



**Mars Area Band Boosters Inc**  
**PO Box 1061**  
**Mars PA 16046**

Contact: [bandinfo@marsband.com](mailto:bandinfo@marsband.com)  
Web site: [www.marsband.com](http://www.marsband.com)

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## **Band Booster Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021**

### **1. Call to Order**

- President Ruth O'Donnell welcomed everyone to the meeting and the officers introduced themselves. She then called for a motion to approve the minutes circulated for the last Booster meeting held in August. They were then approved as written.

### **2. Sponsorship Band**

- Lori MacDonald, Treasurer, reported that we collected over \$5000 to date and also enough donations to purchase a second podium for the second drum major. The remainder of the monies collected will be held in reserves for future needs. Thank-you cards are now being sent out by the students to those individuals/organizations who contributed.

### **3. Chaperones/Volunteers**

- Ruth indicated that we are still in need of more volunteers for each game and competition. She encouraged everyone to volunteer if possible.

### **4. New Business**

- Bands of America (BOA) – This competition will take place on Saturday, September 25 and more volunteers are still needed. Ruth shared the details of the event including arrival & departure times, how meals would be handled for the students, and when the students would perform.
- Competition Days - Ruth stated that the new students to the band program are doing a great job being prepared and ready for competitions. She also thanked the Schumann family and Jurassic Junk for providing the lunch for the students for the October 9 competition. Lunches are also being planned for the Gateway and Deer Lake competitions and will be finalized soon.
- Fall Craft Show – Ruth reported that craft show that takes place at Mars High School on November 20 is a very large fundraiser for the marching band program. The band families and students volunteer that day by running the concessions for the show. This is an all-day event that needs everyone's help. Families help make food, take shifts at the concession stand, and the students deliver food orders to the dozens of craft vendors during the show. This year the craft show may also be at the Middle School so there is an opportunity for two concession areas to staff. We may also be able to assist with parking and receive a donation to the band to serve this role. More information on this event and how to volunteer will be provided soon.



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- Fundraisers – Dana Fenio, Vice President – Fundraisers, provided an overview of the current and upcoming fundraisers:
    - i. DiBella Subs – this was just completed and did well
    - ii. Popcorn – taking place in September
    - iii. Pies – will begin after the popcorn one concludes
    - iv. Uniform Pillows – the old band uniforms will be utilized to create unique, custom pillows until the uniforms inventory is depleted. These can make great Christmas gifts for current or former students. Details of this sale will be shared soon and also advertised to band alumni on the band’s Facebook page.
  - Band Banquet – Ruth indicated that the band banquet that normally takes place in November will now be scheduled for January 2022. More details on this event will be communicated soon.
  - Mars Home for Youth Night – The band, cheerleaders, and football team booster organizations are partnering to hold a donation drive for this local youth home at an upcoming football game. More details to follow soon.
  - Unity T-Shirts – This fundraiser was very successful with the band organization selling 62 shirts. Distribution of the shirts is being coordinated now so watch for more information soon.

## 5. Clothing Sale

- Ruth stated that the Mars band attire sale went well and we may consider adding winter jackets and championship sweatshirts in the future. Watch e-mails for how to order.

## 6. Upcoming Dates

- Ruth reminded everyone of the following upcoming activities:
  - September 24 – Band will not attend the football game at Plum
  - September 25 – Bands of America (BOA) – Obetz, OH
  - September 29 – Butler Band Festival
  - October 9 – Competition at Moon
  - October 12 – Parent/Boosters Meeting



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## **7. New Business**

- Eva Biaggini stated that she was concerned about the future of the marching band with the number of students decreasing this year and asked to talk about increasing visibility for the band program, communicating the benefits to parents and students, and having elementary and middle school band teachers promote the music program, etc. There was much discussion about this topic and many ideas were proposed for the Boosters to consider. Eva also offered to work on this with the Boosters to ensure we can recruit more students to join next year and years to come.

## **8. Adjournment**

- Ruth thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

### Band Booster Officers in Attendance

Ruth O'Donnell, President

Kim Cannon, Secretary (*via phone*)

Dana Fenio, Vice President – Fundraisers

Lori MacDonald, Treasurer

### Parents/Guests in Attendance:

Eva Biaggini

Jo Drutarosky

Brian MacDonald

Christy Nickl

Rita Ostapchenko