

Grissom Band Parents Meeting November 23, 2009

President Chip Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Chip welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming. He reminded those going to Chicago that they need to keep making payments to Thomas Tours directly for that trip.

Kathy Francica, 1st vice-president, updated us on the 'Pillows for Patriots' project. The first box of pillows, which was donated by Craig and Diana Akridge, has been shipped to Andrew Wilson, who graduated from Grissom in '02 and is in the Army and serving in Iraq. Diana read the thank you e-mail she received from Andrew to the group. Andrew's brother, Matthew, was a member of the Grissom Band. Kathy reported that she has received a donation for the second box tonight. Mr. Connell and Mr. Vernon are asking the teachers to pull together and sponsor a box. Also, the band students are about halfway to having the money to sponsor a box. June Malone has secured our first corporate sponsor, so we are making progress.

Leigh Smith, Concert Committee, asked if there was anyone present who still has not received their student's eight-admission pass for the concerts. The concert committee is doing something a little different this year. We will open the doors 30 minutes before the concert starts so the workers will need to be there about 15 minutes before that to get everything set up.

Banquet Committee co-chair Mary Fountain asked everyone to help us by buying an extra set of white mini lights with white cord when they are out shopping for their Christmas decorations. Kathy Francica explained further that we have to borrow the lights from many people in order to be able to decorate the senior tables at the banquet. If you will help us by buying us a box of lights, then we can stop borrowing lights. The lights will be used for future banquets also. Mary informed everyone that there are sign-up sheets available tonight if you want to help with the banquet. We need help with programs, decorations and teardown.

Kathy Francica reminded everyone that this is the last meeting before Christmas, so stock up on your white socks, black socks, and pillows.

Roy Malone, 2nd vice-president, presented changes to the Grissom Band Parent by-laws to those attending. The changes concern reducing the number of signatures required to move money between Grissom Band bank accounts to only one signature and a clarification on fund-raising activity. Roy explained the changes and answered all questions asked. Jeff Brewer made the motion that we adopt the by-law changes presented. John Mays seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Kate Jobczynski, Historian, reminded everyone that she still needs the senior baby pictures.

Fruit Sale chairperson, Jeff Brewer, stated that we had a really good sale this past weekend. There are a few boxes of oranges and tangelos left if someone wants to purchase some tonight. We received positive feedback for the most part on our new location at Kangaroo Express. Please get the word out about the next fruit sale. It is just 3 weeks away. We will sign up to work the fruit sale by e-mail because it is hard to decipher some of the writing on the signup sheet. If we need a generator at the fruit sales, Walt Adams has one that we can borrow.

Monica Pacey, SCRIP coordinator, is going to place an order on Saturday of this week. There are several bonuses that are coming up after Thanksgiving so the order will be done on Saturday to take advantage of those bonuses. The SCRIP will be here by the concert on Friday, December 4 for pickup. Monica will be at the concert 30 minutes before it starts and will stay there 30 minutes after it is over if needed.

VBC coordinator Mary Fountain has sent the December schedule to those on the worker list. If you did not get the list and want to work, send Mary a message asking for the schedule.

Cherry Hovik, Spirit coordinator, said that all of the items ordered have come in. Also, there are a few items that we still have for sale, so if you want something let me know. She may place one more order this year, but after that no orders will be placed until August 2010.

Director Bill Connell reminded everyone that we have a concert on Friday, December 4 at 7:30pm. The bands have new music and are doing some new things. The program will last about an hour and a half. This concert will again honor the oncology patients from the Children's Hospital. There will be activities in the lobby for the children before the concert. On Sunday, December 13 at 2:00pm is the Potpourri concert. This concert has instrumental and choral ensembles performing. The band auditions for next semester will be December 7-11 during their band class. They need to be prepared on Monday, December 7 to audition. This audition will determine their band and their chair placement for next semester. If your student is still playing their middle school instrument, then it is probably time to upgrade it. If you want to upgrade the instrument, talk to Mr. Vernon or myself and we will be glad to help you. Symphonic Camp is February 5-7. The Hospitality committee will need some help with providing food for the students and clinicians, etc. This is a 3-day camp for concert music.

Mr. Connell introduced Caroline Wilson to the band parents. Caroline is the wife of John Wilson, who is running for Alabama State Senate. The seat John is running for includes the Grissom area. Their sons graduated from Grissom. Andrew Wilson graduated in '02 and Matthew Wilson graduated in '06. Andrew is in the army serving in Iraq and Matthew is a senior at West Point. Please remember the name John Wilson as the election begins heating up.

Director Theo Vernon informed us that the pictures taken of our band students and the group band shot should be available in about 3 weeks. The photographer will put them

up on his web site for you to see and order. The Christmas parade is on Saturday, December 5. It starts at noon, and will be done around 1:30 –2:00pm. This parade finishes at Huntsville Middle School. The Hilaritas Concert is present by the top jazz band and the top choral performers. This is the 24th Hilaritas concert. The stage is going to be decorated a little differently this year so come and see what we have done. The concert is on the 11th and 12th.

Donna Clark reminded everyone that the Reflections turn in is Monday, November 30.

Chip asked everyone to remember that we are a non-profit organization and not a charitable organization. Please make sure that your fees are up to date. There is no meeting in December.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Kindred