



Lowndes High School Georgia Bridgemen Band Booster Meeting November 16, 2015

I. President Matt Hart

President Matt Hart opened at 6:30 with a welcome to parents to the November booster meeting. He thanked the faithful band parents who attend the monthly meetings.

II. Director's Comments: Jon Bowman

- Mr. Bowman gave a special thanks to chaperones, nurses, drivers and pit crew who made the trip last Friday to McEachern. He stated it was a long day and many parents had to take off work, and he appreciated their sacrifice. It was a good trip as the food stop was good and travel through Atlanta went smoothly.
- The band will play this Thursday at the Powder Puff football game for the first two games. Band students can pick up their instruments at 5:30 and the game will begin at 6:00 PM. Dress is casual, and students are dismissed after the first games are played.
- Saturday, December 5 will be the first of two Christmas parades for the Bridgemen. Students will load at LHS at 3:45 and stage on Patterson Street at Woodrow Wilson Drive. The parade begins at 5:00, and students will return to LHS around 8:30 PM. Students may not check out after the parade and will ride their regular bus to the parade. All students (except tubas and batteries) will carry their horns on the bus. Check updates on Facebook for more details about this parade.
- The second parade will be December 12 in Hahira. Students load at 3:45 at LHS and stage at 4:10 off Main Street at the video store. The parade begins at 5:00, and students may meet in Hahira and check out after the parade. All students who play a school-owned instrument **MUST** help load the semi after the parade to ensure their horn returns to LHS.

- Band officers had a lengthy meeting last week for future planning and discussed areas of success and areas for improvement. One topic was the election of new officers. As new officers currently start in May, there is a hardship placed on the officers and band staff to have summer programs ready by June. A new proposal to the by-laws would run the new officers' term from January to December. This change would give new officers 4-5 months to train with the old officers. The band has several big trips (Chicago, Indoor Percussion trips, Winter Guard Championships in Daytona and Dayton, etc.), and this change by-law change would make the trip planning easier. Mr. Bowman emphasized that President Matt Hart has great flexibility in his schedule, and he has been instrumental in making the band run smoothly as far as transportation and trip planning is concerned. Matt takes care of things the rest of the band staff never even think to plan. The current band officers have agreed to stay the extra months through the transition change, but they are also open if another parent wishes to run for office. The nominating committee is taking candidates, so please contact the committee if you wish to run or nominate someone for office.

III. President's Comments: Matt Hart

- Approval of October 2015 minutes was next on the agenda. A motion was made by Kevin Ruane to accept the minutes. Second motion was made by Jennifer McNeil. Motion carried.
- Next, the treasurer's report was presented. This report reflects expenses as of October 31st, 2015. Positive comments include the following: band props are under budget, and the band store has a twice the profit expected for the year. Thank you to Paula Burgess for all her hard work with the store.
 - Budget Total Marching Band Fees: \$84,500.00 Actual: \$55,547.72
 - Budget Band store Net: \$5,000.00 Actual: \$11,193.21
 - Budget Band Show Props: \$11,000.00 Actual: \$6,759.36
- Parents and students were reminded of the policy on student fees. All student fees must be paid before trip payments will be applied to accounts. This has affected 4-5 students this week, so please check your account. The treasurer will notify you by email if your trip payment must be applied to your fees. Additionally, students must have student accounts up to date to participate in Winter Guard, Indoor Percussion, and to try out for leadership positions.
- Mr. Bowman added the information that senior student schedules for the second semester will be held until band fees are paid.

- Mr. Bowman also shared that some parents have disagreed with the mandatory Drive One Fundraiser. If this is a general consensus, the band can raise fees and not have any fundraising next year. However, he strongly disagrees with raising fees and would prefer to keep band fees as low as possible. It does take extra funds to bring in special teachers to help improve skills needed to win contests, and fundraisers help with these expenses.

- Next, Mr. Hart shared the proposal for two by-laws changes for the election of new officers. For any change in by-laws, there must be a 30-day notice in place, and voting will take place at a special called meeting on December 14, 2015. To help ease the transition for booster officers and band staff, it is proposed that officers assume duties at the start of the calendar year for the term of Jan. 1 to Dec. 1. This change will alleviate issues with new officers taking office prior to band camp without proper time to meet with band staff and plan band camp and summer events.

- A second by-law change will allow band parents of freshmen members to participate, for parents will not have to be members for six months prior to elections. Both of these changes are proposals, and voting will be next month. No second is required for a proposal.

- The proposal is as follows: Section 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The voting members shall elect from among their number a President, Vice-President, Secretary. The meeting of the voting members to elect officers shall be at the annual meeting. The election of officers shall be decided by the majority vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting of the Band Boosters. Candidates will be nominated by written ballot at the ~~October~~ ~~February~~ meeting. Election of officers will be at the ~~March~~ November meeting and treasurers appointed within 30 days. Before acceptance of an elected office, each candidate will have read and understood the responsibilities required of their position, and will be a voting member in good standing ~~for at least six months~~ with current band student prior to running for office. Only one voting member per household may serve as an officer. New officers-elect may hold meetings to pre-plan for their term of service; with approval from current officers they may attend their meetings to insure an easier transition of leadership. Each term of office will be from the first day of January ~~June~~ until the thirty-first day of December ~~May~~.

- Please email or call Jennifer McNeil at mcneiljennifer1988@gmail.com (229-563-4202) to nominate a candidate for 2016 band officers. The positions are president, vice-president, and secretary.
- Congratulations to Dean Smith, winner of the golf cart and Yeti cooler package. Thank you to all who participated in the raffle fundraiser.

IV. Vice-President's Comments: Brian Spray

- No comments from Vice-President.
- No comments from committee members.

V. Final Comments: President Matt Hart

- Parents are reminded to stay current with the Chicago trip fee schedule. The \$100 initial deposit was due November 13, and the next payment of \$150 is due on or before January 15. Payments are \$150 each month thereafter until October, excluding the months of June and July of 2015.
- Mr. Bowman shared one more item regarding a special treat for the seniors. Farmers and Merchants bank will be hosting a special steak dinner prior to the Christmas holidays for all seniors. Seniors are asked to RSVP the event which will be held in the LHS cafeteria.
- Please note the special called band meeting on December 14, 2016 at 6:30.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Next band booster meeting: December 14 @ 6:30