

Branham Royal Alliance Booster Meeting  
March 13, 2014  
BHS Music Room

Call to Order: 7:45

Attendance: Bob Aron, President; Andrea Ciplickas, Co-Treasurer, Yvette Young, Tom Kiefer, Joni Kiefer, Darlene Hilton-Nickel, Rosa Lee, Norbert Staud, Babette McKay, Jim Collar, Greg Chow, Terry Harnish, Liz Pyle, Brian Thompson, Principal BHS.

### **Director's Report (Reported by Bob Aron for Diane Wyant)**

#### Winter Guard

- Heading to San Diego on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Diane is happy to be able to be there to cheer the kids on.
- It will be very educational; there are close to 100 guard groups competing from all over the West Coast.

#### Band PE

- Diane had a chance to meet with Mary Streshly, Educational Services Assistant Superintendent, regarding Band PE this past Monday.
- The Del Mar Band director, Bill Burkhead and I are scheduled to meet with her again on March 31st.
- The needed information at this point are how many current freshman in band have already scheduled to take PE next year as part of their class load. We need a count of the students. We need to know as accurately as possible how many kids are likely to be seeking a possible PE waiver.

Parents asked questions about PE and wanted to know how long of a process it is. Andrea Ciplickas answered that it is a district decision made by the school board and is a complex process. We need to follow procedures and work out all of the details. Brian Thompson offered help to our committee getting them in touch with the right people. He also echoed the process is a district decision and could affect staffing for PE.

#### District Music Festival

- Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Diane would like to encourage students to get their permission slips in on time.
- Reminder: Concert Dress is all black and the students need a bag lunch that day.

- There are still volunteer spots open. Babette McKay will email Aron and make sure Volunteer sign up goes out again.

#### Leadership/Drum Major Auditions 2014-15

- Auditions are soon. Diane has students conducting the class during warm ups.
- There has been some significant 'hidden' talent.
- It should be exciting to see who auditions for Drum Major. We have lots of great candidates!

#### Freshman Class 2014-2015

- We need to set up an information night prior to the end of the year, preferable in early May, in which we can invite our new incoming freshman.
- Once Diane gets a class list, she would like to send out an invitation to a meeting or maybe informative social.
- Things to discuss at the meeting: Scrip, the pledge, LA competition

#### Mandatory Hawaii Meeting

- Will be on Monday, April 21, 7:30pm at Westmont.
- Joint Rehearsal Dates will be released very soon for all the students attending the Hawaii trip. There are for sure three planned sometime between the end of school and the departure day of the trip so we need to let families that are traveling know that their child will need to be available in the 7 days prior to departure. I will have the dates/times posted on the Hawaii website as soon as the other two director's give me confirmation.

#### **Percussion:**

- Tom K. needs help with the trailer and Ed volunteered to help.

#### **Senior Scholarship:**

- Michelle Hittleman did it last year. Bob will ask her if she is willing to do it again this year.

#### **Trailer Driver Process**

- Last month, The Board presented new forms/requirements for parents to tow the trailer. Bob passes the proposed forms out and gave the group time to read them and make comments. This is to be a proposed addition to the bylaws.
- Tom Kiefer asked that the wording ‘proper towing wiring’ changed to ‘for electronic break control’
- Yvette Young motions to approve the following text:  
Section 10. DRIVERS AND TRANSPORTATION

Drivers must have filled out and have on file with the Association, the following 4 items:

1. CUHSD Driver’s/Carpool Form
  2. Indemnification and liability Form
  3. Copy of Valid Driver’s License
  4. Copy of Proof of Insurance as required by the school district
- (a) Trailer drivers will be subject to a driving evaluation before being approved for transporting equipment.
- (b) All vehicles used to pull band trailers must have adequate towing capacity and proper towing electronic break control wiring.

Darlene Hilton-Nickel seconded the motion and the vote was taken. Unanimously voted “Ayes”. Motion passes.

