

WILMINGTON BAND PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 7, 2009

In Attendance: Kevin Bleier, Mae Cieplin, Michele Capistran, Joanne Johansson, Jennifer Baima, Julie Baima, Julie Manos, Cheryl Caira, Jerelyn Richardson, Bob Troy, Mary Jane McDonogh, Jake Ammon, Lisa Monteforte, Karen Mackinnon, Debbie Tetreault, Paula Baker, Lydia Okumura, Laura Canty, Paula Suietke, Maria Goncalves, Patricia Romano, Lynda Spinazola, Linda Romanzo, Maureen Ryan, Gina Quinton, Joanie Parisi, Cheryl Ricardo, Pat Ponda, Terri Marciello, Bob Fino, John Grealish, Cheryl Gustafson, Judy Keefe, Linda Valenti, Jim Flaherty, Doreen Donnell, Maryellen Halas, Patti Plante, Cathy Woods.

Meeting Called to Order: By Kevin Bleier at 7:05 in WHS Music Room

Approval of September 2009 meeting minutes: Michele Capistran raised a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting. Jim Flaherty seconded the motion. There were no corrections to the minutes and the motion was unanimously accepted.

Ms. Mette's Report: Ms. Mette asked parents to look at the flight information and groups posted in the band room. She distributed a flight and trip information sheets.

Ms. Mette explained that the cost for the kids would be the quad rate even if a few of the band members would be in rooms with less with than 4. She adds a few dollars to each child's rate to make up the difference for those rooms. The cost listed on the sheet for other occupancies are the cost for chaperones. The rooming list needs to be in soon, so if you are chaperoning, please let Ms. Mette know your occupancy choice as soon as possible.

The group will be staying at the Holiday Inn Maingate East. It has been recently renovated. Parents interested in finding out more about the hotel can go to their website. We will be staying in interior corridor rooms which are much safer. The hotel also has security – 3 guards for 6 hours per night.

The band will be traveling on two carriers – AirTran and Southwest. This is due to pricing. One carrier will not give such a good rate on the same flight to the number of travelers we have in our group. All flights leave Boston within an hour of each other. They will change planes once. A staff member will be on each of the plans except for Group 4 which will comprise of chaperones and their children for one leg of the flight. They stay in groups, get luggage together at Orlando and then meet the tour guide. Ms. Mette assured the group that she takes this responsibility very seriously and that safety is her top priority. They have been on a lot of trips, including four to Disney and they have all gone very well.

Ms. Mette wanted to make everyone aware that on AirTran there is a baggage fee of \$15 for the first bag and \$25 for the second. Carry on luggage is recommended to avoid

baggage fee. These fees are not included in the ticket price, so if your child has check-in baggage please make sure they have the cash with them to pay for the fee. Southwest has no baggage fee.

A question was raised about money for lunch. Ms. Mette stated that the kids would need money for lunch. A list of what will be paid for and what your child will need to pay for will be distributed prior to the trip.

A question was asked if the ticket would be paper or electronic. Ms. Mette was not sure and said she would find out and let us know.

Do the kids know if they are in a quad or a triple? No, we have not done the list yet.

Truck will carry instruments – children are only responsible to bring their personal stuff with them on the plane. The only special clothing/items that the band members will need to bring with them on the trip are a white shirt and white socks and we are hoping to put them with their uniforms on the truck.

Do you have a suggested arrival time for the airport? We will provide that.

Is Southwest and AirTran at the same terminal? I do not think so. Ms. Mette will find out the terminal information.

Will the chaperones room with their child? No, parents will not room with their child. Basically, you will not see your child unless they want to see you.

The parade will be on Friday, but we do not have a time yet. It is at Epcot and starts at the Italian Pavilion. It will be in the brochure at Epcot that day with the time.

Will they be able to swim in the pool? Yes, as of now Friday night is the time we have scheduled for the pool. I am going to try to change that to Thursday night because on Thursday night they have the Pirates dinner scheduled and I think that will be too much for the day we are traveling, especially since we are leaving so early.

What is the refund policy for sickness? With the flu going around this is a concern. The cancellation policy is the deposit of \$100 is not refundable. If you cancel 35 days prior to the trip you will lose only the deposit of \$100 plus any fees. After that you will lose the entire cost unless you buy flight insurance. See pamphlet about flight insurance. Ms. Mette stated that she did not know if it is a good idea or not, that she was just providing the information that was given to her and parents can decide if this is something they want to do or not.

What happens if a child gets sick while on the trip?

A school nurse will be traveling with the group. If a child gets the flue, they will be isolate from the rest of the group as possible with a chaperone. We are just hoping no one gets sick.

The kids should have their cell phones with them and Ms. Mette's cell number will be given to them. They will be in groups of at least 4 in the parks. This has worked out well in the past. We also have check in points that they will need to check in at different times during the day. We ask parents to volunteer to be at the check points for two hour periods so that the same parents will not have to sit there all day. During December Disney has a large Christmas tree and we hope to have the check point there this year.

Will they get fast passes? Not sure, but do not think so. We take the kids tickets once in the park so that they do not loose them.

Will the kids need medical forms for the trip? We will use the medical forms from camp. If you child did not go to camp or their health has changed since then, please complete a new form. You can use the one from camp which is on the website.

Ms. Mette will provide updated information on the website and at the Band Parents Meetings as she receives new information.

Treasure's Report: Pat Banda provided the following information on the Band Parent's Finances:

Checking Account:	\$7,710.02
Scholarship Account:	\$6,696.37
Uniform Account:	\$6,828.05

Pat also provided a sheet that compared fundraising efforts from this year to last year.

Old Business

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Cheryl Gustafson gave an update on the Yankee Candles. The order will be Federal Express tomorrow and should be received by Saturday. They will send an invoice for review and we should receive the shipment in within 3 weeks.

In the past the Band Parents have paid for the shipping and tax for the Yankee Candles sales. Will we do that again?

Kevin Bleier recommended that the Band Parent's pay for the shipping and tax for this fundraiser as done in the past. Cathy Woods seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Popcorn Sales in September

Kevin Bleier wanted to thank everyone who helped with the concessions during the football games. The first night the sales were slow (\$158), but the other two nights the concession made \$350. The Golden Ginger gift certificate raffled off at the football game raised \$207. Thank you John Grealish for your work on this raffle!

New Business Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed for the football games on October 16th, 23rd and November 6th as well as the Columbus Day and Halloween parades. Sign up sheets were passed around. During the November 6th football game Bruins tickets will be raffled and this is also senior parent night, so additional volunteers will be needed on that night.

Other Fundraisers

The Sons of Italy will have their annual comedy night. Kevin Caira is our liaison with the Sons of Italy for this fundraiser. It will be held on February 5, 2009. Doors open at 8:00 and the show will start at 9:00. Tickets are \$15 per person. We usually try to sell by tables of 10. They also have a raffle at this event. Talk to Kevin about donations for the raffle.

Website

Craig is updated the website to give it a new look. A draft of the new site is on the current site under new version. Please look at it and give feedback to Craig. It has a new layout and enhancements for ease of use. A discussion group/message board feature has been added that might be useful for selling or purchasing instruments, coordinating rides to the airport for the Disney trip, etc. You do need a Google account which is free and easy to sign up for. Craig will be following up with people who attended the meeting to get feedback.

Other

Balances for the final payment will be calculated and distributed once Ms. Mette receives the Yankee Candle fundraiser information. Ms. Mette stills has checks to be deposited for pervious payments. If your check has not been cashed, you can wait a week or so to see if it has been cashed or contact Ms. Mette to see if it is in her log.

The next meeting will be held on November 4th, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm