

Laingsburg High School Band Boosters
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024
LHS Conference Room

Boosters Present: Thomas (Tom) Cousineau, Jessica Higgins, Larry Vogl, Nicole Crandall. Via Zoom - Ashlie Helmer

Motion to Call to Order: Call to Order at 6:36 pm by Tom

Directors Comments: Presented by Tom Cousineau

- Two concerts are coming up - High School Band on Monday, December 16 at 7pm; and Middle School Band on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm.
- Concert Assignments -
 - Pass the Hat - Ashlie and Jessica
 - Announcing - Larry on Monday, Mike on Tuesday
 - Lights - Kaitlyn Kingsbury is coming in to help
 - Facebook Live - Nikki Thelen will do Monday, Dave Sebenick will do Tuesday
 - Tree/Stage Decorating - Jazz Band Students
- Jazz Band is registered for Jazz Fest at Central Michigan University on February 6th
- LEAF approached Tom and asked that he fill out a grant application again this year. They approved another \$14,600, which will go to finishing up the new percussion line with additional instruments.
- A reminder should be made during the upcoming concerts for Pass the Hat and the search for a Middle School Parent to help do MS uniforms.
- The High School Band is registered for the MSBOA Concert Band Event in Owosso.

November Minutes: Nicole Crandall noted that her name does not have an "h" in it, which will be changed for future communications. Motion made by Larry to accept the minutes with that change. Motion supported by Nicole.

Treasurer Report: No Report

Fundraising Report: Presented by Dave Sebenick via email

- MSU Concessions:

- We did not finish the season on a strong note from a sales standpoint. We earned just under \$400 in commission for Game 6 and had close to 22 people work the game. With 25% of the \$400 going to the Boosters, the remaining \$300 shared amongst 22 people is not great math for six hours of work. Our contract with MSU provides for a minimum of \$400 payment per game and this is too low given the number of people I am expected to bring. I have discussed this with MSU and they have agreed to revisit the number next year. The middle to late November games are usually poor commission nights for us.
- I do not have final numbers from MSU but expect them later this month or early January. I expect that we will be crediting student accounts approximately \$55 per person per game. This is down from the previous two years in which we averaged \$59.
- We had a lot of new families work this year and overall, the experience was good. I hope that they will be back next year.
- Thank you to everyone who worked MSU Concession this year and made it a great fundraiser for the Band Program and our Students. Special thanks to Mrs. Cousineau who worked as the Inventory Manager this year. The Inventory Manager is the first to arrive to the stand and the last person to leave the stand once it is closed and all the inventory is counted. It is a long day, and we appreciate her stepping up to fill this role.
- MSU has had four organizations express interest in manage the concession stands for all of their events. These organizations did attend the last football game to gain an understanding of the operation and also attended one of the hockey games. All four are expected to respond to MSU request for proposal. A lot of speculation about what all of this could mean for the organizations that staff the stands today. Other stand Managers that I have talked with feel they will want to keep the organizations engaged but look to lower commission rates. I don't think we will hear anything until March/April/May of next year. Once I hear from MSU I will update the Boosters.
- Apple Pie Fundraiser:
 - I couldn't be happier with how the apple pie fundraiser went this year. Although we sold less pies compared to the previous two years, the price change and changes to the student credit amount made the fundraiser a success. The students earned close to \$5,500 in credits and the Band Boosters netted close to \$5,000. I have received several compliments in how great the pies looked and tasted with several positive comments about the boxes. I am glad that we were able to make that happen this year. The assembly Friday and Saturday went very smooth. I think when

2pm rolled around Saturday afternoon there were about 5 pies left to be picked up and most everything was cleaned. Overall, very smooth from start to finish.

- Thank you to all that made this fundraiser a success. We had several Band Boosters that were there Friday and/or Saturday helping out and your contributions did not go unnoticed. Special thanks to Nate for driving to Ludington to pick up the apples and Jessica for picking up the shells at Meijer.
- I am always looking for feedback on how we can make this fundraiser more successful. Please let me know if you have any recommendations. Compared to last year we had the same number of students participate in the fundraiser which is encouraging. For whatever reason, we just sold less pies this year.

Communications:

- The Jazz Band Performance at Winterfest was nicely promoted on Facebook. Tom will get the info to Catherine to promote the upcoming concerts, as well as the QR code for donations.

Uniforms - Presented by Ashlie Helmer

- Uniforms will be available to the High School at dress rehearsal on 12/13 for the students to try on very quickly. Freshman and anyone else that knows that they have changed sizes will go first, followed by a quick try-on for everyone else. New suits have already been pulled for those that changed drastically in marching season. Students will also have access to their marching shoes on Monday if they need a black pair.
- A couple of volunteers to help hand out black buttons at the High School Concert would be appreciated.
- Suspenders - Boosters approved the purchase of all new suspenders for the next season. Ashlie will get numbers and contacts for Tom.

Motion made to adjourn by Larry at 7:03 pm

Next Meeting - February 13, 2025