

BHMR Parent Meeting

August 6, 2007

Minutes

Introduction: Debbie Crutchfield introduced this year's Band Boosters' officers to parents. Questions, concerns or problems that parents may have can be directed toward any of the officers.

Band Packets: Band packets were given out to parents and are due back on Aug 16th.

- **The yellow emergency card** must be filled out and notarized. These will be taken along on all band outings and activities--for emergency use only. The information will be kept confidential and will be in the possession of the band booster president or one of the officers.
- **The t-shirt/sweatshirt order form.** All band students must have a short sleeve t-shirt, these are worn at competitions, fundraisers, parades, etc. See the order form for additional information.
- **Friends of the Band form.** This is one of the fundraisers. For more information contact Laurie Kaler or check the website www.railroaderband.org for more information.
- **Band Fee form.** The band fee helps pay for bus transportation to and from competitions, instruments, music, etc. If a family has difficulty with the fee please contact the treasurer, Bob Cummings.
- **Picnic and Preview Show:** See the flyer for details. The show will be on the practice field with the picnic following, it will be held by the BHS stadium.

Fundraisers: Additional money is needed to support the marching band throughout the season. Current fundraisers include Frederick Keys baseball ticket sales, car washes, train banks, Jefferson and Burkittsville carnivals, Basket Bingo and the band competition at BHS. The deadline for Keys ticket money is Aug. 9th. The BHS competition will be held on Oct. 20th, everyone is asked to volunteer that day. We need are sponsors for the Basket Bingo baskets—ask family members, businesses, etc., the boosters buy the baskets but you may fill the basket if you like. See the flyer for more information. Train banks will be due back on Sept. 15th—each student will take home a bank and families should fill them with spare change. Last year we raised about \$1,200. so this is a good fundraiser. New ideas for fundraisers are always welcome!

Disney Trip: A band trip to Disney World is at the planning stage. It is tentatively scheduled for Spring Break, the week of March 19-24th. Students also have the 25th off from school. Students will be competing and performing at the MGM parade. The trip is paid for by the student. There will be fundraisers to help the students raise their own money, i.e. Wolfgang Candy sales. Debbie Crutchfield will have a receipt book to keep track of how much money each student has raised or paid. More information will follow at the Band Booster meetings.

The Band Season-What Parents Can Expect:

Band Practice: All practice dates and times will be posted on the band website, www.railroaderband.org. There will be practice on Back to School night, Aug. 23, let Mr. Groen know of this or any schedule conflicts. Mr. Groen has a form that went home to parents, it is also posted on the website.

Saturdays: Typically Saturdays start with practice in the morning (see the schedule), then the band loads the trailer with instruments, uniforms, etc. and load the bus for the competition. They arrive back at BHS usually 10:00 p.m. or later. There will be a POD (plan for the day)—what time they leave BHS, the time they compete, and the time they arrive back and unload the trailer at BHS and are dismissed. Your student will need money for meals.

Discount tickets for competitions: Tickets will be available to parents the morning of the competition about \$4.00 each, about \$2 cheaper than at the door, see Denise Hill in the morning when you drop your student off. If you are helping out with the pit, you do not need a ticket, you will be given a pass by Debbie Crutchfield, or your hand will be stamped at the competition.

Pit Crew: The pit crew (parents helping move instruments and props onto the field) will need to know where items go on the field, there will be practices before the first competition. This year the pit may have matching t-shirts. Pit crew is also needed for BHS home football games (no pass or ticket needed). See Jim or Dorothy Moler if you want to help, it's also a lot of fun!

Band Scores: BHMR is a Group 1 band, they compete with about 80 bands in our Chapter. The bands are competing to go to Chapters, there they are competing to make it to ACC's—Atlantic Coast Championships. This year the ACC's will be held in Dover, DE. 25 bands compete there. There are 13 chapters so the chapter winners go plus the next top 12 bands qualify to attend ACC's. Last year BHMR made the ACC's! Go Railroaders! There is an unofficial but reliable website where you can follow the scores all season long: www.bluewaveband.org.

Uniforms, shoes and gloves: The uniform fitting will be on Saturday, Aug. 25th, after band practice. Volunteers are needed that day see Caroline O'Connell. Students will need two pairs each of shoes, crimson and white, and gloves. We will be using shoes from the band closet to help keep costs down. Shoes cost \$22, and gloves \$3. The white shoes will be worn with white uniform pants for football games. More information on crimson socks will follow.

Band Booster meetings are held on the second Monday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the BHS library. Please try to attend as there is lots of information to get out to parents at this time of year and the meeting is a good place to find out what's going on, i.e. Competitions, Disney Trip!! The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 13th, see you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Moler