**LHS Rebel General Band Booster Meeting**

**August 9, 2021**

**7:30pm/Band Hall**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Ashley Blase, President Kayce Sellers, A/P Treasurer

Stacy Pitts, A/R Treasurer Katy Reid, Membership

Debbie Martinez, Fundraising Olga Padilla, Hospitality

Traci Tercero, Communications Rebecca Dominguez, Secretary

Stella Clifton, Parliamentarian

Others in attendance:

Shane Dockrey, Uniform Committee Chair Samantha Burgess, Uniform Co-Chair

Morgan Marin, LHS Band Director J Gonzalez, Colorguard Director

Cameron Connell, Percussion

**Proceedings:**

* Meeting called to order by Ashley Blase at 7:32pm
	+ She thanked the parents for their attendance; informed parents that she & Mr. Dojahn discussed having a General Booster Meeting every month to be held every second Monday of the month, following the Executive Board Meeting, to update parents on the happenings of the MRB (how they’re doing, fundraisers, etc.)
		- Will attempt to have one every month; based on attendance, may limit to every two months
		- Goal is to help keep all parents informed as to what’s happening, even though we now have the Band app (which may be too overwhelming for some with all the notifications)
	+ Notified parents of Mr. Dojahn not being present today;
		- Introduced the other band directors
	+ Ashley introduced herself then the board members & briefly described their function
	+ Notified Parents of the agenda that was provided
* **Fundraising Opportunities:**
	+ Corporate Sponsorships/Partnerships—Deadline is 9/3/2021
		- Informed parents of the form being available on the band website under “Support Us/Corporate Sponsorships,” which will help to offset assessments and trip expenses
			* Informed of various levels, student gets 40% of sponsorship
	+ SNAP Raise, No Hassle Fundraiser begins on 08/23/2021—simply need to provide e-mails of friends/family
		- E-mail notification will explain the fundraising information
		- This is a combination fundraiser:
			* Students will earn 40% of sponsorships, which go to band fees/assessments
			* Boosters also earn money to help pay for bills to meet annual expenses
	+ Profit-share night fundraiser: Texas Roadhouse
		- If friends or family go to eat, simply tell them you’re there with the LHS Band
		- 10% of their ticket will be donated to the MRB
		- Will try to have one dinner fundraiser a month at various restaurants around town
		- Next month will be Whataburger
* **Spring Trip Registration**
	+ Disney/Florida trip registration deadline is 08/15/2021; must pay at least $50 to hold spot on the roster
		- Greenlight Tours will drop student on the 20th if the minimum payment due hasn’t been paid
		- There is a monthly payment plan (all due in January) or may pay all up-front
		- Clarification regarding assessments: Band assessments DO have to be paid in full in order for your student to attend the Spring Trip:
			* Assessments do not have to be paid in full in order to register for the trip
		- Assessment payments have to be paid in full before the student boards the plane
* **Required Gear**
	+ Students are required to wear a Band Polo Shirt at certain events (Meet the Rebels), as well as first and/or second football game since it’s still too hot to put them in full band uniform
	+ Under-uniform gear is also required to be worn under their band uniforms (similar to athletic shorts and shirts)
		- Items are still on order (as well as band water jugs) because the new Band Logo wasn’t approved until about 10 days before Extrava”band”za; vendor wasn’t able to get everything printed and made
		- Parents should have pre-ordered, if you’re new to the band
		- We’re hoping to have everything in and delivered by Tuesday the 24th, which is the last LHS rehearsal (last Tuesday of the month)
		- As orders come in, they will get filled and parents should be receiving an individual e-mail letting them know their order is ready to be picked up after rehearsal
		- For returning students: MISD will replace their polo and their under-uniform shirt & shorts
			* Upperclassmen will be notified so that they may bring their old polo & under-uniforms to swap them out/exchange them with the new items
			* If students want to keep their old polo & under-uniform, they may, but they still need to bring their old gear for proof of purchase
				+ If student has two sets of polos and under-uniforms, bring both so they may all be replaced
		- Water jugs are not being replaced since the logo may is so small and looks similar to the new one, plus some logos are worn out/faded
* **Volunteer Opportunities**:
	+ Ashley stated how she was hoping that since they attended the meeting, they were interested in volunteering and helping out with the band and helping their kids
		- You must be an approved MISD volunteer
		- There’s an online application that needs to be completed prior to the first football game to be approved
			* You will receive a confirmation e-mail afterward (some are receiving it within 20 minutes)
				+ The Confirmation e-mail will need to be forwarded to Katy Reid at mrbvolunteer@gmail.com
