

Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2023

1. Called to order by Michelle Montana at 6:02 pm

2. Welcome to New Families – no new families

3. Directors Reports:

Jeff Hoffman:

- One of the best seasons he's ever had
- This weekend, we will see the 1st place band and two others in our class (Medina and Central Square). The LI bands are somewhat of a wildcard.
- Solo Fest signup is occurring right now. ~15 kids so far – signup by the 20th of October.
- Parade Info:
 - Handouts – Permission slip and itinerary. The permission slip needs to come back before the end of Fall Marching Band season
 - Cost will be \$50 per student (preferably paid by end of the year), the school district will be covering the rest (~\$600 per student)
 - Trip will be paid up-front by the district
 - Every kid in the band has a spot, including the pit and color guard. There are 108 spots on the buses for kids and staff.
 - Leave the morning of Sunday, May 26th – some sightseeing upon arrival
 - Memorial Day – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner provided – walking tour of Washington DC
 - Parade is Monday @ 2pm, parade route is 1 mile.
 - Tuesday – Breakfast is provided – Jeff will pick a museum or something like that for the kids to do.
 - Kids will be missing 1 day of school (Tuesday, May 28th)
 - ? from Patrick Montana – Do you plan on using under bus storage for instruments or do you plan on having us bring a trailer? Jeff will check with the company to see what storage is available but we should plan on bringing a truck.
 - ? from Andy – Can we bring the gator for water, etc? Jeff will check
 - ? from Patrick Moran – Are the banner carriers invited? Yes, Jeff is planning on it.
 - ? from Sinclair – Will the Guard get new uniforms for the parade? Jeff – probably not as they are already paying for new moisture wicking tops.
 - ? from Jonathan – Can parents go with their kids to the different events? Jeff – most of the things are free so that shouldn't be an issue. Parent meals would be funded by parents.
- Dome Day (Championships) and related information:
 - Fright Fest (new event from Mr. Dunn) - Friday 10/27 (time TBD) and Saturday from 10am – 4pm, Jeff wants to move our activities up an hour, so rehearsal will be 9am – 1pm. Maybe we leave it up to the kids to decide? One option - Band kids could go to Fright Fest on Friday night and we keep our Saturday plans as is.
 - Championships are back to a FULL retreat ie. full band
 - Championship tickets are available now at:
<https://am.ticketmaster.com/syracuse/NYSFieldBandChampionships>
 - We're playing in Show # 3 which starts at 6:40pm. We're playing at 7:32pm
 - It will be a LONG day, we normally don't return until 12:30am – 1am
 - Children are expected to go to school that Monday
 - Additional information: <https://nysfbc.org/nysfbc-2023-championships/>

Francois Auclair:

- President of the New York State Percussion Circuit (NYSPC)

- Indoor percussion starts right after Dome. There is usually a week off but there's a fall play in the middle of November so we are losing a week
- Try Outs - November 1st and 2nd and Saturday the 4th.
- Moving back to a Tuesday / Thursday schedule due to school activities, scouts, etc.
- Registration website: <http://francoisauclair.com>
- Championships – Sunday April 7th at Gates Chili HS – will be asking for volunteers again like last year. EPFM will earn \$1500 for volunteering.
- This year's show theme is **Classical Madness**
- MP3 posted in the Indoor Percussion Band app
- Shows start in February (there are 9 shows in total, we're not attending them all)
- Rhythms on the Ridge (our home show) is the 1st weekend in February
- Band Camp – First weekend in January – all day Saturday and Sunday - \$30 camp fee
- Hoping to get a new floor and uniforms. Uniforms are being used for 2-3 years and are hopefully being funded by the district.
- Medical forms – we can use the Marching Band medical forms as they are April to April.
- ? from Michelle - If the school doesn't cover the cost of new uniforms, are we using the old uniforms? Fran – no we're going to fundraise to cover the cost
- ? from Paula – Will there be practices during spring break in April? Fran – championships were delayed a week due to break. We will have practices during spring break week.
- ? from Jonathan – what about kids missing practices during February or April break? Fran – as long as it's not last minute, we should be able to plan for that.
- ? from unknown parent (woman in red hat, bills jacket) – what are the try outs like, my child would like to join? Fran – we move them around to different instruments to see what works for them.
- ? from Kelly – where will practices be held? – Fran – Black Box, Gym, Cymbals might practice elsewhere.
- Right now, not planning for any props – DJ Booth (synth cart) and some other little things

4. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (9/13/23)

- Motion to approve minutes – Patrick Moran / Sinclair 2nd – Unanimously approved

5. Communications/Announcements (Michelle Montana)

- Dome apparel – ordered online – we will pick it up at the Dome during championships and hand out there or on the way back. Orders are due by 10/25. T-Shirt and Sweatshirt designs available at: <https://www.sycampusstore.com/clothing/featured-clothing/2023-field-band>
- We're using the <http://epfm.org> website more and more, for meeting minutes, lancer lines, etc.
- This season we've been having practices on Tuesday & Wednesday but the last week of the month is Tuesday / Thursday

6. Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's / Finance Committee Report (Dan McInerney)**
 - Report provided
 - Nothing of concern, we're doing great
 - We do not have money to buy a new floor and uniforms every year
 - We typically do a fundraiser in the winter, we could use this for uniforms.
 - ? from Jay Peryea – can we use the profit from RoS to offset the cost of uniforms? Michelle – we could, but we'd have to vote on it.
- **By-Laws Committee (Pat Moran)**
 - ? from Patrick Moran – We changed our by-laws and fiscal year. Do we have to submit a Form 990 because of that? Dan - Yes we do.
 - History – EPFM is a charity from 1977 – because of this, by-laws are required. Form 990 needs to be filed every 3 years or we lose our charity status.

- **Props / Pit Crew Committee** (Andrew Clarcq)
 - Saturday will be windy again, we will most likely be using buckets (again).
 - Loading at 3:30pm – need to practice taking things apart and putting them together because we're under time constraints at Dome.
 - Coffins - \$200/each – Can we take pictures and list them on FB Marketplace?
- **Chaperones** (Merari)
 - We do not let your children go home without a note prior to the show. It's a liability and safety issue. Jeff added it to the lancer line. Sports require the same notification with a 24 hour notice.
 - We're having some issues with the bus drivers – not knowing they need to leave when kids are changing. Merari had a discussion with them.
- **Membership** – (Liz Pedraza – not present)
 - N/A
- **Fundraising Committee** (Gretchen Clark – not present)
 - Popcorn fundraiser – 11/14 – 11/28
 - Extending this to the Chorus Chorale group
 - Proceeds go into your child's band account
 - To avoid processing fees, people can donate directly to your child via cash/check given to/mailed to Dan
 - Bottles & Cans – Can bring them to the Culver Rd (account #40) or East Ridge Nickleback and mention our account number.
 - Flower Power Fundraiser – ordering plants and seeds – Typically do that in the spring and fall
 - Kelly – Public Market Fundraiser - Buy a bag of vegetables - \$30 per bag - \$10 goes back to the child
- **Dome Weekend**
 - Practice
 - All normal traditions will apply
 - Family Breakfast – can pay at epfm.org
 - Usually a well attended event by ~200 people
 - Signup for volunteers will be sent out soon
 - Trunk or Treat – all kids donate a bag of candy and that is dispersed to the people who are participating in Trunk or Treat.
 - Senior picture on Irondequoit Fire Department (Ridge Culver) fire truck
 - Pit Crew – Pot Luck at Skytop
 - Quiet/solemn ride down the hill from Skytop to the Dome
 - National Class performs after us
 - Syracuse University Marching Band performs after National Class
 - Tickets cost \$25 and you must also pay for parking
 - It's a long day, 12:30am or 1am
 - Kids are expected to go to school the next day
- Dome Recap - November 9th – Recognize seniors and a rookie from each section – conflicts with our next EPFM. Motion from Sinclair to move our November meeting to November 8th – Chris H 2nd – unanimously approved.
- Signups for Fall Play Concessions will be coming out soon. The play is November 15 – 18
- Next Steering Committee Meeting – October 26th

7. New Business

- N/A

Adjournment at 7:20 pm (Motion: Andy / Chris Haidvogel – unanimously approved)

Thanks to all for attending!