

September 2019 MVHSBB Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President David Englehardt at 7:07 on September 4, 2019 in the band room of MVHS. In addition to the President, Director Richard Bacz, board members present were Vice President Nilsa Tolbert, Treasurer David Dow, and Secretary Jean Shaw. Members present were Melinda Englehardt, Sherry Savage, Sandra Espinosa, Courtney Ballentine, Wanda Lyles, Bronhed Shaw, Brian and Heidi Barksdale, Hilary and Kurt Hales, Allyson Carter, Deidra Patitucci, Adrienne Mason, Gregory and Priscilla Gay, Sandra Wendland, Nathan Hart-Perkins, Todd Metheny, Marie McCain, and Paul D'Agastino.

Director's Update:

- Director Bacz welcomed everyone for coming. He reminded the group that Back-to-School Night was Thursday, September 5th from 4:30-7.
- He told the group that he'd sent an email today and asked that if parents didn't receive it, to please email him to let him know. He will be sending weekly emails giving the schedule for the week.
- The Financial Officer at MVHS just retired and the new person should be starting in the next 2 weeks. Online payments are still set up for last year, so he's asked everyone to wait until the new person is on board and said an email will go out once online payment options are set up for the current school year. All payments will be electronic
- Band shoes are ordered and he's hoping they will be here in time for Friday's home football game on September 6th.
- New Parent Expectations:
 - Kids train like athletes when they march and some may complain of back and leg issues. This is normal.
 - He asked parents to assist their students with time management and commented that sometimes grades dip after marching season is over.
 - November 3rd the marching season is officially over, but the band continues to play during the playoffs as long as the football team plays.
 - Competitions: We will play at all home varsity Friday night football games. On competition Saturdays, performance order is based on band size. Since our band is small, we will perform early. On the day of competitions, the kids run through the show a few times, arrive at the venue about 2 hours ahead of performance time, perform, and stay until after awards. If you want to bring your child home, please email Mr. Bacz prior to the day of the competition to let him know. He will not release a student without prior written notification. If you're not sure whether you're bringing your child home, send him an email. Afternoon performances, we'll usually perform between 3-5pm, so the kids should be at school around 9am. Awards are then around 9pm and we're home by 11 or 11:30. A typical day is 12 hours long. Saturday morning practices are on the stadium field.
- Competition Help:
 - Chaperoning: Mr. Bacz needs at least 8 chaperones per competition. Advantage: free admission to the shows.
 - Pit Crew: The students move the instruments. Parents help with loading and unloading the trucks and helping move backdrops and equipment on and off the field. The performance timeline is very tight, with only a few minutes to get everything on and off the field.
 - Goody Bags for the kids on the days of the performances.
- Booster Help:
 - Tag Day: This is our #1 source of income each year. We make somewhere between \$12,000 and \$17,000 thanks to Tag Day. We'll need about 20 drivers and all students are expected to participate. There are 72 marchers, so there should be 72 volunteers.
 - Concession Stand: the band is responsible for all games played on the stadium field in the fall, so each week there will be field hockey, jv/freshman football games and/or Varsity football games. The Hales' are in charge of concessions and do a great job. The Band Boosters built the concession stand many years ago, but technically it belongs to the school. We are fortunate that the boosters still control it in the fall and

we are only 1 of 2 schools in Fairfax County that do. The 2 busiest games this year will most likely be Military Appreciation Day and Homecoming.

- Dates: 9/28 Naval Academy, 10/4 Homecoming Football Game, 10/5 is an SAT test date and the Homecoming Dance, so no competition, 10/12 Stafford, 10/19 Williamsport MD (near Hagerstown), 10/26 South County and 11/2 Liberty HS for VBODA state assessment. The band will not travel to Yorktown on 10/20 because Mr. Bacz wants to take advantage of the open field. The band WILL travel to West Potomac and possibly Hayfield as a Pep Band. Colorguard can go if they want to but they won't perform.
- Pictures: No pictures at Mount Vernon this Saturday, September 7th because Colorguard uniforms aren't in yet, and Mr. Bacz doesn't know if the shoes will be in. They're rescheduled for 10/12 (Stafford competition). If it rains on 10/12, Mr. Bacz doesn't know if pictures will happen. We will definitely get a bleacher photo after one of the football games to ensure we have a group shot.
- The Band teacher at Walt Whitman has left, but Mr. Bacz knows the new teacher, who is amazing, so he's hopeful that the numbers will increase again after next year.
- Question: Do uniforms come home? Answer: NO. Only shoes go home. Section Leaders do uniform inspections. Colorguard will have a basket when they need to be washed. Band uniforms are dry cleaned 1-2 times/season.
- Funding Goals:
 - Uniforms: \$80-\$90K to replace uniforms. It's about \$700/uniform and the last purchase was 2006. It was \$52K for 140 uniforms for a band of 85. The process takes 9 months -1 year.
 - Instruments: Instruments need replacing occasionally. The last big instrument replacement was in 1984. The largest keyboard costs \$K. Mr. Bacz can't usually get marching-specific instruments through the county, so the boosters usually pay for those.
 - Transportation Overage: The boosters pick up any overage for the busses. MVHS has the lowest band fees in the county.
- Comment from Sherry Savage: For the Naval Academy competition, they sell a lot of swag and they also do Wish-A-Grams so parents can send messages to their marchers, which are typically read either right before or right after the band competes.

President Englehardt thanked everyone for coming and introduced the current Board: Nilsa Tolbert, VP, David Dow, Treasurer, Jean Shaw, Secretary, Melinda Englehardt, Uniforms and Hilary and Kurt Hales, Concessions.

