

**WILMINGTON WILDCAT BAND PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, September 3, 2008**

In Attendance: Kevin Bleier, Joan Marra, Christine Mara, Jennifer Baima, Craig Musicant, Julie Manos, Judy Keefe, Linda Valenti, Cheryl Mallett, Laura Canty, Paula Suretto, Bonnie DiOrio, Joanne Johansson, Justine Palermo, Cheryl Gustafson, Michele Capiston, Maria Goncalves, Kathy Evans, Patti Plante, Christine Hayes, Lee W. Sacks, John Romano, John Grealish, Cathy Woods, Athena Ouellette, Jerelyn Richardson, Gail Bell, Lynda Spinazola, Joanie Parisi, Cheryl Ricardo, Janis Breslin, Lisa Monteforte, Ellen Kline, Liz Harriman, Diane Harvey, Mae Cieplik, Ann Marie Robinson, Pat Banda, Ms. Mette and Miss DiLullo

Meeting Called to Order: By Mr. Bleier at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS Music Room.

Welcome & Introduction of Officers: Kevin Bleier welcomed everyone to the 2008/2009 Band Parents Meeting. He introduced the officers and described what activities the band parents are involved in. The band parents support the WHS Band by fundraising, coordinating walkers to accompany the band during a parade, chaperoning trips, providing a pizza night for band members and other things that come up during the school year. The fundraising money goes toward scholarships provided to graduating senior band members, helping with Ms. Mette's wish list for band items outside of her school budget and providing miscellaneous financial support. Fundraising efforts include selling popcorn at the home football games, selling 50/50 raffles and boutique items at band concerts, comedy night and many other activities. The band parents have a permanent fundraising committee chaired by John Romano.

Minutes of March, 2008 Meeting: A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 2008 was made by Kevin Bleier and seconded by Craig Musicant. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Banda was introduced as the new treasurer. Pat reported that the ending balance of 05/31/08 was \$6,849.97. Pat reported that all 12 scholarships given to seniors in June were cashed over the summer. She will provide the April to May activity of the three accounts at the October meeting. Kevin & Pat explained the breakdown of the accounts:

- 1.) General Checking account for deposit and payment of expenses.
- 2.) Scholarship Savings Account for holding money allocated by the organization to grant scholarships to graduating seniors.
- 3.) Uniform Savings account to hold money raised through fundraising specifically for uniform purchase.
- 4.) Individual student savings accounts, held by Ms. Mette, holding money raised by individual students through Yankee Candle fundraiser and from parade payments. This money can be used by the student to defray the cost of trips.

OLD BUSINESS

Popcorn Machine: The old popcorn machine will be donated to the Sons of Italy. Kevin will coordinate this donation with Charlie Destefano.

Memorial Day Baseball Tournament: Kevin reported that band parents sold popcorn, soda and candy at the Memorial Day Baseball Tournament and made a profit of \$100. He would like to thank Mrs. Baima, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Keefe, Mr. Fino, Mrs. Ferraro and Mrs. Leiskau for their efforts.

Banner Sponsorship: Kevin reported he has collected \$1,650 in sponsorship donations from 34 families and 22 businesses for the banner. Kevin will get a quote and bring the banner to the printer.

NEW BUSINESS

Yankee Candle: Cheryl Gustafson reported that the Yankee Candle sale will run from 09/15/08 to 09/26/08. This year there will be a charge for shipping in addition to tax, both of which will be absorbed by the band parents. All orders will be delivered directly to the schools. Cheryl will get in touch with the contact person from Strings Attached to see how this is coordinated. Each sale provides a 40% profit that is deposited into individual student accounts used for their future trips with the band.

Permanent Fundraising Committee: John Romano addressed the group and reported how successful the Red Sox Raffle was last year and they are hoping to do this again. He also reported that the fundraising committee is organizing a yard sale on 10/04/08 (rain date 10/05/08) at the Swain School Parking lot. John has been in touch with Mr. Ciara who will bring it up for a vote at the next selectman meeting. John suggested renting a Pod so that people can drop off their donations before Saturday morning. The rental would be approximately \$130. A motion was made by Lee Sacks to run the yard sale allocate expenses not to exceed \$200. Pat Banda seconded the motion. All were in favor. If the selectman approve of letting us use the parking lot, the yard sale will take place. Flyers will be distributed.

Sons of Italy Liaison: The band parents are looking for a liaison to coordinate fundraising activities between the band and Sons of Italy. Kevin will call Aldo & Sharon Caira to see if they are interested in being the liaison.

Calendar Proposal: Craig Musicant proposed producing a 2009 WHS Band Calendar. This would be a monthly calendar with band pictures and important dates. Craig would produce the calendar. He would need volunteers for picture selection and help with coordinating permission releases. Linda Valenti and Judy Keefe volunteered to help. Calendars would sell for approximately \$12.00 and proceeds would go in the general funds. The discussion will continue at the next band parent meeting.

Fall Football Game Concession: Volunteers are needed for the home football games to set up the concession stand, sell popcorn and pack up the concession stand. Set up starts at 6:00 p.m. and concession opens at 7:00. A sign up list was passed around for the game scheduled on 09/26/08, but all are welcome to volunteer that night.

Ms. Mette's Report

- Ms. Mette brought the new ping pong table to Camp Nokomis. The camp director was very happy with the new table.
- The band schedule of event is online and updated. The website is www.wildcatbands.com , in the calendar section.
- This year nine students required either partial or full financial aid to attend band camp, a total cost of \$1,250.
- The Superintendent of Schools, Joanne Benton, has budgeted funds to provide 40 new band uniforms this year and is proposing 40 new band uniforms next year.
- This year the WHS Band will have 147 students marching. There are not enough wool hats, baseball hats or helmets. The total approximate cost of these hats is \$5,050. Also, new uniforms will not be ready until Thanksgiving and Ms. Mette would like to purchase 20 navy blue wind pants for the percussion section to wear in the interim. These pants are \$15 each, totaling to \$300. Kevin made a request that the band parents provide the band with \$5,300 for purchase of the hats and pants. John Romano introduced the motion, John Grealish seconded it and all were in favor.
- Craig Musicant took all the pictures at band camp and downloaded them online and this is very much appreciated by Ms. Mette and the band.
- Mark Levine videotaped the band during the Memorial Day Parade and this was very much appreciated by Ms. Mette and the band. This videotape can be used for an audition for a future trip.
- Ms. Mette announced that her original plan to travel to Washington D.C. this school year is not possible due to conflicts with MCAS. She is planning to propose a trip to Disney World in December 2009 to the school committee and superintendent. She will send the audition tape to Disney and will inquire about travel packages. (She will plan a special outing with the 27 current seniors who will miss out on this trip).

Respectfully submitted by Joan Marra

**The next band parent meeting will be held on
Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**