

Grissom Band Parents Association Meeting
August 28, 2006, 7:03 pm called to order by Jay Simcox, President

Board Members Present:

Bill Connell, Director
Theo Vernon, Director
Jay Simcox, President
Bill Connell, Director
Jim Gatherer, 1st Vice President

Becky Lash, 2nd Vice President
Tonya Hayes, Treasurer
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
Mary Setzer, Secretary

Jay Simcox

- Parents should go to Expo web site (<http://www.grissommarchingexo.org>) to sign up for volunteering at the expo, user & password are in the newsletter
- Max Hammond concert in 2 weeks... great opportunity to see the hard work the band has been doing
- 2nd game, Friday
- Kids are looking great/working hard
- Business for tonight
 - ✓ Directors
 - ✓ Committees
 - ✓ Budget

Bill Connell

- Band Parent Meetings are on 4th Monday of each month except December & May
- Most meetings are 50 minutes to an hour
- 1st regular season game Friday against Butler
 - ✓ ROTC has civil war cannon to fire upon score...
 - ✓ Concern has been expressed for placement of "weapon" working with principal and ROTC
 - ✓ It has an open barrel, so even with blanks, all around need to pay attention
- Sat Sept 9, Max Hammond Concert 7:30 pm
 - ✓ Max was a GHS band member (1982 graduate), killed 2nd plane at WTC on 9/11/01
 - ✓ His parents have allowed GHS band to perform a memorial concert for Max & all who lost their lives that day as well as their families
 - ✓ No admission charged, but donations are accepted, his parents allow the use of these donations for the Max Hammond Memorial Instrument Fund
 - ✓ For the observation of the 5th anniversary, Harry Watters, Max's classmate will perform
 - ✓ Harry plays with the Army Blues Band and Army Brass Quintet
 - ✓ He is pleased to be here to play on behalf of the memory of one of his friends
- Dates/destinations
 - ✓ **Saturday Sept 30** (no overnight) to Gadsden City High School, this is one of the longest running contests in the South
 - ✓ **Saturday Oct 7** (again, no overnight) Vanderbilt show in Nashville
 - ✓ Students meet mid-morning the day of the competitions and leave in the early afternoon
 - ✓ Times are estimate, schedules will be firmed up when we know time of performances
- In preparation for competitions, please remember rehearsals are part of grade, band is a performance class! The majority of the grades are based on performance, therefore must be affected if a rehearsal is missed.
- Some students have been lax in attending rehearsal and will need something to raise their grade.
- If sick be sure to let the directors know (emails should be sent at **beginning** of day as they don't check email after school before rehearsal times) call the band room at 881-1075 to leave a message
- This is a safety factor as well as keep up with the kids

- Contest band members must memorize music. Many have the majority memorized, but some things need more time/work. Parents should encourage them to memorize the music for the show, songs National Anthem, Alma Mater, and Tiger Rag are recognizable and the audience can tell when they miss!
 - Students in upper part of sections have been asked to teach middle school students, handouts will be going out to them,
 - ✓ Experienced students teaching beginners and middle schoolers (~7th) helps the teaching students as well – it can be eye opening!
 - ✓ The handout tells them what to do, what to charge, materials, etc. A list of students to be teaching will go out to middle school unless parents object. Only instrument & home phone are released.
 - Private lessons with professional musicians are strongly encouraged for band members. This increases the level of the band!
 - Lessons once a week or once every couple of weeks are very helpful. Even though it's tough during marching season, it's worth scheduling. This plays a big part of improvement in our bands.
 - If students are still playing same instruments on which they started in middle school... consider whether it's time to buy them an improved instrument. Christmas is a good time for this, sellers have deals at end of year.
 - Directors are not telling students they have to get new instruments immediately... but suggesting it's time to think about it. Remember it is an investment in more than just the instrument, also in your sons & daughters.
- Q What kind of transportation will there be to competitions on Sept 30 & Oct 7?
- A Charter bus
- Q Does everybody go (i.e. football band too)?
- A Yes EVERYBODY whether in football or contest band, all students need to see what's going on & the learn a lot
- Q Is a list of private teachers available?
- A Yes, directors will provide list with email & phone. Directors will also help with selection for instrument purchases.

Thanks for being here!

Theo Vernon

- Deanna Plotts will provide info for expo ad sales, sales kickoff meeting for marching students, Tues Sept 5th before rehearsal, students should arrive at 6:00 for info etc.
 - Sept 15, first game with uniforms @ Sparkman, uniform hanging instruction session will be held in class before this game... need to wear t-shirt & shorts underneath, any students not yet fitted will be after evening rehearsals prior to game
 - Sept 21 (tentative), Thursday game, need to schedule picture of full band for expo program, time to be determined (will be early, before game so trucks will be loaded right after school)
 - Sept 28th is 8th grade game
 - Check for updated calendar on Charms
- Q What is the password for Charms access?
- A Go to charmsmusic.com, click parent sign in username: grissomhsb
Then log in with student ID code to get the remaining handouts, if you don't you're your student's code, email the directors and they'll lookup IDs if you. For upper classmen it's the last 4 of SSN. Ninth graders will use the same as their middle school code, often the last 4 digits of phone number, in the future initial for name of middle school will be added in the case of duplicates.

