



Los Gatos High School Band Boosters

20 High School Court Los Gatos, CA 95030 (408) 354-2730

Band Booster Meeting Notes Wednesday, April, 28, 2010

Meeting Called to Order: Bill Gallmeister called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Meeting Attendance: Bill Gallmeister, Eleanor Gallmeister, David Van't Hof, Pramila Mullan, Alex Jardetzky, Adrienne Jardetzky, Skip MacAskill, Jeanne MacAskill, Catherine Esser, Lois Morrison-Keffer, Wendy W. Yost, Tricia Hemminger, Pam Ashford, George Hadres, Debbie Shiba, Gordan Yamate, Susan Flatness, Pamela Maker, Yiding Wu, Robin Wu, Lori Ingle, Bruce Ingle, Barb Lawler, Zsa Zsa Taylor, Bridget Miller, Robyn Filardo, Nancy Lindskog, Jon Lindskog, Meiling Lee, Dan Rabago, Susan Hoffman, Teri Fogarty, Diane Rabago, Michelle Noskowski, Mike DuFort, Carolyn Dufort, Sivia Van Gundy, Melanie Cervi, Ben Lee, David Shen, Hartmut Esslinger,

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Bill made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Adrienne seconded it. All voted in favor.

General Reports:

Nominating Committee: Bill said in light of all the business we need to conduct this evening, there will be no general reports. He did mention that he will stay on as co-president along with Pam Ashford, that Adrienne is continuing as vice-president, and that Lois is continuing as secretary. Skip will head up the pit pops, Sivia will head up the food team. We are in need of a uniform manager/chair.

Hiring Process: Bill said the hiring process for a new music director is underway. All of the candidates have been interviewed, and he hopes for a hire within a couple of weeks.

Purpose and Process of Tonight's Meeting: Tonight's meeting is designed to get input on the past year's music program, and make recommendations for next year's program. Bill said we will be following Robert's Rules for Meetings. He would like us to take about 5 minutes for each motion. The process is as follows: Someone makes a motion, someone seconds it, then there is about 5 minutes for debate, then a motion and second to vote on the motion, then there is a vote. There can also be a vote to continue the discussion for another 5 minutes if 2/3 majority votes this way. In that case, there is more discussion for about 5 minutes, and then the preceding process is followed again. Someone asked how many votes per family, and Carolyn said that there is one vote for each family, based on the history of voting within the organization.

New Business:

Program Assessment and Proposals:

- 1) Bill Gallmeister made a motion to "reinststate the corporation as the Los Gatos Music Boosters," and to make changes to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws reflecting the name change. Pam Ashford seconded the motion. Discussion followed, including the following points: Carolyn wondered why not name it the high school music boosters? Bill replied that if we leave the name broader, eventually the organization could include the lower grades if we decide on and vote to do that. Bill is not recommending expanding the program at this time, but just recommending a name change that could lead to program expansion if we want it at a later date. Nothing else would change. Membership criteria is the same. There are no dues at this time. Just the name would change. Pam Maker mentioned that we would then have the same name as Fisher's music booster program. Bill said he checked this with Fisher, and it would not be a problem for them. Sivia said it would be confusing to have the same name as Fisher, and proposed that we change the name to the Los Gatos High School Music Boosters. After discussion regarding this idea, Sivia made an amendment to the motion, that the name be changed to the **Los Gatos High School Music Boosters**. Zsa Zsa seconded this. There was a majority of yeses, only 5 opposed, and the motion was carried. The name shall be the **Los Gatos High School Music Boosters**.

- 2) Sivia also raised issues that there are other changes in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws that are not just a reflection of the name change. She proposed that a discussion of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws be deferred until there is more time to go over the changes. Alex made a motion that we vote on amending the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as written, with the name change. It was seconded. There was not a 2/3 majority vote. The motion was defeated.
- 3) Bill then made a motion to appoint a committee to clean up the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws before the May meeting. This was seconded. All voted in favor and the amended motion was carried. Sivia Van Gundy will head up this committee.
- 4) Alex Jardetzky made a motion that a “the boosters vote annually on the next year’s band fees based on a proposed budget and list of activities that need to be funded, requiring the budget and fees to be prepared by the May Booster meeting.” This was seconded by Jon Lindskog. Zsa Zsa wondered how this would be different than what we do now? Bill said it would mean that fees would be voted on by the general membership, with a simple majority vote. At present, the president of the board creates and presents a budget to the board, and the board creates the fees. Adrienne said she thinks there should be more visibility about the assumptions that go into the budget. Skip said he thought it would be okay for the board to vote on the budget, as long as there is visibility. Alex said that historically the budget is presented at the September meeting, after it has already been finalized. Sivia asked if the treasurer would have financial information available at any time for members to see. It was agreed that the treasurer would. The motion was voted on. There were only 4 in favor, the majority opposed, and the motion was defeated.
- 5) Bill Gallmeister made a motion that “booster financials be updated regularly and published on web or via email” (this motion was based on a proposal by Alex Jardetzky. Eleanor seconded the motion. Zsa Zsa wondered if we can find a secure way to do this. Several people raised issues, that there is no real way to keep this information secure if on the web or email. Alex said that the content of the financials could be basic categories. Sivia said she would be uncomfortable with names and accounts on the web. Skip said the proposal is not specific enough, needs to be more specific. Bill called the question to a vote. Three voted in favor, the majority opposed, and the motion was defeated.
- 6) Bill made a motion based on Alex Jardetzky’s proposal that “the financials for any significant undertaking requiring an extensive budget to which boosters contribute funds that are separate from operational fees, be available for inspection by any interested booster. This is for any separately budgeted project such as a large trip that is not rolled into the booster operational financials as a whole.” Adrienne seconded the motion. Sivia wondered if a lawyer could verify if any of these proposals are in conflict with getting our 501 (c) (3) status. Dan Rabago, who is a lawyer, said if he were in charge, he would have the board have the final say over any budget for extra trips, or other separate funds. Hartmut Essinger said this proposal is really included in the prior motion. The motions was voted on. Only a couple of ayes, and all others voted no. The motion was defeated.
- 7) Bill, again based on a proposal by Alex Jardetzky, made a motion that “an audit committee be formed, per our bylaws.” It was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion was passed.
- 8) Bill next made a motion, again based on a proposal by Alex Jardetzky, “to create a new board position, VP of Music Program Fundraising, to coordinate fundraising activities for the various music groups (marching band, color guard, orchestra, choir, jazz band, etc.) and to change the Bylaws to reflect this new position.” Eleanor seconded the motion. Bill reminded us that we need a 2/3 majority vote to change the Bylaws. Carolyn said that actually the VP is supposed to be in charge of fundraising, but that has gotten lost somehow. Sivia suggested we table all discussions that involve Bylaw changes, until after the Bylaw Committee can look at the proposals and reword them. Jon Lindskog wondered what the genesis of this motion is. Alex said it has been hard to get fundraisers going this year, so this would create a single point of contact for fundraisers. There was an amended motion made to table this discussion until after the Bylaw Committee reports back with a rewording of the proposal. This was seconded. All voted in favor and the amended motion passed.
- 9) Bill made a motion to “move that band fees get waived or further reduced over and above the volunteer credit for people who take on one of the standing committee chair slots as listed in the Bylaws: Food Chair, Crab Fest Chair, Auxiliary Sewing Chair, Pit Pop Chair, Band Camp Chair. If there are co-chairs, then the fee rebate is divided between the co-chairs. The amount of the fee waiver is to be decided by a vote of the members.” This is another proposal created by Alex Jardetzky. Nancy Field seconded the motion. Eleanor said that all of us put in many hours of volunteer work, whether we are chairs, or not. Catherine Esser wondered how it would be decided who works hard enough to get a waiver or reduction. George Hadres said it might not be

wise to base motivation for a job on a fee waiver, instead of someone's ability to do the job. Bill called the question to a vote. Sivia seconded it. There were a couple of ayes, all others opposed, and the motion was defeated.

- 10) Bill, based on another proposal by Alex Jardetzky, moved "that it be possible to make a motion, and call for a vote on an issue by email between regular booster meetings. The issue will then be decided by a simple majority of those who choose to vote on the issue." Adrienne seconded the motion. Jon Lindskog said he prefers not to vote by email, but to just show up and vote. Eleanor said emails are open to multiple interpretations, and it's hard to tell what the person intends without actually seeing their expressions. Alex said he brought this up to handle time sensitive issues. Barb Lawler said if there is a time sensitive issue, a special meeting can be called. Bill called the question to a vote. There was one aye, a majority of no's, and the motion was defeated.
- 11) Bill next moved that "the president or vice president will be required to convene and mediate a special issue resolution meeting which is to include all involved parties that is to be held in a timely manner in the event that a LGMB member has a question for, or issue with any LGMB leader, and the question or issue cannot be resolved by direct communication with that LGMB leader," again based on a proposal by Alex Jardetzky. Pam Ashford said she thinks booster members can talk to each other and work things out. Robyn Filardo said this process of bringing conflicts to a special meeting could be abused. Hartmut said this would not promote parties working things out themselves. Bill called the question. There were 2 ayes, a majority opposed, and the motion was defeated.
- 12) The next motion that Bill introduced, based on Alex' proposals was "move that the following be added to the Bylaws, Under Article VII, Committees: Section D: Limitations on authority: Committee Chairs are not authorized to make policy decisions impacting the music program, the students, the booster members, or the booster financials. Committee Chairs can make policy recommendations, but the decisions must be made by either a vote of the LGMB members, or when applicable, by the Music Director." There was limited discussion on this motion. A vote was taken. There was one aye, a majority of no's, and the motion was defeated.
- 13) The next motion that Bill introduced, based on Alex' proposals, was "move that the following be added to the Bylaws under Article III, Members, Section 12: Code of Conduct: The LGMB is a legal organization which depends on volunteer members who collaborate with one another to support the music education programs in Los Gatos. That collaboration depends upon good relationships between member volunteers. To that end, LGMB members agree to abide by common workplace codes of conduct which deter hostile work environments, encourage participation, and foster an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration. LGMB leadership (Officers and Chairs) is held to a higher standard, is expected to lead by example, and is accountable to the LGMB membership at large." Adrienne seconded this motion. Eleanor said that, as volunteers, we already collaborate and cooperate. Gordan said that the survival of our volunteer organization has depended on the goodwill of each other, all along. Adrienne said that the language of this motion is similar to language corporations use, that people treat each other with respect. Carolyn called the question to a vote. George seconded the vote. There were 2 ayes, a majority of no's, and the motion was defeated.
- 14) Bill then moved that "the system by which the boosters provide food for competitions gets restructured to allow the food committee to scale with the program, and to ensure that the burden of providing the service is not excessive for any participating individual," again based on a proposal by Alex Jardetzky. Debbie Shiba said that she's been on the food committee for 6 years, and that our system serves us really well. Pam Ashford said that other schools covet our food. Alex said that he believes it has become difficult for our system to scale up to provide food for more people. Bridget Miller said she worked on the food committee this year, and was very impressed with the job they do, and that the scaling decisions should stay with the food committee. Our program was compared to Saratoga's food committee. They have a single food chair. Our committee rotates the chairs so no one is responsible for all the meals. Dan wondered if the food committee wants more volunteers. Susan Flatness said they can ask for more volunteers anytime they'd like to. The question was called to vote. There was a vast majority of no's, and the motion was defeated.
- 15) Bill then moved, based on Alex' proposal, that "the boosters provide dinner for the performing students, the marching staff, competition volunteers, K-8 student ride-alongs, and up to 35 guests at each competition, and that the fee per guest be \$5/meal. Guests and ride-alongs must reserve a spot by the Tuesday prior to the competition." Alex explained that 2 years ago, there was a guest policy that guests could join and eat with the kids. He is proposing to reinstate this. Pam Ashford said the RSVP idea is a good one, it just doesn't work. Robyn Filardo said that there will

be more 6th grade families coming in next year, and the food committee will have its hands full. Barb Lawler said the food committee is feeding 125-130 people already. Bridget said that the hosts of the competitions count on some of the people buying food at their concession stand to help them make money and cover their costs. Pramilla said if there's extra food after the band and volunteers are fed, then first come, first served can eat what's left. Jon Lindskog said he did sometimes go to a competition last year, as a guest, and he said he didn't feel included in the mealtime. The vote on this motion showed 4 ayes, a majority of no's, and the motion was defeated.

- 16) The last motion Bill made, based on Alex' proposals was "that drinks (water, lemonade, milk, coffee, hot chocolate) served in bulk be freely available to any LGHS parent or guest in addition to the students, staff, and competition volunteers while the drinks are being served." Lois seconded this. Carolyn said that this is already in place, that guests can already get drinks and deserts with the band. Lois said that last year there were always plenty of extra drinks. A vote was taken, there was a majority of yeses, one no, and the motion was passed.
- 17) Alex then added one extra motion that was not on the meeting schedule, from someone who couldn't be at the meeting tonight. He moved that the boosters allow either a proxy vote or an absentee vote, when someone can't be at a meeting. Adrienne seconded this. Tricia said she thinks that people need to be here to hear what everyone has to say about issues. George Hadres amended Alex' motion, to put this motion to the Bylaw Committee for them to report back with a proposal. The motion, as amended was voted on. There were 6 opposed, and a majority of yeses, and the motion was carried to let the Bylaws Committee discuss this and bring it back to the general membership.

Other New Business: Carolyn asked if there are any other suggestions on how to make the program better for next year. She read from notes about what they acted upon to improve the program this year, including: finishing rehearsals on time, clearly communicating to parents, keeping to a fixed calendar, being involved in Solo and Small Ensemble CMEA, instituting Booster Buddies, Mr. Fortino came to booster meetings, and a new concert dress code.

Bill said anyone can make suggestions for improvement at any time.

Alex said band camp will be 2 weeks before school starts, and had a flyer with the dates August 18th to 27th on it.

Cathy Esser said the band hats (shakos) are breaking and may need replacing.

Bill said the band packets for new students will be ready for distribution at the May meeting, and if you have any ideas about what to put in them, to let him know. Bill said they are considering including the incoming orchestra students at the May meeting. Pamela Maker said we should not do business while the incoming freshmen are there. Adrienne said there are about 25 new band members coming in.

The official meeting concluded at 9:00 PM

Then Pam Ashford gave gifts to Carolyn and Lori for all their hard work when the band and chaperones and family members were stranded in Germany for 4 days, waiting to get home after the Italy trip.

Robin Wu thanked Adrienne publicly for blogging with quotes and pictures of the kids on the trip, and mentioned how important that was, especially after they were stranded in Germany.

There is a trip reunion party on Saturday, May 8th, at the Methodist Church, to show everyone's pictures. More details to follow.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th, at 7 PM, in the band room.

Notes submitted by Lois Morrison-Keffer.