Boosters are used to purchase items for the band, assist in paying for band related field trips (Boston Pops trip last year), obtain pizza and drinks before concerts, and buy items needed to run raffles at concerts. Also, last year purchases were made for more music stands, sheet music, and band member folders. Maria Costa has been soliciting local businesses with some success. She would like to have a candy fundraiser (chocolate Santas and/or lollipops) or other similar event to raise money.

The holiday concert at One Mendon Rd has been cancelled due to having one band director for two schools. We will try again next year.

A holiday concert will be held at McCourt on Thursday, December 10, at 7 pm. We hope to hold raffles to raise money for the band. Also, the PTO may sell snacks and drinks at the concert and keep those profits.

We welcome Beth McCarthy as our new treasurer. We are starting the new year with \$2674.39.

We shall hold our Holiday Fundraiser starting on November 23. We'll be selling poinsettias and orders are due back by December 2nd. Distribution will be on December 15. We need parents to help with pick up, delivery, and distribution.

The order forms for hooded band sweatshirts will be sent home with the children this week. The cost is \$27.00, same as last year. Band Boosters only make about \$1 per sweatshirt. Sweatshirts will be distributed through Mr. Bowser before Christmas break. There are approximately 60 band members.

A music lesson contact list will be distributed this week to help parents who are interested in finding music teachers for their children.

The next band meeting is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.

Mary Alberg  
Band Booster Secretary