

ABB Booster Club Parent Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2010

Members Present: Leadership team, many parents

Staff Present: Bob Hackett, Fred Bowlus

Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

Welcome: Objective is to encourage parents to sign up to help with fundraising opportunities.

Director's Comments:

- Earned over \$1,500 from Parade of Lights – 2nd place overall.
- Have lost instructional staff for concert and Jazz due to the financial crisis. Flute instructor volunteered to run the flute choir and woodwind choir free of charge.
- Need to retain services of Connie Davis, administrative assistant.
- Program needs to participate in festivals – two are currently scheduled for concert band and one for jazz band.
- Three students have been accepted to CU Honor band, nine students have been accepted or are alternates to the All-State Honor band.
- Adventures in Arts assembly next week – need one chaperone on January 20th. Going with Wind Ensemble to Newton and Powell. February 16th will be at Goddard and Euclid. Itineraries are available for interested parents.
- Basketball games are beginning tomorrow night and one will be on the 29th. Parent chaperones will be needed for these events as well. Students need to participate in order to obtain credit for lettering. Schedule is available for interested parents.
- Music program will not be subject to budget cuts next year. Mr. Hackett will also be teaching a music theory course next year.
- Have full-size big band on Thursdays after school, jazz band has gotten bigger, have lost some students in concert band.
- Schedule has changed quite a bit. Parents should be sure to check it often!
- Musical will be in April.
- May camp: Have band camp first week after school has ended.

President's Comments:

- Bingo has not been profitable. Invitational was very adversely affected by a snow storm. We decided not to do a Christmas tree fundraiser.
- More than half of the families have been involved in delayed payment and some families have not paid at all. This is one of the reasons that we cannot pay for instructional staff. It is important for families to pay their fees. Uncollected fees

will be turned over to the school; there will be consequences for the students if fees are not paid.

Linda Hailey – Bingo

- Bingo is essentially a small business. Over the last decade we have earned over \$500K. Mark Muncie has recommended that we continue with bingo. Last Sunday night we made \$1700 and are hoping for a good turnaround. We need people to be games managers, main and pickle cashiers and callers to replace parents who will be leaving in the future. These people need to be trained. More participation will help reduce the work load for all families.

Jean Ray– Town Hall Arts Night

- Town Hall Arts Center will have a pre-show reception, desserts and live music provided by Pete Strom and friends. Will have a professional performance of “Alter Boyz.” Potential revenue is \$3,900, assuming we sell 260 tickets. Students can use this event for their performance review papers. Wednesday, April 14th. We need to sell out the house. The seats will be \$30/ticket. Need people to help serve on the committee. May do a Silent Auction in addition to the play. We can obtain advice and support from the Town Hall Arts Center. Tuesday the 19th will be the first meeting at the Town Hall Arts Center, 5:30 p.m. located in historic downtown Littleton 2450 W. Main Street. The profit will pay for private instruction for a month. Please sign up to help, especially if you have expertise in baking, obtaining

Joyce Mirow – Flamingos

- Can raise quite a bit of money by “flocking” with pink flamingos. Announce that we will hold a flocking fundraiser, plant large flock of flamingos in members yards (after notifying). The victim makes a donation (\$25, etc) to have the flamingos removed within 24 hours. People can also pay insurance so they are not flocked. www.flockofpinkflamingos.com. May have to pay some money for the flamingos.
- Also can do a restaurant night.

Tom Haller – Fundraising

- Fundraising efforts this year have not been successful. Fifteen people showed up for a meeting last week.
- Check Awards is a selling program with a checkbook with discounts geared to our market. We sell them for \$35 each and make \$20. We would need to decide how much would go to share accounts and how much to the band. Farro’s will participate. If we go with existing vendors it should take about 4 weeks. We currently have a list of about 20 vendors, including many at Streets of Southglenn. Heritage made \$14,000 doing this. There are not many restrictions on these awards and are a great way to promote local businesses. Trying for 5

sales per kid. Potentially could get approval from the grocery store and sell outside of the store.

