AEB Booster Meeting

September 6, 2022

In attendance:

Board Members: Katrina Hanson, Amy Ishee, Connie Ramos

Parents: Joseph Almand, Lindsay Almand, Caroline Cervantes, Janie Chavez, Cindy Escobar, Rocio Garcia, Veronica Gonzalez, Isabel Marmolejo, Yvette Ramon, Myriam Sanchez, Robin Sanchez, Zac Sandling, Sharon Stevens, Lexie Young, Casey Walter

Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Terry passed out pre-orders that were made in the last run from our vendor. T-shirts, long sleeves, hoodies and hats will be on sale at the game on Thursday.

Review of minutes. No changes were voiced and thus approved.

Treasurer’s report was presented by Katrina. Reviewed that there is a $10K invoice that has been sent to AISD that is the booster’s portion of fair share fees. We are still needing to complete shopping day fees for some students that have not yet completed it. The treasurer’s report includes a proposed budget. Total income line is $131,000 that is our goal income that we will work to achieve through both fundraising and fees. We anticipate spending $130,530 leaving a net income of $470. We allowed time to peruse and answer any questions. Budget was approved unanimously, If there are ever any questions, please always ask, as we are striving for complete clarity and transparency. Katrina mentioned that there are several reports that include aging, COTA funds, summaries and band bad debts (students that graduated and left without paying their fees, thus we are forced to write these off).

Fundraising report was presented by Casey. We have Bush’s spirit night set for tomorrow at 5pm – 8pm. When purchasing food at the Brodie location, you must mention Akins Eagle Band. Chipotle is next Wednesday, the 14th from 5pm – 9pm and also must mention Akins Eagle Band. Modern Market Eatery is another possibility that we are working with, as well as Popcornoplis. Another option is Torchy’s and it pays out well. There is a limit to how many times you can participate. Terry suggested that Casey check that one out. On Friday night, September 9th, we are going to have a think tank for fundraising ideas here at the band hall during rehearsal at 6pm. This is to help us raise the money for this year’s expenses. We need to raise $57000 in order for our budget to work.

Action: Casey and Cristen to follow up on Modern Market Eatery, Popcornopolis and Torchy’s. Terry will conduct a Think Tank meeting on Friday, September 9th at 6pm.

We had the first parent meeting for the band trip in March, last week. The cost is $1049 per student. We’ve offered slots to help parents raise money for this trip through UT Athletics. There is one slot left for the UT vs Bama game this Saturday. There are also some volleyball and soccer games that are available. In order to sign these up you will need to set up on Sign Up Genius. A parent asked about backups for those signups that are already full. Connie will add a “back up” section in Sign Up Genius for these events.

Action: Connie will add slots for “backups” in case anyone cannot attend

Hospitality report was given by Terry as Amy was not present today. Tailgating went well for the past two weeks. Children are very well behaved and have offered to help according to Robin who has been helping with tailgating for the past two games. A parent asked about the menu for games. It alternates between pizza and a chicken sandwich.

Spirit wear report was given by Sharon. She had two volunteers to help her last week and it worked well. Fancloth is not associated with boosters. Last year we didn’t receive any funds in return for our sales because “we didn’t sell enough”. We were not informed what the benchmark is yet. We are hoping to have our Good Idea company as the sole provider for spirit wear. Presale orders are in and can be retrieved from Terry. We do still have some spirit wear to sell at games.

Booster membership is going well. We are still happy to have other parents to join us. If you are a senior parent and a member of the boosters, your student is able to apply for a scholarship. Last year, we only awarded one scholarship because only one student applied. You can join online.

Action: Join the Band Boosters online if you haven’t yet done so!

Sponsorships are still needed. If you know of any companies, please let Terry know. There will be banners at the Burger stadium as well as announcements during the game and online marketing. More information is available online.

Action: Contact Terry Ishee if you have any leads for companies that would be interested in sponsoring our band.

The position of Volunteer Coordinator is still open. This is a pivotal position that is needed for the year but especially during marching season. If you are interested, please see Terry.

Action: If you are interested in the Volunteer Coordinator position, please contact Terry Ishee.

Fundraising goal is $150.503. If we achieve this, it would be so helpful, so that we will have some cushion.

Next parent meeting is October 4th.

If anyone has a zoom account and is willing to share, we would be happy to provide an online link to attend the next parent meeting.

Action: If you have access to a virtual meeting account that doesn’t have a time restriction for each meeting, please contact Connie Ramos. Connie will also research free options that might work for our needs.

After the agenda items were completed, we opened the discussion to a question/answer session. There was a question on the SNAP fundraiser and whether it goes to the band or the student. It goes to the band as a whole and is deposited in the band budget and not the booster budget. We have a goal of $20K for this fundraiser that would cover the yellow buses for games and competitions this year. We are currently at about $17K!!!

Another item brought up is the pit crew. We have two weeks before our first competition and we really need to practice the on and off the field for pit crew. We have two minutes to get on and two minutes to get off the field during competitions. If we are late, then points are deducted from the performance score. AISD Jamboree is September 20th and then Cap City on the 24th. We really need more parents for pit crew.

Action: If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the pit crew this season, please have them sign up on Sign Up Genius or contact Connie Ramos.

A parent asked about chaperoning. Terry explained the responsibilities and also mentioned that you could get in for free and get a ride there for free. You can also help with pit crew. 😊

Pit crew can meet at the game or at the band hall. We need help loading and unloading the equipment at the band hall, but for those that still wish to participate but can’t make it to the band hall before the game, they can always meet us there. For parents that are picking up their students after the game, we will always welcome help in unloading the trucks! Please never hesitate to chip in!

A parent asked when we will start wearing uniforms. We have ordered new tops for the uniform but have not yet received them. Connie suggested that each section should wear their section colors so that there was some color until we get the tops.

Some students are still waiting on polos. We are missing 11. Everything else should be in. Have your student ask if they do not have items that they have ordered. We are also short a few duffels.

Questions about uniforms and terminology and new instruments. Unfortunately, instruments are pretty expensive. We raise money and get instruments as we can afford them. We are currently working on a five octave marimba.

We need snacks for students during games and competitions. We should have enough for this game but then we need to replenish. We can do sign up genius for snacks. A parent asked if we had a booster account in Venmo so people can donate in place of providing snacks. We do not have one but Connie will see about creating one.

Action: Connie will create a sign up genius for snack donations and research getting a Venmo.

There are now two openings for Saturday as someone has backed out.

Action: Amy is going to re-send out the Sign Up Genius.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm