

Grissom Band Parents Association Meeting
September 25, 2006, 7:03 pm called to order by Jay Simcox, President

Board Members Present:

Bill Connell, Director
Theo Vernon, Director
Jay Simcox, President

Jim Gatherer, 1st Vice President
Becky Lash, 2nd Vice President
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
Mary Setzer, Secretary

Jim Krenn motion to accept August GBPA meeting minutes, Jeff Brewer 2nd: minutes accepted

Jay Simcox:

- Thanks to everyone who worked at the Big Spring Jam and for working concessions at VBC

Bill Connell:

Gadsden Competition

- Have not received schedule for Gadsden, although a rough idea of a 7 pm performance
- Tentative plan to meet at about noon to rehearse, etc.
- Football band students will come later (maybe 2pm) to get ready to leave
- Students should plan to bring sack lunch to eat on bus, not only should they not eat in uniforms, but don't need to eat right before performance
- This is a "one shot" style performance, does not consist of prelims and finals
- Football band won't need uniforms, they will watch from stands
- Will get the finalized schedule from Gadsden Band soon
- Itinerary should be home by Wednesday
- Expect to leave there 9-10 pm, first estimate of return is around midnight, but need to know awards schedule, etc.
- Map to new Gadsden City High will be available by Saturday
- Parents are encourage to go even if your children are in football band, it's fun & even amazing to see the different sizes, performance styles, etc... different classes of bands, usually based on band size (occasionally on size of school enrollment)
- Competition with no prelim & final means shorter time involvement, but students learn from doing both styles of competitions
- Will do run through either after Friday's game or at half time. If the whole show can be done at half that's what we'll do, but won't actually know until time.

Vanderbilt competition

- Perform 7 pm, awards 8:30 pm, do have the schedule, but to avoid confusion itinerary won't go out until after Gadsden info
- Similar timing for rehearsal, departure, return, etc.
- This event also has no prelim & final, just the one performance
- Vanderbilt website shows block seating presale for nonchaperone spectators, Alice Searcy & Margaret Haack will coordinate block ticket purchase, expect email

EXPO

- Not gotten as many bands as had been hoped, only 11 bands have registered (12 last year),
- Even with 11 bands fewer students coming 1364 last year, this year 11 bands is only 865 students.
- The majority of profits are from concession sales, a decent amount from ticket sales, but this level of attendance will make it difficult to make enough money do good quality show with appropriate services such as DVD, clinics, etc.
- Hired clinicians this year, leading to added salaries... if we don't get more *people* signed up we won't have an expo!
- Other shows in the area are coming up short & trying to figure out what to do as well.

- Looking for ideas!

- Talks with area band directors indicate that since most schools in the region doing fall break, October is no longer the prime time for marching contests shows need to be finished early before break.
- So not as many people going... anywhere, last year Hoover had 22 bands this year 6!
- We are looking into moving ours to September.
- We went to Hendersonville early a few years ago (this is where the idea for clinicians came from)... this year they have 28 bands!
- So, the calendar changing... considering the 15th or the 22nd of September... we may in fact benefit to doing it over the Big Spring Jam weekend, as we might be able to use it as a draw for expo (so an idea to consider)
- If we move the show, we would not do preliminaries & finals, but instead hire top notch clinicians (they are available early), and market it as a learning experience, giving them time to improve their show with advice from clinician before they go to later competitions.
- This will be changing the atmosphere from a **competition** to an atmosphere of learning.
- Other directors like the idea. Seems to be a big new market...

- Might be able to avoid cancelling it and do the expo, but we may only net \$800-1000 and is this fair to GBPA to work so hard for such little return?

- Apologies all round, Mr. Connell will contact bands tomorrow and give them information about earlier "learning-style" show next year.

- Jeff Brewer has organized meticulously and thoroughly, he has been unselfish and an outstanding leader, given generously of himself... *many* thanks to him

- Thanks to *all* for the hard work!

Jeff Brewer:

- Thanks to the committee leads, many people have put in a lot of up front work, so acknowledgment goes out to all the leads.

- Lots of work and adjustments are ahead as we regroup. We have established great things for next year.
- Will be in touch for debriefing and regroup for next year.

Bill Connell:

- The Expo isn't "dead" but will be reorganized and we'll go on from there.
- Main investments that have been made are in the advertisements... call for suggestions to approach advertisers explaining our reasoning. We may ask them change over to an ad in a new band calendar like we did a couple of years ago - if they want to do this good, or of course we will return their check & contact them next year.
- No questions & comments from parents.
- Apologies that it didn't work out, it is just unfair to ask everyone to work that hard for such little return
- Thanks to all for coming.

Theo Vernon:

- Schedule for Friday: no rehearsal after school, students will meet @ Milton Frank at 4:45 for the group picture for yearbook, which will also be available for purchase. Order forms were e-mailed, they are also available at this meeting, on the website, and on Charms.
- Pictures will be taken of the band on the field, in the stands, and in sections
- Photographer is CJ Portraits
- Calendar is also available with full-band or section shots.
- Pictures will be at 5 pm on field, then they will move up into the stands.
- The 8th graders will be coming for the game. We hope they'll perform national anthem in pregame.
- After the game the band will practice the show
- Thanks to Cherry Hovik and all workers at Big Spring Jam. We wish people would take advantage of the great opportunity to work off band dues (and earn money for the band) at the VBC
- (**Jay Simcox** adds that students 16 and older can work VBC to help pay trip or other fees! This is a great way to show them how hard this work is and can motivate them to work harder in school etc.)
- We hope this can continue so parents can earn credits toward band dues & other fees.
- The band is not taking a full trip, but seniors will go somewhere, they will be meeting next Wednesday to determine money, destination etc.
- More trip details about trip after fall break
- We may go to the Dixie Classic in Chattanooga during April

Q When are they finished with marching rehearsals?