				+ Will need a lanyard for first game
		- Katy will also be checking with the school office on a weekly basis to update her list of approved volunteers if your confirmation e-mail isn’t forwarded to her
		- Games Nights: there are a lot of moving parts (about 30-40 volunteers on a game night), lots of people needed in order to get the kids on the field
	+ Water Crew (at least four parents are needed)—This is the group that fills the jugs for the kids prior to our home games
		- This is usually done around 3:30pm-4:15pm
		- The jugs are filled with ice and water (avoids need for water bottles)
		- When kids get out of class, they arrive at the water table to get their jugs filled
		- Their jugs must be filled prior to inspection to keep them hydrated during the game
		- For out-of-town games, water bottles are used and given to the students since the water jugs have a tendency to leak
			* Water crew will need to help with ice chests for travel, which will need to be filled with ice and water bottles
	+ Hospitality Crew (Olga Padilla)—This is the crew that feeds the kids prior to game night (usually takes about 30 minutes)
		- Olga orders the food and has it delivered
		- Crew needs to help with set up in the cafeteria, then handing out a boxed meal to the students or to help serve “Fun Food,” which is not in a box
		- Crew helps with the clean up afterwards
	+ Pit Crew (Tom Blase)—This is the group of Band dads (who do heavy lifting)
		- Help load the semi/18 wheeler and the trailers that we need (with equipment)
		- Help to load the waters/ice chests
		- Help to load the plumes, uniforms, etc.
		- Help to unload at the stadium and for contest and may travel with the pit crew to help them unload at the stadiums
		- May include helping to get the equipment on and off the football field for performance times
		- For those interested, Tom Blase will be heading up the pit crew and will keep you informed as to what is needed and when
	+ Uniforms (Shane Dockrey is the Chair & Samantha Burgess is the Co-Chair)—they have been getting the students fit for their uniforms
		- Ashley has been at LHS for eight years: this is the first year that over ¾ of the band has been fit in uniforms before the 1st week of school, which is amazing!
		- Help is needed before the game (getting kids in uniforms) and after (getting them out of the uniforms, which is kind of late at night) and getting the uniforms put away
		- Shane Dockrey explained what will be needed prior to game day/to help students with their uniforms
		- Parents would need to arrive around 4pm
		- There are five different stations and each has a cart with different sections
		- Each cart is located at different stations
		- Procedure is attached separately and goes into detail
		- Students have about 10 minutes to get fully dressed in uniform, hang everything back up, then get outside to the courtyard for inspection
	+ Game Night Chaperones (Ashley Blase)
		- Usually need 12-14 volunteers from about 4:30pm/5pm until after the game ends
		- Need to make sure the kids are on the bus and will ride over with them and remain at the game and return back with the band at night
		- Need to monitor students while they are in the bus and in the stands (patrolling the stands throughout the game), making sure kids are behaving, staying on task, playing when they are supposed to be and not playing when they’re not supposed to be
		- You’re going up and down the stairs (lots of movement), refilling water jugs as needed
		- During Half-time:
			* Go down to help put plumes on the students’ hats and remove them after they march
			* Provide snacks (get tables ready, lay out snacks, put up tables after they get their snacks)
		- It’s usually a late night and will probably be around 11pm/11:30pm before we’re usually gone
		- It’s a really fun night and a good time to get to know the kids and see them up close and personal, and to get to experience what they’re doing up in the stands on Friday night
	+ Spirit Sales (Debbie Martinez)--takes place at the stadium (not at the school)
		- Spirit wear (T-Shirts, visors, beanies, scarves, jackets, etc.) is sold outside in front of the gate of the stadium before every home game
		- May need two volunteers for every home game
		- Volunteers would need to show up at the stadium before the gates open and help her with the spirit sales
		- After kick-off, volunteers would help her with “tearing down” so you can go in and enjoy the game
* **Sign-Up Genius—**theapp we use to send out e-mails for volunteers (Katy Reid)
	+ It shows all the volunteer opportunities available
	+ We try to include a description with the time commitment required, as well as what all is required
	+ All September games will be up soon so you may sign up for those you’d like to participate in
		- If something comes up and you’re not able to volunteer, you’re able to remove yourself of change the position you’re volunteering for
* Final notes: Ashley encouraged parents to ask questions after the director’s talk and ask questions to anyone on the board, as well as her husband Tom Blase; she thanked all parents for coming

