

# Band Parents Association



**Bridgewater-Raritan  
High School**

Bridgewater Raritan Band Parents' Association

General Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

Presentation by Gina Garrison for Premiere Design Jewelry as an optional fundraiser to put towards one of the band programs. Options for the organization, and for individuals to do in-home parties. Options to make personalized gifts for the students as well. There are also options for online and catalogs as well.

Reminder: to be a VOTING participant of the BPA, the membership dues (\$20) must be paid. This includes votes for Board, Budget, etc.

Moved to Approve the January Minutes: Motion made by John Mailhot and seconded by Cheryl

Mr. Mossa Update: Next performance is the CJMEA Concert Band Festival which will be hosted here, the top four bands in each region are part of the Gala in the Spring. Spring concerts are also coming up and Doc B will be writing a piece. Both jazz bands have gone on their first competitions and both got excellent ratings and good comments. One of the techs was one of the adjudicators for one of the concerts, so it was a good experience in a competitive space.

Winter Guard and Winter Percussion show is this Sunday (February 17<sup>th</sup>) This is the first public performance for Winter Percussion, we are building a core staff for them that will also be with us in the fall.

Winter Guard uniforms are scheduled to arrive by the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Winter Guard Dayton Trip has been cancelled, however there has been an alternative identified for an opportunity for a retreat rather than a competitive space. The focus will be teambuilding, leadership and education and training. They will be in Medford, NJ in early spring (April 1-3) and the focus will be to build on the values of teamwork and since the average age is young for Winter Guard, this will help pay dividends for years to come. It is slightly shorter than the Dayton trip was scheduled to be. The itinerary includes five meals and two nights and should be under \$200 per person for the total trip. The department (Mrs. Craig) and the Principal (Mr. Ezell) are both in favor of this and would be willing to support the coordination. There would be a specialized instructor, recommended by Mrs. Craig, to accompany the team. At this time, due to the late schedule, this is the only option that we would have available other than outright cancellation. However, Mr. Mossa feels that this would be an excellent experience for the Guard. Requests for chaperones would be made for overnight duties. Eighth graders would be included as well.

Feedback from the attending current Guard Families: The attending Guard families were positive and in favor of the proposal, it will be presented to the Guard on February 14<sup>th</sup> with request for feedback from the overall group.

Treasurer's Report as of February 7<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the sheet is balanced, however, there are outstanding upcoming expenses and deposits are to be determined. Question from Micah regarding a form with an EIN Number to permit the purchaser to make purchases without taxes. This is an ST-5 form which

# Band Parents Association



indicates that the purchaser is representing a tax-exempt organization and therefore does not need to pay sales tax. This form will be located, with the appropriate EIN number and provided to Micah.

Truck Driver for Competitions has been located (parent for one trip, and staff for the other two). To drive the box truck and/or rental truck, a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and a District waiver that goes to Peter Starrs. Tony D'Elia has also mentioned an interest in driving the truck and will be moving forward to complete the paperwork.

Jazz Prelims are being hosted on March 5<sup>th</sup>, we need to do fundraising/concessions and a sign-up sheet will go out for helping with that event.

Winter Guard on February 17 AT THE HIGH SCHOOL: Sign-up genius will go out for concessions, which will be the same one used for January. If someone signed up for January and your plans have changed, please let the organizers know, otherwise that commitment remains. There is an intermission from 4:55 to 5:35PM and we need servers for the stations during that break, so any help during that time period is welcomed. We are also asking for people to pick up food from six different restaurants (two or three people can cover two restaurants each, all local), so that the food can be delivered to the show.

Note that the cash box needs to be brought to the guard show, Rupali should have it.

**Micah:** Request to develop a system that can sustain a trip to Dayton every other or every three years. There needs to be a built-in, recurring, programmatic fundraising support system that will permit the Winter Guard to attend. In addition, the home show timing is not ideal because it does not permit a large number of Guards to attend, and therefore the fundraising is lessened as a result. In addition, there is an option to run a show back in September, in order to ensure that we are raising money for the Guard ahead of the Guard season. The TIA (Tournament Indoor Association) does fall events and we could have been guaranteed a significant number of Guards to attend, and it would have been a significant fundraising event. However, without appropriate, strategic, programmatic support, we cannot manage the show. Micah would also like to encourage a Fall Show, even though it's a huge coordination in the middle of the Marching Band season, but it allows the fundraising to take place. This is not a Winter Guard show, it's a Marching Band show, but it allows for the fundraising. It is critical to discuss this now, ahead of time, to ensure we have the lead time to put this together and it doesn't get lost in the busy season or during the summer when things are slower. We have not traditionally done the Fall Show because it requires the \*entire\* set of fields at the high school and coordination for the fall season with the sports (football and soccer, which compete for the fields) is extremely difficult to do. Critical to have this discussion for the future of the program.

Class Liaison for Class of 2021 (Swati) has had to step down, Jill Esposito has volunteered to cover her at this time; Chris Amerman has volunteered to step in to the role.

Fundraising is ongoing, want to reinvigorate the scrip program, Gertrude Hawk has worked well for the Guard, but they would prefer to phase out for a while. Potential to expand to the rest of the music programs. Fundraising with this might be better with a brief delay, potential for during finals. Orchestra

# Band Parents Association



is currently doing it to fundraise for the Boston trip. There are several boxes left that a discussion took place with what to do with them.

Discussion on disposition of funds: Guard and BPA fundraising should not be competing with one another in terms of cannibalizing fundraising opportunities. We also may need to have a clear vision of what the actual "goal" of fundraising should be, and that we need to come together as a unit. General comment: We need to fundraise as a unit, with a unified vision. Different aspects of the overall program will wax and wane, and some will be in a building phase where others are more mature. We need to ensure we have a unified discussion on fundraising. We also need to ensure that we have a unified message that we are all part of the same group, and the overall program, regardless of type of participation, is the overall program.

Upcoming: Winter Guard Home Show, Barnes & Noble, Clothing Drive, Jazz Prelims, CJMEA Regions (hosting) – all fundraising opportunities.

Do not yet have a date for the Band Banquet... currently on the calendar for May 30<sup>th</sup> but the school calendar is incorrect. Probably will be on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Location remains TBD. Choir's is June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Elks, which BPA is also looking at. (Prom is May 17<sup>th</sup> so that date should be avoided).

Nominating Committee for next year: Patti Abella is voting for the Nomination Committee, Alison Sentie will represent the Board Member, other members to be determined.

Discussion: If Premiere Jewelry fundraiser is done, it should be for the whole band. 25% of the sales goes to the band in cash donations, and then 30% of the sales in jewelry, where it can be used for raffles/baskets/prizes for the remainder of the year.