Jay Simcox

- Be sure to go into Charms and update email and mailing addresses so that contact can be made, we have had many undeliverables
- Budget sheets have been made available to show proposed budget
- Call for questions about budget? None
 - ✓ Motion made to accept budget
 - ✓ Second made
 - ✓ All in favor, none opposed
 - ✓ 2006-07 budget passed

Jim Gatherer, 1st VP

- The first game was fun! Hope for successes like this every week
- Introductions of folks who make the marching program work:
 - “Mr. Truck”, Jim Kirsch*
 - ✓ We have lots of equipment & trucks
 - ✓ Need 2 drivers, sign up and get details, etc
 - ✓ Starting 15th with uniforms going too, we need three trucks... therefore more drivers!
 - ✓ You don't need CDL, just like moving trucks – they are new trucks with power steering, power brakes, radio, etc.
 - ✓ Truck driving doesn't have to be a “male” experience.
 - ✓ Keep in mind parking at truck pickup location is limited, so if you're picking up get a ride there

Tiffeny Hubbard, uniforms

- ✓ Thanks to all who helped with uniforms
- ✓ It's not just sewing! Some duct tape is also used
- ✓ It takes a lot of people!
- ✓ Patti Preston is co-chair & will take over next year
- ✓ Uniform committee doesn't have to be “female” experience...!
- ✓ We will need lots of help before Sparkman game, so sign up to help
- ✓ Jeff & Kelley Gattis take care of hats & gloves. Gloves are sold at practice and at games, they seem to get lost a lot... \$3.00 each
- ✓ Monday mornings meet to get uniforms ready for cleaners.
- ✓ Please sign up for 1 to 1 ½ hour Monday mornings, or Thursday afternoon, uniforms are put together & inserts are added for game
- ✓ Help pass out plumes at games, it's easy but takes lots of people
- ✓ Keep in mind black socks are **required** with uniform, do not wear white socks or go without!
- ✓ Call Tiffeny (don't email!) phone number is 880-3669 Call her!

Jim Krenn, stadium set up

- ✓ Still need water – water for our kids, for visiting bands, for middle schoolers
- ✓ Donation of cases of water or money
- ✓ Until uniforms are worn, PTA provides free Cokes, ice & cups. Need help at halftime pouring, then once they are in uniforms volunteers are needed to bring out coolers with water
- ✓ Also come help roll out seat covers at games when uniforms are worn

Debbie Krenn, chaperones

- ✓ Sign ups sheets for 3 away games, 2 competitions, or you can sign up on “other volunteer” sheets if interested but not sure what you want to do, she'll call when needed
- ✓ Turn in medical forms before children ride the bus!

Paula Dickerhoff, transportation

- ✓ Buses are ordered

Sharon Keffer, concerts

- ✓ First concert Max Hammond, need 7-8 people in lobby to hand out programs
- ✓ Low demand, just show up early
- ✓ You can sign for a specific concert, or to the list to be called as needed
- ✓ You'll be scheduled so you can go in to see your own student's band
- ✓ Need people for all concerts through spring including jazz & district
- ✓ It's FUN, a great for freshman parents to get involved
- ✓ Anyone able to do flower design to honor directors & Hammond parents, etc., please see Laura Hardy or Karen Alison
- ✓ Tickets are issued when your bill is current (8 for the season), they must be signed out by parents, can be used at Fall, Winter, & Spring concerts, other concerts require donation or ticket purchase.

Alice Searcy, Guard

- ✓ New uniforms, look like superheros!
- ✓ They are working hard & can't wait to show off.

Jeff Brewer Marching Exposition

- Many volunteer opportunities
- Less than 8 weeks to go!
- The expo was great last year with good turnout & support, great shows by the bands
- We made money last year...thanks to parent volunteers, but it was a massive effort.
- Expect an 18 hour day, some beginning as early as 6 am, then as late as midnight.
- Deanna Plotts, in charge of selling ads for program
- Last year students were give an ad packet to sell to local businesses, this brought in over \$3k worth of ad revenue
- Students got incentives for sales, businesses donated some, board also gave money, and some of the parents on last year's board gave Scrip cards for student incentives
- Students should go to sell ads in pairs or take parent
- Parents are encouraged to donate Scrip cards for prizes, or donate money (any amount appreciated)

Beck Lash, 2nd VP

- Corporate sponsorship program will going on all year, but also a focus for the expo
- The idea is that parents get companies to put ad in expo which will come with lots of other advertising beyond what one ad costs... the larger donation the more exposure. Forms available on www.grissomband.org
- 4 levels of sponsorship, modeled after Lassiter
 - ✓ Blue
 - ✓ Silver
 - ✓ Gold
 - ✓ Platinum \$1000 or more, gets a full page ad in expo program, name in every concert program (1000 people or more see these), company name & address on website, a banner or magnetic sign on our trucks & on the fence during expo (not permanently, just during expo)...
 - ✓ Need to go in person to make the contact
- Need donations for trophies, last year they were donated by Ruby Tuesday. This year we'll need \$2-3 thousand to buy them
- Sponsoring two or three trophies would be silver level sponsorship which includes website & concert programs

Q How much to sponsor trophy?