**Director’s Corner**

* Mr. Gonzales (Colorguard) thanked all parents for coming, especially on a Monday night and expressed his appreciation
	+ Stated that the band is not able to do what they do without parents/volunteers and that “their ship” runs so smoothly with their help
	+ Encouraged all parents to volunteer, even if their kids stated they don’t love them being there (even though they really might deep down)
	+ Mentioned that at the end of the year, parents may have 10 more kids calling them Mom and Dad
	+ Told parents it’s a great experience
	+ Mentioned that hopefully, our kids will be coming home sore, they’re doing basic dance steps and a routine that they warm up to, which will all be incorporated into the show
	+ If we were in marching band before, it’s not the same anymore because they’re going for the more theatrical aspect and that they’re enjoying it
* Mrs. Marin (LFHS Band Director) expressed how the show is fantastic and that the kids are working really hard
	+ Expressed how she missed the upper-classmen terribly
	+ The freshman class this year in the first week and a day is her best freshman group in her three years at LFHS
	+ It’s the largest group she’s had, if only by five to ten more than previous years
	+ She excited to see what they are able to do, especially since so many of them are in the primary marching spot and have the opportunity to march
	+ To emphasize: they cannot do what they do without the parents/volunteers;
		- She explained how, at her last job, she wasn’t able to be a band director, mom, uniform crew, & help with every little thing, teaching sectionals, pressing pants etc.; there wasn’t a ship of volunteers
	+ Thanked the freshman parents for their help and giving up their time to help her “put out all the fires” that need to get put out
	+ Believes it will be a stellar year (although it may not be a completely normal year), and is looking forward to giving the kids the sense of a more normal fall than last year and have a lot of fun
	+ Stated that things outside are going very, very well visually and that this is the most the upper-classmen have accomplished in a week of summer band
	+ They’re doing all kinds of drills, marching and playing and they’re really challenging their brains and their feet to do some crazy things
	+ She enjoys watching them evolve from beginner band to advanced band and now running around the field playing
	+ She emphasized what Mrs. Blase was saying: that it’s really cool seeing the kids in the band, to be able to see all the different kids, and to see them up close and personal with them, but then downfield, you see (sweating, crying, throwing up on the sidelines) all that they’re going through, the little bits and pieces of it
	+ Is looking forward to seeing all parents throughout the season
* Mr. Connell (Percussion) didn’t have any comments

**Parent Questions:**

* What time are students dismissed from class on game days?
	+ It depends: Freshman times will be funny because the day is shortened and things are weird:
		- For the freshman to arrive at LHS before the buses start running their elementary routes, they typically dismiss about halfway through 5th period, so this year: around 1:30pm/2pm
	+ For upper classmen: there’s a new principal, so Mr. Gonzales doesn’t know how that’s going to work out exactly, as far as Mrs. Torres and whether she expects students to be in class all at the right times
		- They will find out for sure; in the past, it was when the bell rings, that’s when they start the process
		- Have also where they dismiss the last period of the day, depending on if they have to travel further; will know from week-to-week and will include it in the [band] newsletter.
* Ashley encouraged parents to ask questions and thanked them all for coming, and told them we were here to help.

**Next Meeting**

* Monday, September 13 at 7:30pm in the Band Hall,

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

RHD