### **Calendar Schedule Review**

- Need to coordinate with Middle Schools to be aware of scheduling conflicts. Bob suggested this be a job next year.
- Please see the calendar suggested.
- Parents asked: How many days of school are the kids going to miss for the Disney and what day are we leaving?
- Both concert band and symphonic band will be required to do pep band
- Bob will follow up with Diane about Middle School tour plans for this year and next.
- District Music Festival and coordination with Winter Percussion and Guard, winter program considerations to look for conflicts.
- CMEA: what’s the thought on that?
- Sports Basement Dec. 13 Holiday Shopping
- Parents expressed concerned about convergence of events especially in May around AP testing. Jim Collar submitted the following statement: At our last booster meeting a preliminary schedule for the next school year was presented with the Spring band concert scheduled during the second AP test week. I am requesting Mrs. Wyant move the Spring 2015 Band concert and related rehearsals so that they are not on nights that precede AP test dates. When reviewing the calendars of other schools such as Leland, Lynbrook, Saratoga, and Bellarmine, I have noted these schools do no schedule band

concerts during the AP test weeks. I would ask Mrs. Wyant to work with the school admin on this matter and that it be discussed at a future booster meeting.

- Many parents in the room echoed the sentiments of Jim and agreed we need to be supportive of our student's academic efforts and would like to find another date for the concert/rehearsals that does not conflict with AP testing.
- Darlene Hilton-Nickel suggested having the concerts at West Valley to give us more flexibility on dates.

### **Communicate to our Community and BHS about Sports Basement**

- Andrea Ciplickas will let the admin know about our arrangement with Sports Basement (BHS gets money back from purchases made at SB and people who mention BHS at the time of checkout get 10% back)

### **Rock Bottom (volunteer only, Bob Aron, Tom W. will play)**

- How to drive traffic to Rock Bottom?
- Recruit Musicians Club to help with that
- Bob is in charge (help to advertise) Liz raised her hand and offered to help.
- During AP testing, the Rock Bottom Monday, playing will be volunteer only and will be led by Bob A. and Tom W.

### **Marc Guard Update**

- Leave tomorrow for SD, hoping to make finals with the show "Before We Depart"
- Independence will be the 29<sup>th</sup> and WP, too. It would be great for our winter programs to get support and all people come see. Please advertise the event to draw support and attendance to the event.
- All good

### **Percussion Update by Tom Wieske**

- Entertaining show
- Students Progressing in their development, enthusiasm, pushing hard
- Proud of what they are accomplishing
- Fantastic, efficient pace, Vanguard like all day long during the last rehearsal
- Performing at 1:40 in Los Gatos, \$10 a ticket
- Trying to run budget self sustaining, about \$600 over. We will work with Vanguard to cover uniforms by doing a fundraiser with them to pay for them.
- Tom Proposes now that we are in our third year, and have had great support and are building, getting better it's time to make a more structured program. Right now Tom is doing everything and maintains domain control and as program gets bigger, Tom can't do it all. Admin processes too big. A position should be created where there are 2 parent volunteers that have admin control over processes and work with Diane and the treasurers, be a part of board meetings, and overall to help with scheduling and communication. Tom needs to start handing stuff over just in case he can't keep going after Julianna graduates. Board positions are voted on in May, budget starts next

year, would like to have those reps in place for next year. And those parent reps should be involved now and all through the summer. Marc and Tom should identify and parents that can take on the roll.

- Darlene suggested pulling parents in, perhaps helping with the food.
- New positions will be made to have parent liaisons for WP and Guard.

### **Communication Position (Bob)**

- A dedicated person to communicate with middle schools and schedules and Jamba (work out conflicts with WP) and visits. Any volunteers? This would be a year long job.

### **Casino Night (Bob)**

- Tickets are at 85. Drop off a check. Try to sell tickets, ask your neighbors.
- Kristin Henderson has done a fantastic job getting donations

### **Budget Update**

- Jamba Jamboree went over budget due to the abundant attendance of the event. The funds from our contingency fund will be used to cover it.

### **Fundraising**

Liz Pyle : Apples for Sale!

- Apples from Debrito, gourmet and delicious
- Tom K. will be helping with delivery (they have to be picked up in Gilroy)
- Liz asked if we want to offer the long form (many choices) or the short form?
- Liz suggested kicking off during band camp and make it a dedicated fundraiser for Disney. She suggested it as a group fundraiser. Find out how much the trip is going to cost the band and work out how many apples we need to sell to make that amount. We earn \$5 an apple.
- We can have contests to see who can sell the most apples and have prizes.

See's Candy :

- A few people have requested a See's Easter candy sale. Liz will open it to winter percussion, and for individual sign ups.

Tom W. said he came across an interesting fundraiser, bulbs and on line nursery. All done online and ordered...appealing set up. He will give Liz the info.

Bob will research Amazon purchases that go towards the school.

Next Team San Jose Event is April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31

