



Huntsville High School Board Parent Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2024

The Huntsville High School Band Parent Association Board met on August 13th, 2024 in the HHS Theatre Classroom. The following board members were present: Kelly Parrish (President), Brenda Tapia (Co-Treasurer), Kristina Hutcherson (Co-Treasurer) Michael Stahl (Secretary), Helena Johnson (Volunteer), Lisa Allport (Fundraising), Brandi Raburn (Fundraising), Ginny Steely (Hospitality), Jovonne Foster (Uniforms), Martina Wood (Uniforms), Justin Osborne (Transportation), Hector Gaba (Media), Nicole Gorman (Color Guard Liason), Krista Olinger (Newsletter), Stuart Tankesley (Band Director), Andrew Kirk (Assistant Band Director).

Not Present: Karen Hansberger (Trip Coordinator), Tony Parker (Media), Jamie Newell (Programs/Photography)

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Kelly Parrish called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Michael Stahl (**Secretary**) informed the board that minutes from previous meetings would be posted in the Board Member Band App following meetings for review. Once approved at the next meeting, they will be posted to the website. Minutes from the May board meeting were approved by voice vote. CutTime: New students have been added to CutTime and we only have 2 students missing Guardian contact info. Band App: Participation in the primary Band app has grown and there are now 211 members.

Kelly asked Krista Olinger (**Newsletter**) to remove board member emails from the newsletter. All board members received a spam email today from someone pretending to be Kelly asking us to purchase Apple gift cards. This is obviously a scam. We had this issue last year when posting emails on the website. Krista will go back and retroactively remove email addresses.

Helena Johnson (**Volunteers**) asked for feedback from band camp. Filling the water jugs with ice and water was more difficult than it needed to be due to limited access to the athletic facilities. Mr. Tankesley will see if we can get a key for next year. Helena also asked if the band could purchase a wagon to help transport equipment to the field. We borrowed another parent's wagon for this year. Mr. Kirk said that the band has a few wagons but the wheels need air. We will look at their condition before purchasing something new. Lunches: No issues with distributing lunches this year. Forms: 23 students still need to turn in their forms/paperwork. Mr. Takesley handed those forms out to the 23 today in school. Competitions: Discussed how many volunteers will be

needed for competitions. Estimated a need of 13 people. 6 bus riders, 2 truck drivers, 5 non-bus rides. Additional volunteers may be allowed depending on the competition.

Brenda Tapia and Kristina Hutcherson (**Treasury**) are preparing to send updates via CutTime to those owing a balance. 2nd band camp payment should be paid by September. Band Camp Lunches: Every student that ate/registered for lunches paid. Kristina is finishing the analysis, but we should have made a profit. Show Shirts: Received the bill today and shirts are ready to be picked up this week. Will send a check to pay for them. This should have also made a profit, but the exact amount is TBD. Percussion Jersey: New Percussion members will be ordering jerseys to match those who already have one. These are \$55 each and we will order 10. Delinquent Accounts: Color Guard is preparing to distribute their uniforms and asked Brenda to verify that everyone is current on their payments before distribution.

Ginny Steely (**Hospitality**) reported on band camp lunches. They were a success with the kids enjoying the food. There was only one issue when Subway was short cookies one day. They were able to supplement those missing cookies. Middle School Night: We will host a tailgate prior to the Grissom game to welcome our Middle Schoolers. We will purchase pizza/water and ask HCMS and HJHS to provide deserts / plates & napkins. Suggestion was for the deserts to be prepackaged items like oreos, rice krispy treats, etc. We need tables to hold the food. Since we need these before the trucks arrive, they will need to be delivered to Milton Frank separately. Jovonne has some tables we can borrow in addition to the school tables. Brandi Raburn and Ginny suggested that their trucks could be available. But we will also look at other options just in case. Mr. Tankesley will send out a google survey to the middle schools to get a head count.

Lisa Allport and Brandi Raburn (**Fundraising**) provided an update on our crowdsource fundraiser. As of the meeting we had over \$9k in donations. The company will take a 20% cut of all donations. We have 2 weeks remaining in the fundraiser and it has so far exceeded all expectations. Only 50% of our students have collected a donation, so there is still a lot of potential out there. The fundraiser company does offer an incentive program to the kids who collect the most donation amount and unique donors. Boston Butt: delivery will be November 2 from 11am - 1pm at HHS. We will be ordering from Chuck Wagon again this year. Selling will begin in October. Like last year, we will offer a hot or cold option for pickup. Lisa asked Helena for 6 volunteers to help distribute on 11/2. Silent Auction: It's never too early to start soliciting donations. The auction will be December 10th. If we start asking now, we can hopefully get donations before businesses run out of finances for charity.

Jovonne Foster (**Uniforms**) updated the group that bibbers and the Male Concert Uniforms have arrived. We expect the new blue garment bags for concert season to arrive Friday. Once we have those, Jovonne and Martina will bag up items once the new bags arrive, just like they did for marching uniforms. There are 8 students who have yet to pick up their dry fit shirt and/or polo shirt. Color Guard: Color Guard asked to use the old red garment bags to store their uniforms. Concert Uniforms: Jeff has provided names of those students that placed an order during the second round. Jovonne will

match those up against the first round to help determine anyone missing an order.

Shoes: We had several students whose shoes did not fit. We handled as much of those internally as possible. There were a few that we did not have shoes to exchange, so we will do this via the uniform company on the next order.

Hector Gaba and Michael provided an update (**Media**) on facebook and YouTube.

Facebook: We have had great engagement on the Facebook page and have received another \$1200 in donations in the week since sharing the fundraiser on the page. There are 2 more postings of the link scheduled for Facebook. (8/14 and 8/20). Hector has a hype video that will be posted on Friday. We will also post last year's band hype video on Wednesday 8/21 to get ready for the first game. That'll kick off 3 days of posts leading up to the game.

