

Decatur Band Boosters Meeting March 12, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm, ~17 attendees (parents and students)

President Brad Johnson welcomed the group and said tonight's meeting will be much shorter, now that the Showcase is finished.

Director's Report: The Wind Ensemble attended Windfest at CWU in Ellensburg again this year. It was a very early day, but the students had fun. Jeff will try to schedule the group in a later time slot next year, since leaving Decatur at 5:30 AM is hard on everyone.

This Saturday is large group ensemble contest at Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup. Two buses will transport the bands; call time is 8:40 AM. After both groups have performed, they will head back to Decatur- likely around 2 PM.

The following Saturday (March 22) is the Jazz Band contest at Graham-Kapowsin High School. There is no funding for buses this time, and the group needs volunteer drivers. The group will warm up at 10:30 AM and will likely be finished at 11:30. Jeff would like the group to stay and watch the guest artist if at all possible.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy did not attend tonight. See Showcase expenses detailed below.

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Discussion items:

Showcase Debrief: Brad was pleased that the Boosters were able to take mostly "green" crew and make such a success out of this year's Showcase. He said this was one of the best years in regards to teamwork. Everyone stepped up and it really paid off for the band program.

Lessons Learned: Need more advertising done before the Showcase date. We need to get more people in the door. We will look into advertising at the middle schools to generate interest.

Brad's Observations: Procurement went very well this year with several people helping procure donations. The donation tracker on the Band Booster webpage proved to be useful to people gathering donations. We may want to expand outside the Federal Way area when looking for donations and head into Seattle and Tacoma more. This could help when grouping items for auction packages. The Silent Auction area needed more lighting between performances to alert the bidders that the auction was still running. The Live Auctioneer was great. Looking towards limiting costs for next time, we may want to revisit the forms we use as Bid Sheets, as they are very expensive to print in triplicate.

Build the Band: this was a hit with the parents- they liked it much better than the Fund A Player activity from years past.

Feedback from Parents: the guest musician format was liked, and preferred to the guest entertainer format, as Jim Sisko also came to the school to work with the student musicians. It also made the Showcase easier to sell for some families, as they were able to promote it by encouraging their family and friends to come see who their child was working with. There was some discussion as to whether we might add to audience appeal by having sets with themes (such as movie or television music, 1940s big band, funk, fusion, etc). We will revisit this discussion when planning for the next Showcase begins.

Thank you letters: All donors who we have contact info for and who gave in excess of \$50 will receive a thank you letter from the Boosters. Delivery methods can include emails, snail mail and hand-delivered letters. We will try to locate a version from prior years to use as an example; Melissa will compile the addresses.

Showcase Expenses: Brad gave everyone attending a financial summary of this year's auction. In brief, the total income was \$5748, total expenses were \$1536.07, leaving a net income of \$4211.93. Both the income and expenses were under our proposed budget. Many of the items needed to run the auction are reusable (IE decorations and serving equipment for desserts), so our expenses should be much lower next year.

Disney Trip: The Decatur Band Boosters are pleased to be able to present a travel scholarship to the band which will provide sufficient funds to offset approximately \$250 in travel costs for every student traveling to Disneyland this year. This is the most we have ever been able to give and leaves us with a balance of about \$2300 going into next year. The scholarship check has been deposited with the Decatur Finance Office. Final payments by students are due tomorrow (March 13, 2014).

The trip is quickly approaching and there will be both a Chaperone Meeting and a Parent/Student Meeting scheduled soon to go over all the details. Brad will put FAQs and a trip itinerary on the band website soon.

Action Items:

Brad Johnson- send email about drivers for the Jazz Band contest. Update website to include Disney Trip FAQs and trip itinerary.

Melissa Preiser- send thank you letters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Next Booster meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 7 pm in the band room.

Website: www.dhsbands.org

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Submitted by Melissa Preiser