A We'll take whatever they'll give, we could group by amount... like Columbia where businesses sponsored specific trophies. We'll need to give business a specific dollar amount (ballpark), one trophy is usually \$50-75... last year \$2200, but we hope to double bands so would need more than last year

Directors

- Officially 2 bands now registered, that's good for early the deadline is not until 1 month prior to the contest, so it's not until end of Sept

Jeff Brewer

- Ads in program need to go into Deanna P by Sept 22 at the latest
- Upcoming committee leads will be looking to borrow things, such as 10 foot quick pop up tents, etc.
- Hospitality committee will be looking for packaged foods, etc... last year lots of donations of chips, cookies, etc. were very helpful
- Shift work, sign up sheets available at meetings, or go to website (preferred), Rex Simmons has put together volunteer headquarters, www.grissommarchingexpo.org
- Instructions to go in & sign up are in newsletter
- There are 633 shift slots now, may be modified over coming weeks... full day encompasses 7-8 shifts of approx 2.5 hours each
- Please sign up for one or two shifts. This is a great way to get to know fellow band parents.
- On the sign up sheets, the yellow column lists shifts for the areas, estimated times are based on 20 bands may change depending on the number of bands present
- Jennifer Sherman concessions committee
- Guthrie's will be providing food
- The suggestion is to give an equipment gift to PTA in return for use of concession stand

Becky Lash 2nd VP

- There are other fundraising after the expo, these ongoing projects will be exciting.

Cherry Hovik

- Is anyone unaware of VBC project?
- Add your name to list, we need workers.
- This was started the end of May, working 8 or 9 events parents have raised \$5000 of band fees for their accounts. Raising a total so far of \$6600 for the band and parents.
- It's FUN!
- Once people try it, they want to come back, so sign up w/home & cell number
- We need people who can flexible/on call
- Also need workers available for calls for during day
- There had been \$200 limit on earned credit... earning more through this project is allowed
- Big Spring Jam we'll need 30-40 people per shift, get free parking, and can stay in the Jam after shift.
- Students 16 or over can work
- Selling drinks & food

Karen Parker, Scrip

- Make donation for Ad prizes, use scrip to donate
- Next order will be 2 weeks (one is closing tonight)
- Scrip shop set up at practices, ~8 pm
- In stock or order, stop & ask and they'll explain the details
- Great for Christmas gifts, teacher gifts, director gifts, etc.

Avi Swain, spirit

- Tailgate party went great!
- Spirit committee wants to come up with item to sell & use at games
- Order forms for Latin Fantasy t-shirt available, need to be in by end of the week
- Sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. will be ordered soon, turn in your orders

Kristi Fugit, publicity

- Invitations for upcoming Max Hammond concert printed by Graphic Publishing for free

Jim Kirsch, Fruit sales

- Changed fruit suppliers from O'Dell, inconsistent supply had become problematic
- Now we'll be using Florida Indian River Citrus, Catholic High has used them & they come highly recommended, they have been very responsive
- Web sales, orders placed online & we get shipments to be picked up at Advance Auto
- Web orders are paid online, this way we don't order anything we can't sell, so web site prices will be the same as last year \$23/case, sales off truck will be \$25/case
- All setups the same
- Postcard mailing will have sale dates, & info on website, etc.
- First sale Nov 17-18 (the weekend) before Thanksgiving, need workers at the truck
- We need adult workers! We can't leave the truck unattended with just students, so we need at least 2 adults, this means don't send kids in place of parents who have signed up.
- Advance Auto will be primary sale location with a second satellite site at GHS on Saturdays
- Presale pickups will be Advance Auto only (in order to manage distribution)

Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer

- Accounts are now available on Charms
- May be some problems to work out, but balances are accurate as of Saturday (Aug 26)
- Account shows beginning balance as of Saturday without showing complete historical transactions.
- Check numbers may not be represented exactly, but balance should be correct
- Partial amounts don't show up, so may show fees due at higher amount, but summary at the top should be correct as partials have to be shown as miscellaneous.

TheoVernon

- "Dress" rehearsal for Hammond concert Sept 7 after school will finish ~4:15
- \$100 donation received from neighbor of the school with a letter saying she loved the sound of summer rehearsals
- Max Hammond concert wear dress clothes (dress uniforms worn at district and state concerts only)
- Skirts long enough that they do not ride up! Otherwise any church-style clothes acceptable

Jay Simcox

- Thanks to Rex Simmons doing great job on Web site!!
- Fundraiser collecting cell phones & ink jet cartridges coming up, so save them. Next semester will have drive to collect

Meeting Adjourned 8:29