



Central Dauphin Band Boosters Association  
Meeting Minutes July 6, 2010

President Eric Bloom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. This was our first meeting at the new 7:00 start time, everybody's really busy around the beginning of July, and it was extremely hot, so Eric thanked the many band parents who braved the heat to attend.

**Treasurer's Report-Cindy Case-** Cindy was out of town, so Eric presented her report. He reminded the group to not get too concerned about the small negative balance in the booster portion of the checking account at the end of the year. We are a nonprofit organization, and our goal is to spend what we make throughout the year. The end of the year events (Banquet, staff, gifts, scholarships) cost approximately \$13,000. We still have lots of money in the bank, but as the Treasurers' Report shows, it's all credited to Student Ledgers. As we deposit Sponsorship and Membership checks, we'll be out of the negative and back into the positive amount next month.

**Financial Secretary's Report-Crystal Richard-** This is the year end report. Special thanks to Crystal for stepping in as our new Financial Secretary!

**Recording Secretary's Report: Laurie Kissinger-** The Recording Secretary's Report—the meeting minutes—are posted on line within a week or so of our meetings. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on if you're not able to attend a particular meeting. The boosters approved the June Report as submitted, on the motion of Brenda Budd, seconded by Janice Mountain

**Vice President's Report-Diane Baker-** We currently have 29 band booster members. Please remember to complete and submit your Enrollment Form as soon as you can. Our goal is to attain 100% membership. We will focus marching band families first (since we see them in the summer), and then begin contacting families with students in the jazz and concert bands and in the indoor groups.

**Band Director's Report-Mr. Ceresini\*** - Mr. C noted the weather forecast was for 85 degrees at 10:30 pm, and thanked everyone for coming even without A/C in the school!

**Graduation:** That is the largest audience that the concert bands play in front of: This year's *Pomp and Circumstance* took only 12 minutes and 15 seconds this year; almost two minutes shorter than last year!

**Marching Band:** Practice has begun and will continue through the summer. We currently have 107 members which is 40 more than 5 years ago (55% growth)! A large portion of the new members is sophomores who joined for the first time this year.

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\* It should be noted that Mr. Ceresini finished his Report at 7:19!

**Upcoming Events:** 60 students are signed up for Jazz this year, so there will be three Jazz Bands. There will be Jazz I, and two sections of Jazz II. Mr. Masters will teach one of the Jazz II sections (he is an amazing Jazz piano player), and he and Mr. C will be able to switch back and forth as needed. The Jazz I ensemble will again play for the teacher's first day of school.

**Landis Field:** New this year will be a pre-game tailgate, as part of Coach McNamee's spirit initiative, which will be put on by the football boosters. There will be a small parade with the band, football team, and cheerleaders. This will help to build a relationship with the community, as many people arrive early for the games.

**Alumni Band:** There is a link on the website for this event. A mailing will go out in the next few weeks. The band is proud to host three generations of Milbrands for this year's event!

**Scheduling:** The school computers are down through mid-July for updates. There are usually some difficulties with scheduling the music electives. If your student's schedule has errors, send Mr. C an email, as the guidance counselors don't get back to school until later in August. Please use the [mrc@cdramband.org](mailto:mrc@cdramband.org) address, as the school email address sometimes filters people out.

**Student Officers' Report:** Mr. C. gave them the night off; they will officially start with the August meeting.

## **Old Business:**

**Budget:** Our budget is typically not dependent on any single fundraiser, but on the mix of ongoing programs (such as RamBand Scrip), large events (such as the Craft Show), major fundraising initiative (such as Business Sponsorship), and Product Sales and other activities. Over the past 4 years we have purchased \$50,000 of equipment from Mr. Ceresini's "Wish List." These purchases help grow the RamBand program. For example, five years ago we had one person (Travis Hicks, the trailblazer) in the pit for Marching Band, and today we have 14. Without the purchase of several new mallet instruments by the Boosters, this growth would not have been possible. Similarly, Mr. C. would not have been able to add a Percussion Ensemble class during the school day. The 2010-11 Budget was approved as presented by unanimous vote on the motion of Allison Ruello, seconded by Jan Gough.

**Golf-a-RAMa:** There were 51 golfers this year. Not all of the receipts are in yet, but it should be another profitable event. It was held at Deer Valley Golf course, and was a beautiful day. Our 2011 Golf-a-RAMa committee, headed by Doug DeFazio, is already planning next year's event.

**RamBand Scrip:** We started the program in 2007, and have done ½ million dollars in sales! The program gives us a great amount of cash flow each month, and allows us to make other fundraisers voluntary. About 20% of band booster members actively participate in RamBand Scrip—if more families would step in and participate, we could raise some serious funds for the RamBand program!

