

Ooltewah High School Band Boosters Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9th, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: OHS Band Room

The meeting was called to order by: David Mullis, President

Motion to approve Minutes: Julia Houseman (1st), Michael Rader (2nd)

Welcome:

Treasurer Report

Jennifer was unable to be at the Booster Meeting tonight and David Mullis presented the report for the month of March.

Budget Committee Update

The Budget Committee has been working hard on the budget for the upcoming year and was set to present it tonight to the Boosters, but due to unforeseen circumstances the presentation of the budget will be postponed to the May Booster meeting.

Call to Action:

We still need people to step up and help with several committee positions as we still have open spots. Please see someone on the Board for information regarding these positions.

- Budget Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Costumes
- Public Relations/Social Media
- Props/Field Maintenance
- Equipment/Truck Drivers
- Student Paperwork
- Chaperones

Upcoming Fundraising Opportunities

- Garbage Bag Sale tonight is the last night to turn in orders. Please make sure that money and order forms are filled out completely and are in envelopes with student's name on them. Bags tentatively set to be delivered first week of May.
- Lookouts Concession Stand: We have two concession stands that we fill with volunteers at every home game. **We are at risk of losing these stands because no one has signed up to work.** Available dates and times are posted on "Sign-Up Genius"; we need your email address and we will send you a link so that you may sign up. Please make sure that you adhere to these rules, as we want to keep them happy.
 - Please do not stand around—Stay busy or they will ask you to go home

- Do not eat any food while standing on the front line
 - Do not take and eat any of the food from the concession stand
 - No cellphones on the front line
 - Always wear closed toe shoes (NO flip flops)
 - Wear an Ooltewah shirt or school colors
 - Do not tell the paid workers what to do
 - Sign-in and Sign-out (Do not sign in before 6:15 and if you are released for the evening sign out immediately)
- Car Wash – May 11th, 2019; The car wash will be held at Southeast Bank from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Car Washes are a \$5 donation and we have tickets up front for your student to sale. We need students to work the car wash along with 4 pressure washers and adults to run the pressure washers. Sign-ups are up front. We also need sponges and car wash soap (please no dial or ajax).
 - Rummage Sale – May 11th, 2019; 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Location to be determined. We are still working on the details. We need someone to organize and lead the rummage sale. Spots will be \$25 and you can keep your profit.
 - Ironman – May 19th, 2019; We will be working the Swim Exit. Starts at 6:30 am and ends around 10:00 am. Elisa Wilson is the contact. By volunteering for this event, we can sign up for grant money to be awarded to the Band. The link has been sent out via email. Every volunteer that signs up gets a t-shirt and Elisa will drop the t-shirts by the band room on Friday, May 17th. We need 30 volunteers to sign-up and currently we only have eight. Participating in this event is one way our Band gives back to the Community. If your student needs Community Service hours, this is a great way to earn them. Must be 16 years old to sign up.
 - Amazon If you shop with Amazon, go to the band's website at www.ooltewahband.org and click on the amazon link. The link will take you to the Amazon site and you will log in like normal. If you use the link on the band website, a portion of the sale will be donated back to the Ooltewah Band.
 - Publix will no longer be using the scannable cards. With their new program, you will need to go to the following website and register: www.publix.com/partners. Once you sign up, select the Ooltewah Band, then enter your phone number at checkout to help earn money for the band when you shop at Publix. This is good at any Publix, so please encourage your family and friends to register, as well.
 - GL Script Update –Tracy Johnson will be taking over the GL Script program. She has information on how to use the program and enrollment codes for anyone that wants to take advantage of this money making opportunity.

Band Party

The end of year band party will be May 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Commons. All band students and parents are invited. We will send out a sign-up list to bring food. It will be potluck Taco/Nacho bar. Senior skits are immediately after dinner in the Little Theatre and there will be a dance in the Band Room afterward. The dance will end promptly at 10:00 pm.

Recognition of outgoing Board Members

Thank you for your service! A special farewell to our outgoing Band President, David Mullis, thank you for your dedication over the last four years as the Booster President.

Dr. Ellison

The State of Tennessee Comptroller released a report on 3/12 regarding an audit that was conducted on the Collierville High School Baseball Booster Club (full report can be found on the Comptroller's website). The Booster Club was charging a student participation fee of \$1,600 and the funds were being collected by the Baseball Booster organization. In addition, the Collierville Baseball Booster Organization was requesting the student's fundraise an additional \$500. This additional credit was going into individual student accounts.

The findings of the audit revealed that the Booster Organization had done nothing illegal, but it did bring to light some discrepancies in how student fees can be collected and student credits versus the law. 1) In 2008, the State of Tennessee passed a law that states any money collected from parents for a student participation fee has to run through the school instead of a booster organization. 2) Because the students were fundraising for an individual account and not the benefit of the entire band, they were in violation of IRS tax law – as the money should be recorded as income to the parents.

Based on these findings, all Booster Organizations have to start complying to the law immediately. Hamilton County Board of Education has passed a directive that all Booster organizations need to be in compliance.

What does this mean for the Ooltewah Band Program?

Starting the next fiscal year (July 1), all student band fees will need to be paid directly to the school and not to the Booster organization. The problem for our band program is that we start collecting fees for the next year in May, so that we have money to run the summer band camps, etc... In addition, the Bookkeeper position is a 10 month position, so they are not here in the summer. We will not be able to access the student fee money until school starts in August.

Going forward, parents and students will not be able to fundraise for their individual student's account. Any money collected from fundraisers will have to go directly into the "General" Band Account.

In addition, any student credit that parents/students have already fundraised to fund next year's band fees cannot be used. We are trying to understand the law and policies to see if there is any way we can honor your hard work and dedication. We promise to update you as soon as we find out more information.

There are many unanswered questions and Hamilton County Dept. of Education has not released a clear policy for schools to follow yet. These new policies will affect every Booster organization – athletics, band, etc... the Band Directors are meeting Friday Morning at All State this week to discuss. They will be going to the County Finance to discuss in further detail. They are compiling a list of questions to ask the County Finance Director.

Q&A

- **Will there be an opportunity to earn Scholarships to help cover band fees for those that have credits?**

We do not know at this time.

- **Is the County will to give a grace period to be in compliance, so that current credits can be honored?**
We do not know at this time.
- **Will there be any consequences for people that do not pay fees with the school being involved in the collection of the money?**
Yes. There will be consequences for unpaid fees.
- **Will the Band Boosters have access to the Student Fee account with the school? Is there anything that we cannot use this money to pay?**
The Band Boosters will not have access to the money the school is holding. Dr. Ellison and the principal are the only ones that have access to the funds in the band's school account. The only thing the money cannot be used for is to pay off debt.
- **If we cannot collect student fees until July, what does this mean for our organization and next year? How much do we need to have Band Camp?**
Knowing that we have a huge amount of debt already and that we cannot collect fees until July 1 with no access to the money, basically means we cannot pay anyone to write a marching show and we have no money to pay staff for camp. We are not sure what will happen in the next few months.

With the enforcement of these policies/laws by Hamilton County and knowing the financial position, we are currently in, we need every parent's help.

- 1) If you have outstanding band fees, we urge you to **please pay those fees**. If everyone paid all their outstanding band fees, we could pay for band camp next year.
- 2) Even though you cannot fundraise for your individual accounts, the band still needs the money to pay off debt and to pay for next year. **Please, please, please** sign up to work the Lookouts, sell car wash tickets, work Ironman, anything that can be done to raise money – we need your help. As a Band, we need to all come together. It is time to start thinking about the program instead of our individual needs.
- 3) There needs to be a Culture Shift and you will see this put into place over the next few months. There will be a focus on Corporate Sponsorships and events that will take the place of asking people to sell stuff. Jennifer McGlohon has developed an outstanding Corporate Sponsorship Program and we will be rolling it out to everyone over the next month.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm