

Ridge Point Band Boosters  
Monthly Board Meeting - Virtual  
January 12, 2021 @ 6:30pm

**MINUTES**

**Board Present:**

President	Brenda Prezas
Vice President	Monica Ray
Treasurer	Kristen Belbin
Asst. Treasurer	Simonette Wolf
Communications Director	Kristen Blomstrom
Secretary	Heather Sanderson
Parliamentarian	Shanda Guillory-McClure
Member-At-Large	Mary Blanchard
Member-At-Large	Seema Weinig

**Board Not Available:** All present

**Directors:** Luis Saldaña

**Other Attendees:** Sara Nguyen, Becky Bales, Marcos Elizondo, Beatriz Collado, Olga Skakune, Betty Yavar, Linda DiPaola, Nisha Shah, Wendy Chopin, Betsy Clark, Lanie Hauschel

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**Call to Order (Prezas)**

- Called meeting to order at 6:35pm.
- Approval of 12/1/20 Meeting Minutes. Kristen Belbin motioned. Shanda Guillory-McClure seconded. Meeting minutes were approved.

**Board Reports**

**Directors (Saldaña/Burson/Baños)**

- We had a great experience this past weekend during the Virtual Area Retreat with our 9 Area Kids and their Masterclass Teachers!
- Upcoming Events
  - RPHS Solo and Ensemble Contest
    - Can be done virtually or F2F
      - Ensemble Contest will be in late February.
      - Solo Contest will be in May.
      - There is no state Solo & Ensemble contest this year.

- The RPHS solo contest will qualify for letter jacket points this year, so students can choose whether or not to participate in Region Solo & Ensemble contest.
    - Dates will be announced soon.
  - RPHS Midwinter Recording/Streaming Concert
    - February 10<sup>th</sup> – this will be video-recorded
  - Pre-UIL will be onsite at RPHS. All schools in the district will be doing at their own schools.
  - UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest
    - Possibilities depending on the state of COVID:
      - Plan A: All groups able to travel and perform onsite.
      - Plan B: Set of judges come to our school only.
      - Plan C: Completely virtual performances and judging.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade recruiting strategies being considered:
  - Student-created videos – Promotional and Informational
  - Buying T-Shirts, Bracelets, Lanyards to pass out to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Planning Mini Camps at the end of May or June – depends on COVID
  - May take a group to the middle schools to perform
  - Virtual Classroom question and answer session
  - Send out postcards to 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students
  - Will be meeting with middle school band directors to brainstorm other ideas.
  - Auditions will be in early May. Tryout music should be ready to distribute in the next couple of weeks.
- Face to Face Rehearsals: Students are spaced 6ft x 6ft using PPE (instrument covers and bags) indoors. Will be creating barriers with clear shower curtains and clothespins. Have to come up with an efficient way to take down and replace when color guard practices in band hall.
  - Mary Blanchard wants to discuss creating frames on wheels for the shower curtains to be more mobile between groups. She will be discussing this further with Mr. Saldana.
  - Linda DiPaola suggests we need a way to clean the plastic shower curtains between groups. May have the students spray disinfectant and wipe before they leave class. Students currently have disinfectant available to clean their chairs and stands, but not all students are using it due to time constraints during class.

#### **President (Prezas)**

- Brenda welcomed new RPBB Parliamentarian, Shanda Guillory-McClure.
- All Board and Committee positions are filled for this school year.

#### **Vice President (Ray)**

- Monica Ray introduced herself. She recently joined the RPBB board.

### **Treasurers Report (Belbin/Wolf)**

- Financial review statements for December were recently sent to the board via email.
- 1099/1096 forms and tax payment are due, and Kristen will be completing soon.
- Kristen has set up Zelle as a form of payment for band fees. Payments can be sent to [treasurers@rpband.org](mailto:treasurers@rpband.org). Transactions for online merchandise will still use PayPal.
- Mary Blanchard suggested that Kristen change her personal email address for Zelle payments to the treasurer's email address, and Kristen made that change during the meeting.
- Kristen is also researching the ability to use Venmo for band fee payments as well.

### **Check Approvals/E-motions To Ratify**

- Passed 12/15/20. Payment to Region 13 Band Division in amount of \$1,680.00 for students' audition entry fees. This is in budget but needed approval due to amount greater than \$500. Brenda motioned. Mr. Saldana seconded. Motion was approved.

### **Communications Report (Blomstrom)**

None

### **Parliamentarian (Guillory-McClure)**

- Shanda introduced herself. She is a new RPBB board member.

### **Secretary (Sanderson)**

- What is the order status of new podiums for Drum Majors? Mr. Saldana has contacted the company twice via email and hasn't received a response. He will contact them again. They are most likely backed up due to COVID. Should have them by the beginning of next marching season.
- Can we consider ordering caps as part of the uniform for daytime games? This would not only improve the look of the band but also offer some protection from the sun. Mr. Saldana would like to add caps and sunglasses to the uniforms, if possible. Betsy Clark and Betty Yavar will research the caps and costs. Simonette Wolf will ask a former board member about where to purchase the sunglasses. Board members also suggested adding matching sweatshirts or jackets for cold weather games.

### **Member-at-Large (Blanchard/Weinig)**

- What is the retention plan for students thinking about leaving the band & guard program? The directors are trying to make it as fun as possible within the current constraints. We won't know who may not return next year from the counselors until March.
  - Seema suggested some 9<sup>th</sup> grade band students go speak to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at their former middle schools.
  - Seema suggested asking Coach LaFavers to speak to 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students.

- Can we plan a special tailgate party for the kids as a special end to the marching season? We could each bring our own food, park far apart, and everyone would have to keep masks on. We could also buy pizza to hand out to the students, if parents are comfortable with that. Seema will email Mr. Saldana to organize this event.

#### Committee Reports

None

#### New Business

- Mr. Saldana is considering having students wear their Sunday best for concert uniforms this year. He will be speaking with Linda DiPaola this week about the possibility of using the concert band uniforms with minimal alterations by parents.

#### Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.
- Next board meeting is set for February 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Minutes typed by Heather Sanderson

  
Brenda Prezas, President