**RamBand Sponsorship:** The letters are ready to go out this week to 1500 businesses. Please contact businesses you frequent, including your dentist, hairdresser, pizza shops, etc. We have been able to raise \$10,000-12,000 each year in the past few years with this program. Explain to the business that we are trying to do what we can to support the RamBand program as the district makes cut backs. Unlike previous campaigns, this year we will NOT be randomly assigning businesses to families; therefore, if you have someone you want to contact please let Kim St.Clair know ([kimstclair@comcast.net](mailto:kimstclair@comcast.net)). Eric explained that the program benefits businesses as

they get an ad in the program for each event we do (this year, Band-a-RAMa, Glenn Miller, Indoor-RAMa, and the U.S. Navy Concert Band)—he had Indoor-RAMa programs available at the meeting to give newcomers a sense of the quality of the programs. Remember that 30% of each Sponsorship goes into your Student Ledger. The RamBand Sponsorship program gives us a great deal of cash at the beginning of the year.

**Band Camp:** Uniform fittings will start on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. You can sign up to volunteer to help with this on Charms. Judy will need at least 4 people each session, and people who can hem pants. A question was brought up about new uniforms, and Mr. C was being very circumspect (definition as promised...cautious and discreet) when he informed us that our proposal to buy new uniforms was rejected by the district due to the budget shortfall.

RamBand Community Service Day III will be held on August 6th at the same places as last year, with the addition of the Neighborhood Center. We had to add a new venue because of the increased number of students in the program this year. This is a great experience for the students, staff, and community.

Parents' Night will be held on August 12th at 7:30 pm on the Practice Field. Marching Band students will get info on this via handouts. Come and see the show for the first time, and see what you kid has been learning.

Picture Day and Pool Party on August 13th at Devon Manor-stay turned for handouts. Don't let your kids tell you that it's not for parents! This will also be your first chance to purchase RamBand Wearables (our great embroidered clothing that shows support for our Band and our School), so bring your checkbook!

**Senators Game:** We will be playing on August 18th either on the field or on the new Boardwalk area. The marching band members will bring home an order form for tickets. If you are planning to attend, please buy your tickets from us, so we have a head count of how many are attending.

**Band Fair:** This is the Landis Field debut for the marching band. It is coordinated with the Pigskin Preview, the Wednesday before the first football game (September 1st). There are games, food and a dunk tank which usually has some special guest dunkers. This is a fundraising event, and we will need a lot of help with games and food. Sign up to help online via Charms.

**Landis Field Concessions:** The Band Boosters run the Visitors' Concession Stand at home varsity football games; we supply the labor and make a cut of the revenue. This gives us a good presence at the games and also an opportunity to feed our kids. We have a brand new crew of event heads for this, and will need a lot of volunteers. Sign up to help online via Charms.

**Chaperones:** Mary Becher will be coordinating this again this year. The chaperones get the equipment on and off the field, and we need 4-5 people for each event. You do get into the games for free if you are chaperoning. Sign up to help online via Charms.

**Bandarama:** There are 10 bands signed up so far; as well as Bloomsburg University. Plus, The 2D Marine Division Band - "The Division's Own" - from Camp Lejeune, NC, is scheduled to perform! We will need a lot of volunteers for this great event. Sign up to help online via Charms.

**Alumni Band:** We have not had much response yet, so if you know anyone who might be interested please let them know about this. We need to get a response form and payment for t-shirts.

**Glenn Miller:** This event was a sell out last time. It is a great opportunity for Jazz I to play in front of a packed house.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RAM-a-Gram:** Thanks to Shannon McLeod for getting the summer issue put together and online. This will now be a quarterly publication for the community and sponsors to let them know what's going on with the program.

**Wearables:** This is the cool clothing with the RamBand logo. There is a link to this on the website (<http://www.cdramband.org/wearables.htm>), and we will have stuff for sale at the Pool Party at Devon Manor. This year the underclassman will be purchasing their own garment bags with the logo, which will cost approximately \$8. The students will get to keep them, and will hopefully take better care of them.

**GTP/HERCO:** The slots for this are generally more available after the college kids go back to school We are now doing a 70/30 split to your Student Ledger so that it is more consistent with other fundraisers.

**CHARMS:** Eric and Mr. C. presented a tutorial on how to use this new software. There is a more information online at <http://www.cdramband.org/charms.htm>, including a Charms Handbook.

### **EVENT HEADS NEEDED:**

*Mentoring:* matching new band members with kids/families who are veterans. We have had some people volunteer to be mentors, but we need someone to coordinate this.

*Showcase:* This is in the spring. You would help coordinate student volunteers, and basically bring a book and sit and read for a few Saturdays at the school.

*Ram Band Cards:* We will be selling discount cards for a fundraiser. The coordinator would get the merchants to offer discounts and coordinate selling and distributing cards. This is a great way to make easy money for the program.

*Wolfgang Candy:* This is an easy sale to coordinate; the company does most of the work (**UPDATE: Thanks to Melissa Graeff for taking on this fundraiser!**).

*Buddy Night:* We need someone to coordinate with the middle school instructors, get t-shirts, and get word out to the parents with details of the event.

Eric reminded the group about the CDS D Task force. This is Ford Thompson's effort to get parent feedback regarding things going on in the district. It would be good to have as many folks as possible who are interested in the arts in our schools to participate. Contact Shannon Leib, Director of Public & Community Relations at 545-4703, ext. 217 or via email at [sleib@cdschools.org](mailto:sleib@cdschools.org)

Next Booster Meeting: Tuesday, August 3 at 7pm in the Band Room. This will be during Band Camp.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Kissinger, Recording Secretary