Old Business:

- Review of August 14th Meeting Minutes
 - A motion was made by David Dow and seconded by Hilary Hales to accept the August 14, 2019. Motion was carried.
- Concession Stand
 - There are 2 wasp nests in the stand, so we didn't open today. The Hales' are hoping it's taken care of tomorrow so that we're good on Friday.
 - The huge drink cooler was moved to the corner where the freezer used to be, in order to provide better flow. Hilary thinks we'll need about 10 volunteers for Friday's football game.
 - Mack Talbert is interested in selling pulled pork sandwiches from Smoke 'n Shine
 - Hilary plans to sell what we did last year: Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs, pizza, chips, drinks, nachos, popcorn, pretzels and candy.
 - Stainless steel tables are all here and set up.
 - The Hales' are looking for a few grill masters, so if you like to grill, please reach out to them.
 - Hilary thought we could set up a satellite station to sell drinks and candy if the regular lines get too long.
- Tag Day
 - Tag Day is set for Saturday, September 7, 2019, rain or shine.
 - Secretary Shaw reiterated what Mr. Bacz already said. We're in need of about 20 drivers to take the kids to the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Hilary Hales has a line on someone willing to make the pulled pork for lunch.

- Notices were put up on the Next Door app, a couple of non-official Ft. Belvoir Facebook pages and our FB page, which several people have shared.
- Fundraising
 - President Englehardt dropped off an application to fundraise at El Paso Restaurant on Cooper Rd., but he hasn't heard back from them yet. Nilsa Tolbert will follow-up with them.
 - ZIPS Dry Cleaners on N. King's Highway. David Englehardt said we can do our fundraiser either 3/19/2020 or 3/26/2020. The group opted for 3/19. David Englehardt will let ZIPS know. We will still need to make a few flyers to put up by their registers.
 - David Dow is still working on Corporate Sponsorships - this is a long-term process
 - Nilsa Tolbert lost the original dates we were shooting for for the car wash at Roy Rogers. She will check with them about doing it on 9/21/19. If that date doesn't work, we'll try again in the spring. UPDATE: 9/21 was unavailable.
 - Citrus Fundraiser: David Dow said we made about █████ last year, which was used to help offset the cost of the Universal trip. It's an easy fundraiser with minimal effort, but only 13 students participated last year. He'd like to try again this year, but other ideas are welcome.
 - Question: Sherry Savage asked if we could sell Candy Grams at the football games. Mr. Bacz said he would look into it.
 - Other options:
 - Sweet Frog on Ft. Belvoir does fundraising. Marie McCain will check to see if a Wednesday is available. She suggested having a few kids play their instruments during the fundraiser. She will look into it.
 - Someone asked about Chipotle, but Mr. Bacz said the time window was very small and the group agreed that probably wouldn't work for us.
- Todd Metheny asked about Social Media. Mr. Bacz has control of the Band Facebook page. David Dow currently has access to the Booster website, which had been controlled by Past President Charles Evelyn. Todd agreed to discuss social media options after the meeting.
- Treasurer Report:
 - Treasurer Dow explained that the boosters have bank accounts at both BB&T and Burke and Herbert. For expenditures, he tries to stay within the checking account at BB&T, while the money remaining in the Burke and Herbert account is bookmarked for the new uniforms. We've been trying to create a capital budget but it's difficult with the fluidity of what the band needs at any given time.
 - Color Guard Budget: David Dow motioned to approve the Fall portion of the colorguard budget of \$7530 and table the Winter portion. Motion was seconded by Marie McCain. Motion was carried. Marie McCain motioned to approve \$5000 for Winter Guard startup. Motion was seconded by David Dow. Motion was carried.
 - Fall Props: Mr. Bacz stated he would text Guard Director Rushel Grillo to see if there were any outstanding prop issues.
 - ATV: Charles Evelyn worked on the ATV and it started and is running. David Dow said we are looking at getting a new ATV from Coleman Powersports. There is a new one on sale for \$6800 at the Falls Church location. If we buy a new one, it needs to be able to pull 1300 lbs. Todd Metheny will check the Woodbridge location to see if they have a used one available. Todd motioned to spend up to \$5000 to purchase a new/used ATV if one becomes available. Motion was seconded by Marie McCain. Motion was carried. UPDATE: David Dow found a brand new Polaris 450 in Lynchburg for \$4970. Todd Metheny went back to Coleman in Woodbridge who said they'd meet that price.
- Uniform Update: Melinda Englehardt said that all students have been fitted for uniforms and we are just waiting on the shoes.
- Button Maker: The button maker has arrived and Melinda has started on the Senior Sashes.

New Business:

- Tour Shirts
 - President Englehardt brought up the idea of selling a Tour Shirt as a mini fundraiser. He shared a design with the group. These are 100% optional but will be available for purchase through Custom Inc. Prices are rounded to the nearest dollar. Motion to offer these as a fundraiser was made by Heidi Barksdale and seconded by Todd Metheny. Motion was carried. David Englehardt will email the link to the parents. Students wishing to purchase can order them online or bring money to Melinda, who will put the order in for them. Shirts should be in right after the Naval Academy
- Spirit Wear:
 - Kathryn DeVille has been in charge of spirit wear the last few years. She has been using All Star Sports in Woodbridge. Sherry Savage has taken over spirit wear this year and prefers Custom Inc. She will send out some designs and get the process started.

President Englehardt thanked everyone for coming. The next meeting will be October 2, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01.

Respectfully submitted

Jean Shaw

MVHSBB Secretary