Tucker Middle School Band Boosters Meeting Minutes

12/10/13

Present: Nancy Duffee, Lee Jones, Julia Torbert, Cindy Smallwood, Mr. Jennings

Mr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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| Agenda Item | Discussion |
| Holiday Concerts/Festivities | Ms. Duffee and Mr. Jennings discussed the upcoming holiday concerts which include:* Monday 12/16/13—Cadet Band, consisting of sixth graders and beginning-level seventh graders, will perform at North DeKalb Mall 11:45-12:30 p.m. Mr. Jennings noted that the band will go to lunch at Golden Corral or Chick fil a following the performance. Students will NOT wear tuxedo shirts but will instead wear a black or white turtleneck (not required), worn under their band t-shirts over which they will wear their band hoodie. Black dress pants or skirt, black socks and black dress shoes will complete the attire for this concert. Mr. Jennings discussed the importance of the band looking as uniform as possible;
* Tuesday 12/17/13—Cadet Band, along with the Chorus and Orchestra, will perform at Livsey Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. Attire is the same as for Monday's performance. Current band members who graduated from Livsey will participate in the concert. Each feeder school was notified of the opportunity to have TMS Band perform a concert—Livsey was the only school to request their presence. Ms. Duffee requested that all parents who had not yet turned in a permission slip for Monday and Tuesday's performances do so;
* Tuesday 12/17/13-All grade level bands will perform at 7:00 p.m. at TMS in the Holiday Concert, including a combined 7th grade concert /8th grade symphonic band and the Jazz Ambassadors. Performance attire will consist of black dress pants or skirt, black socks, black dress shoes and white tuxedo shirts. Ms. Duffee announced that volunteers will be needed to assist students with cummerbunds and bow ties. Volunteers should arrive between 5:30 and 5:45. Students staying after school prior to the performance will be served pizza;
* Mr. Jennings announced that refreshments would be served in the gymnasium following the concert. Students were asked to bring food items as follows: Brass players—fruit, cheese, veggie platters, crackers, etc.; Woodwind players—baked goods; Percussionists—Ginger Ale and chips. Additional items may be brought to the reception.
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| 8th Grade Spring Trip | Mr. Jennings announced that the Spring trip will not happen this year. He noted that the 8th grade students did not appear to be enthusiastic or motivated. He noted that the Chorus and Orchestra will be taking a trip to Florida, and there are 6 seats available for students for this trip. |

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| Agenda Item | Discussion |
| Schedule for next semester | Mr. Jennings announced that, due to the way classes are currently scheduled and the discontinuation of extended learning time (ELT), some students will not be returning to band or will not have band on a daily basis. This led to a discussion of the impact of the academic schedule on the arts not only at TMS but across the county as well. Parents asked how they could best advocate for the IB curriculum **and** the arts without compromising either. Ms. Duffee suggested there be a discussion with Dr. Cunningham and other school personnel so that concerns could be heard. She also noted that changes in the band at TMS ultimately impact the band at Tucker High School. Mr. Jennings noted a significant drop in band participation at the HS level. |
| Band Pictures | Mr. Jennings announced that band picture day will likely be in January with the assistance of Ms. Stewart who works with a professional photographer. The photographer he has used in the past is unavailable. |
| Constant Contact/Website | Ms. Duffee requested that parents complete band registration forms so that she has current email addresses and can maintain correspondence through Constant Contact. Anyone who has not provided her with an updated email was asked to do so. Ms. Smallwood provided the website address for TMS Band ([www.tuckermiddleband.com](http://www.tuckermiddleband.com/)) where all band-related information can be found, and noted an app is available for download as well. |
| General Announcements | Mr. Jennings discussed the importance of students completing and turning in band practice logs and the impact on students' grades. He encouraged daily practicing;Mr. Jennings announced that the Drumline performed at Chapel Hill and earned a participation plaque;Mr. Jennings announced that the Jazz Ambassadors will have an opportunity to perform at the Porter Sanford Performing Arts Center in January. He discussed the importance of having all bands perform as much as possible. |

There being no further discussion, Mr. Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Valerie Lawton-Edwards