A The last marching rehearsal will be Wednesday, October 4 (after school). After fall break there will be only the pregame rehearsals.

Q Will rehearsals be changing back to regular time?

A Yes, changes in times were because of the graduation exams.

- We need to e-mail Jennie Robinson, John Brown, Dr. Shipman, in order to get practice field lights fixed!
- An emergency repair request was put in at precamp and they are still not fixed!
- Wearing white shirts to practice makes it easier to see intervals between students, and helps them see too.
- Jay will provide these email addresses

Jim Gatherer:

- Recognized all who have helped. The objective is to get everyone involved!
- Introduction of committee chairs for updates:

Debbie Krenn:

- Thanks for chaperones at Buckhorn game
- We have four more games and two competitions, we have lots of helpers,
- Chaperones are needed for Austin game and subs for the competitions
- Will call those signed up to confirm

Alice Searcy/Margaret Haack: no Guard news

Jim Krenn:

- Still need water, we have had an extra away game & were into uniforms late in the season, so we're doing well but we can always use more
- Thanks for seat cover help

Sharon Keffer:

- Concert tickets available tonight if dues are paid
- Tickets are good for Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts
- Sign up with e-mail or phone to help... needed especially after first of year for district

Paula Dickerhoff: no transportation news, all is reserved & fine

Jim Kirsch:

- Thanks to all truck drivers
- The only date open for drivers is the last game Nov 2 to Milton Frank – need three drivers
- Prepare for playoffs... then we'll need more drivers & water to go to b-ham

Randy Hubbard/representing Tiffeny

- Minor uniform issues have come up but have been dealt with.
- Students will be eating next week after pictures are taken – BE CAREFUL remove jacket etc
- Patti Preston adds, if you can come Monday mornings to help get uniforms processed after game please come 9 am Monday (or Friday 9 after Thursday games!)

Avi Swain: PLEASE pick up spirit T-shirts!!!

Mrs. Clark, PTSA Reflections Chair:

- There is a music category (composition)
- There are not as many entries as other media
- \$750 scholarship and recognition great for college applications
- Go to alabamapta.org to read music rules
- Deadline Nov 15
- Directors add that compositions can be performed at recital night during winter camp

Jay Simcox:

- ALS walk this Saturday at Alabama A&M University, 9:00 am registration, 10:00 am walk, monetary contributions stay in North Alabama (web site: alsalabama.org)
- Friday, students can eat after pictures, suggestion is to have someone bring food (pictures will take approximately 1 hour) BUT the can't leave the stadium...maybe an impromptu tailgate is appropriate...?
- October 5 is the day for the Annual Parent/Friend/Sibling/Alumni/Coworker, etc., band!
- Rehearsal will be this Thursday, Sept 28, ALL comers welcome!! You can play anything; you don't have to play the instrument you did in high school!

Becky Lash:

- Another plug for VBC work, it's fun, and a good opty to meet parents & kids
- Cherry Hovik: need e-mails for workers
 - Next opportunity is Disney on Ice Oct 26-29 and the upcoming Havoc games
- We need to come up with new fundraisers,
- A new one we've found is GHS logo pillow sale preorders will be taken at games etc
 - E-mail or web order forms to come
 - They are really nice pillows – washable, hypoallergenic
 - This will be only place to get them with our logo
 - Orders should arrive in eight wks, a portion of pillow sale goes to a specific cancer foundation, 20% goes to the foundation, then \$6 will be kept for the band
 - May have a silent auction in May, contact Becky!

Karen Parker:

- Now is a great time to "push Scrip" because of the Expo cancellation
- Ideas... some colleges have Barnes & Noble bookstores! Remember restaurants, hotels, gas cards, movies (rental or theater), Starbucks, Kroger, Advance Suto, Lowe's, Home Depot, Sears, LL Bean, Amazon.com, Pottery Barn, Williams Sonoma, Cracker Barrel (remember the new one is opening soon!), Staples, etc, etc, etc,!!
- Need five working days for Scrip orders (don't forget many things are *in stock*)
- Scrip order will go in today and next week to be in before fall break.

Kristi Fugit, no Publicity News

Jim Kirsch:

- Fruit is on the trees!
- We now have the fruit order website (shown in newsletter), you can order anytime!

- One big difference this year – tangelos and tangerines for first fruit sale!
- At the next meeting be ready to sign up to work (we really need adult volunteers as well as student workers) any age can work fruit sale!

Dave Montgomery: (historian) Please send pictures!

Julie Ashcraft: credits from civic center for July are on Charms accounts

No **Tonya Hayes** tonight, but her message is that bills are getting paid and some parents are receiving refunds

Meeting Adjourned 8:02 p.m.