

Hayfield Secondary School Band Boosters  
7630 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22315

September 21, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual via Google Meeting

7:00-7:05: Meeting called to order (Jenn Hodges)

7:05-7:30: Band Director Update (Mr. Specketer)

**Band Class Update**

- First distribution day for books but there are still quite a few books for students to come and pick them up - next distribution day is October 5th.
- PO for Sightreading Factory was just approved so will use that for more personal engagement and development.
- Goal is to have all signups and licenses taken care of and each student will have private lessons with Mr. Specketer one hour every two weeks.
- Cannot hear anything in class, and with kid's cameras off there is very little person-to-person engagement so asking parents to work with their kids to have them turn their cameras on to create accountability for them and more of the band culture they are used to experiencing. It is a wide-spread issue.
- Blackboard only allows Mr. Specketer to see 5 students at a time and the update for Google Meet will be up to 50 students at a time, including break out rooms for sectionals.
- Could fill all instrument needs that was requested, but needed to use the County's Instruments for All Program, that is a good update.
- For grading there will be a synchronous and asynchronous assignment every week and there is always going to be feedback and that is taking a lot of time. They have done some listening assignments which helps them improve their own playing.
- Same situation is happening for Middle School but Mr. Specketer is also teaching the Middle School percussionists to share work. The addition of the percussion class was huge and going to benefit the group.

**Parent Feedback**

- Some good feedback on engagement and in-person relationship building, good to hear the music in the house again.
- The addition of the xylophone for percussionists has given them music to play at home.

- Some issues with the Smart Music accounts - if there are issues with using that account can a student record in a different way and then submit in a different way?
  - The platform is not necessary for playing and recording but if there are issues, just submit the recording. Not grading off Smart Music - just if it is played well, not a 1-for-1 with the platform's score.
  - Also, giving a lot of flexibility with due dates to enable addressing these issues.

### **Marching Season Update**

- If the capability to practice at the school, safely, is there - they will play and practice
- Many schools for the state are having in-person band practices, though not necessarily Marching Band, even if the student elects to remain a virtual student.
- Do want to try to do an actual Spring Marching Band, maybe rather than something in February.

7:30-7:35: Budget Update (John Woodcock)

- Currently \$1350 in the account with one outstanding invoice from the Virtual Band Camp instructor.

7:30-7:45: Fundraising Update (Jeremy Hodges)

### **Tag Day**

- Total of 20 neighborhoods, only 1 has been completed.
- By the evening of the first neighborhood's completion, we had raised about \$200. Usually we can get \$15,000-\$17,000 with a few kids in one car, walking slowly, playing instruments and it can take a while.
- This year, with no contact, it takes about an hour to do 120 houses.
- Other sports are starting to do fundraising, so we are losing our early start window.
- Doing it now is easier to do it with the lower workload.
- Asking Rob to bring it up during Back to School Night.
- 25% of normal obligation time and lots less money on lunches, etc. - only a few hours whenever you want.

### **Zumba Fundraiser**

- Went ok - had a few people participate but only raised about \$25.

### **New Ideas**

- Zumba In-Person Class
- T-Shirt Design Contest and Sales
- Halloween Costume Contest - \$ per vote
- Merchandise on Band Website - she is willing to set up a small school store and is worried about investing and not selling the money (Jenn taking on)
  - Can have students design stuff for the school store that they would wear
- Business Solicitation - ask for volunteer

- Need to submit fundraising approval from the school

**DonorChose Update**

- Need to lower the cost to what we are asking for - too big for them to manage

**Band Alumni Engagement - On HOLD**

Next Hayfield Band Booster Meeting will be held virtually on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – check Facebook and Twitter for the link

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 pm.