

## Manchester Band Parents Association (MBPA) Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2013

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Manchester Band Parents Association was called to order at 7:01pm on 10/7/13 by Craig Johnson.

**Present:** Keith Berry, Craig Johnson, Ann Wendling, Annette Glahn, Kristy Murphy, Leeanne Negron, Colleen Reyes, Dayna Edwards, Kelen Robbins, Gary Robbins, Mark Powell, Alice Powell

**Approval of Minutes:** No previous minutes to approve

**Director's Report:** It is important to recognize that the MBPA is an association for parents of children in all band programs at MHS, not just the marching band. MBPA's role to assist with fun activities held outside of school time for all band members and to fundraise for annual college and music education scholarships.

- Need ongoing parental support to keep band program strong and to foster a connection to IMS.
- Need to recognize that the student population of MHS is decreasing so there is a need to work hard to maintain a healthy amount of members in all the band programs.
- Band can serve as a positive connection that students have to Manchester Public Schools and can be a reason they decide to remain at MHS when exploring the many choices for high school.
- Survey was taken of 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Move Up Night – good information was received and will be reviewed. Will consider individual letters inviting kids to join the MHS band. Endangered Instrument program will be advertised to 8<sup>th</sup> graders who might want to change instruments.
- Looking for ongoing parent feedback as to the best way to keep kids and parents involved.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer report reviewed. Current balance \$8850.79. Recent expenses include UConn tailgate and Move Up night.
- Review of Think Ink program – As an ongoing fundraiser, Ann Welding researches best rebate price for used ink cartridges and returns them for profit.

Ink cartridges are donated by families and businesses. Additional ink cartridges of all types are always needed.

### **Old Business:**

- First MBPA meeting was fairly well attended. Email contacts were collected from most people present. Concert was enjoyed by all.

### **Fundraising:**

- Year-end fundraising goal determined to be \$7000. This was considered the amount needed to support annual college and music lesson scholarships while still maintaining a balance of \$10,000 by 9/13.
- Main source of fundraising includes concessions and ad sales for the annual Jazz Fest
- A new idea for fundraising includes sponsorships of concerts or parts of the football field either by local businesses or large corporate sponsors. Several parents agreed to look into contacting large companies online to determine the proper process and feasibility of corporate sponsorship.
  - Discussed the idea of broadcasting MHS concerts on Public Access TV and possibly using the MHS students to assist with video production. This might make sponsorship of the concert more attractive to businesses.
- Additional fundraising ideas included wrapping of presents at Barnes & Noble and Santa Band concerts on Black Friday and throughout the holiday season.

### **New Business**

- Fostering the growth of the MHS band/IMS band parent and student connections. Craig and Annette agreed to meet with Mr. Giannios at IMS to discuss meeting with IMS band parents and to discuss other ways to improve retention of IMS band students as they move to MHS.
  - It was suggested that a short promotional video would be an effective way to showcase the pride, excellence and fun of the wide variety of MHS band programs. This video could be shown to all IMS students as a way to get them excited about joining the band. Mr. Berry has footage from many events and will try to get a video put together.
- Guest Artist Concert –
  - Possible Coast Guard concert would be free except for the cost of transporting the band to Manchester. Mr. Berry will look into getting

Constitution Coach to donate the buses. Other military band travel has been suspended due to federal budget cuts.

- Boston Brass has approached MHS about performing here but there are concerns about selling enough tickets to cover the cost of the band itself. Mr. Berry suggested advertising a workshop by members of Boston Brass to neighboring towns and then selling tickets to those band members.
- Parent Participation – We are always looking for parent participation. Participation can take many forms including chaperoning a trip, ushering at a concert, assisting with concessions, helping with special events or donating needed items (water, food items, ink cartridges etc.) Whatever a parent can offer is greatly appreciated!

**Upcoming Events:**

- Marching Band has two competitions (Southington & Rockville) on 10/19 and State Finals in Bridgeport on 10/26

**Next Meeting:**

Monday 11/4/13 at 7:00 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 by Craig Johnson.

Minutes submitted by: Kristy Murphy