- Hollywood Theater Movie Night – we get the ticket proceeds and may be able to negotiate for some of the food items. Estimate about \$2,000.
- Festivals – Are currently scheduling the date. We need to get people involved early on so that the festival can be run successfully and smoothly next year.
- Band sponsorship program – recruit businesses to sponsor the band.

Questions/Answers/Comments:

How will the fundraisers help the band program? Is this short term or long term?

All money from fundraising goes to instructors. We are trying in the short term to bring the instructors back and, in the long term, assessing alternatives to bingo with other fundraisers. We are looking to also sell cookbooks, have a Mardi Gras jazz night, etc.

What is working for other high schools?

Other high schools don't have as good of a program and their fees pay for more. Other schools have done Check Awards. Some other bands do bingo as well. Most bands rely on fees and do fundraisers on a smaller scale. We have the largest budget, by far, of schools in the district. This makes a big difference for our kids.

How many students are in the program?

Roughly one hundred in marching and about 30 more in concert/jazz. Have had some recent drops. Plan for at least 100 kids strongly involved in band.

Note on program quality – students who have gone on to college have not been as challenged in college music programs as they have been at Arapahoe. This is a top flight program with extremely experienced instructors who could be teaching themselves at the university level.

What percentage of the program is marching vs. guard?

About 20% of budget and students for marching is guard. The Winter Guard program has 23 students.

Cookbook recipe collection will begin soon and Debbie Haskins will need some help with putting the cookbooks together for sales in the fall. Perhaps Nathan Waite can help with this project.

Winter Guard and Winter Percussion collect fees but are not completely stand alone because a portion of Fred and Kenny's salaries are paid by general fund.

At the Elementary School level, lots of fundraisers actually discouraged participation for some individuals. A one time or multiple tax-deductible donations might be more effective in obtaining money from both parents and alumni.

One advantage of fundraisers is that they might reach a broader audience. Some families would rather donate than spend time volunteering for fundraisers. There are other intangible values beyond money making for the fundraisers. We did receive donations after Ed's concert for the Martin Walworth Memorial Fund.

How are we getting donation information out to a broader audience?

The weekly update is one way and needs to be read by everyone here. The most effective way is one-to-one communication. Everyone needs to talk with other parents.

Has the financial situation been described to the alumni?

We will be sending out an announcement soon to the alumni with a plea to help us bridge the gap. Recent alums do not have a lot of money, but perhaps we can reach their parents.

Can we do anything within the school community?

Usually those fundraisers don't make a lot of money for the effort. If there is a school/community fundraiser we could investigate.

Butterbraids?

We do this twice a year and the funds go to the share accounts, so we will continue to have these funds benefit the students directly, rather than to the general fund.

Seniors could donate the balance of their share accounts when they graduate.

Can other students get flocked and we make the money? Can we flock the faculty?

There is no reason that anyone cannot be flocked – maybe football???

Conclusions:

New fundraisers are waiting for approval from the high school administration. Sign ups at the fundraising tables will determine which fundraisers we move forward with. It is very important that parents sign up and recruit other parents to help out.

We are hoping to be able to bring some funds in by March to bring instructors back. If we want instructors earlier, we need a short term fix – namely a one time donation to the band (tax deductible). \$30 pays for one student's instruction for one month. We will be requesting help from the alumni network for donations and for our new fundraising opportunities.

Scrip and grocery cards remain a good way to supplement share accounts. Private lessons can be a good way to help the instructors as well. This might help keep instructors available to the band for when we have more funds.

The kids want their instructors back as soon as we can do it! Our goal is to accomplish this by the beginning of February.

We have a number of committee and leadership positions open. Please talk to Doug about getting involved!

Discussion adjourned: 8:05 p.m. Sign ups for volunteer positions followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jonscher
ABB Secretary