Justin Osborn (**Truck**) said that they should be good for most of the truck and trailer transportation. Justin will be able to drive the truck for all events. The Raburn's have volunteered to pull the trailer. For home games, the truck needs to be at the stadium by 5:20pm. For away games, the truck and trailer can follow the buses or go ahead to meet us. Justin asked about the maintenance and registration for the truck. Kristina said that registration will occur in November. For maintenance, Mr. Kirk said that the truck had been serviced at Southland Transportation Group in Madison previously. He suggested that Justin touch base with them.

While on the topic of **Transportation**, we discussed bus logistics. Karen Hansberger was unable to attend, but she provided updates to Kelly. School Buses: 4 buses have been booked for the away football games and Bob Jones Competition. Mr. Tankesley says that signup for the students will be done next week. The Competition signup will be shortly after. Coach Buses: We have decided to test different bus companies for the upcoming school year. This is due to budget and reliability concerns. 10/19 competition and Wind Ensemble trip to ATL will use Capital Trailways. 10/26 for Trussville competition will use new provider Spirit Coach. Spring Trip: bus company is TBD.

Nicole Gorman (**Color Guard**) provided updates on uniforms. The Parade Uniforms have been ordered and should arrive by the end of September, which is well in advance of the Homecoming parade. Show Uniforms have been ordered and should arrive within the next week. Accessories have been purchased and Nicole is waiting on 4 more t-shirts and a jacket to arrive. These should arrive within a week. New flag bags and pom poms have been purchased to help accommodate the larger group this year.

Mr. Tankesley and Mr. Kirk provided **Director** updates.

- Spring Trip: Top Secret Destination: St. Louis. Will be announced to the students within the next few weeks. Tentative dates of May 1-3 2025. Dates may shift forward or backwards a day depending on performance opportunities. Mr. Tankesley has a friend with the Air Force band and has been in contact with him regarding a performance opportunity. We hope to perform the National Anthem at a St. Louis Cardinals game, but won't know until Oct/Nov if we are selected.

Backup options would be a performance for a professional soccer game or a stand alone performance at the St. Louis Arch. Pricing is tentatively around \$700 and is based on 90 paying travelers. (Students/Family). We will send a google survey to gauge interest. Additional activities include Six Flags, St. Louis Arch, City Museum, and/or a Cardinals Game.

- Wind Ensemble ATL Performance: Date: March 26-27 2025. One night stay with the 26th tentatively being a day of leisure at the Aquarium and/or Coke museum. The 27th will be a full day of performing, watching other performances, and participation in a master class/clinic. GA Aquarium offers a group discount rate which we will investigate.
- Grants: The Grissom band received \$33k in grants last year from activities like the Alabama Arts Alliance. We will apply to fund winter band camp, instrument purchase/repair, professional development for directors. Can apply 2 ways via Boosters and the School.
- Senior Night: is early this year. Michael and Kelly are on it.
- Crimson Crew: Registration will be open for 2 more days and we will send a reminder to HJHS and HCMS. We had 10 students registered so far.
- Open House/Community Pep Rally: 8/22 - After school rehearsal until 5. Students will have a short break to get dinner and attend the Open House from 5:30-6:30. Students will wear dry fit shirts.
- Baby Watch 2024: Mrs. Tankesley will be induced on 8/30!! Mr. Tankesley will miss 2 football games (Jemeison and Grissom) while on paternity leave. The Grissom game is our Middle School night as well as Grissoms 8th grade night. We will push seating to the far end of the stands, away from the student section. Grissom is aligned.
- HJHS/HMCS Game: 9/23 at 4:30. Will need the truck/trailer to perform a full halftime show.

Kelly Parrish (President) wrapped up the meeting with updates. Show shirts are done and will be picked up this week. Hopefully distributed this week as well. Senior Banner is done and ready for our first game. Media guide is ready and will be sold at football games for \$20. We will need a 'Voice of the Band' for Senior Night because Josh Parrish will be on the field with his daughter. Mr. Kirk has someone in mind and will check with them.

The general meeting was closed at 7:18 pm by Kelly Parrish.

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Kelly Parrish called an executive session meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Foreign Exchange Students: We will have another foreign exchange student for the 24/25 school year. Last year, we waived the band fees for our exchange student. It was proposed to make this a normal action. The Executive Committee decided to approach

exchange student fees on a case by case basis. Present the fee schedule to exchange students and revisit waiving fees as needed.

Financial Hardship: The next topic was regarding students with past due balances. Brenda is preparing to send an update this week calling attention to account balances. There are a few students with significant past due balances. Ideally, we would like to have Sponsorships to cover hardship cases, but they aren't available right now. We do not and will not prevent students from participating in band, but participation in marching can be limited in future cases by the board. In order to avoid these potential situations, we need those families with past due balances to make good faith payment efforts. Situations will be handled on a case by case basis.

VBC Credits: Currently, the band takes a \$3 per hour cut from all VBC earnings. This rate hadn't been updated in several years and hasn't kept up with the hourly rate increases. It was proposed that we shift to a percentage cut. The Executive Committee decided to take a 20% flat rate for all VBC earnings. Students will continue to receive 80% of their hourly rates towards the band account. For the 2023/24 school year, this would have earned the band an additional \$1200. This change is not 100% favorable to the band because we will earn less on wrist banding with a 20% rate vs the \$3 cut. Overall, it will benefit the band, but not for wrist banding.

The executive session was closed at 6:05 pm.

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Approved by Kelly Parrish, President

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Respectfully submitted, Michael Stahl, Secretary