

Clare Band Boosters Meeting

August 2, 2016

Present: Callie Archbold, Jennifer Krause, Jackie Randall, Emmy Krueger, Jim Cook, Mackenzie Delong, Devin Delong, Donna Longton, Jen Ferry, Darren Acton, Tomi Parsons, David and Amy Allen, Superintendent Jim Walter, Shari Lowe, and Director Adam Cable

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Booster President, Callie.

Introduced everyone at the meeting.

Discussed the resignation of Adam and the open band director position. We can take questions to Ed Hubel (Principal) and Jim Walter (Superintendent). Jim Walter stated that the posting is still open and they have had at least six applications including the current Primary School Music teacher, Michael Wright and two other band directors. Interviews will be sometime next week from Wednesday through Friday. He is not sure who will take part in the interviews, but definitely it will include himself and Ed.

Adam stated that his last day is Tuesday, 8/9 at the evening marching band rehearsal. Three applicants have come to band camp this week to work with the students - Michael Wright, Chelsea VanderGraaff, and Jake Lubbers. He stated that all three have worked well with the students.

Callie stated that she has fielded emails from parents asking how they can be involved. Asked Jim about being part of the interview process. Jim said he thinks one parent could be involved in the interviews.

Some questions from the parents present included if we could have a past band (or local) director be involved in the interviews? Can we talk with the students about what they want? (Jim did talk with the students that evening during part of the Booster meeting) Want to assess the ability to respond to the students. Could the candidates teach a lesson with the students (to see the interaction). Talked about gathering a group of students to volunteer to come in and work with the candidates during interviews next week for a possible 20 minute lesson. There was a question regarding having a director sign a 2-4 year contract. That is not possible due to the current union contract. There was a question about hiring at Step 1 (lowest salary). Jim said he is not sure if it has to be Step 1, like it was in the previous hiring. There was a question about having only one director - is an assistant needed? Jim said he would not change too much in his first year as Superintendent. Adam stated that it may be more feasible to have the Primary School Music Teacher come over to the high school to help out for one hour per day. Adam has already talked with Ed Hubel about that possibility. Jim stated that his most important quality to look for is how the person connects with the kids. He asked us to pick one parent to be involved in the interview. He also said

anyone is free to contact him with any concerns. His phone number is 386-9945; email is jwalter@clare.k12.mi.us; and his office hours are 7 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Callie nominated Jackie Randall to be the parent involved in the interview process. Jenny Krause seconded it. All approved. Motion passed.

Compiled a list of concerns about the future of the band program.

These include:

- Number of kids have dropped due to the turnover in band directors
- Clare has an important heritage in the program
- Need consistency
- Continue the feelings of the band as a family
- Worried about 8th grade attrition
- Need for keeping up-to-date with the social media aspect
- Keeping up-to-date with current music
- Fun
- Open to suggestions
- Communication
- Traditions need to be carried on

Discussed what we can do as Boosters to continue to support the students during the transition. Discussed the three candidates interacting with the students at band camp this week. Noted that Adam had started to address the 8th grade attrition concern by inviting 8th graders to participate in marching band.

Discussed logistics of band camp this week. Callie stated that the dinners have been taken care of. She also reminded parents to have their students communicate information to them. Adam stated that camp is going really well. There are 68 students attending. Some have quit due to his resignation. He talked with the kids about the importance of moving forward and the ability to learn from someone with a new set of skills.

There may be a conflict with band practice on Thursday, 8/25 due to Freshman orientation. Adam said he will leave it up to the new director to make any necessary changes to the practice schedule.

Adam discussed a few of the band's needs moving forward. He stated that he needs a chaperone for the evening band activities this Wednesday and Thursday night from 7-9 pm. Tomi Parsons volunteered to cover Wednesday night and Jen Ferry will cover Thursday. Also, there is a need for someone to administer the social media aspect of the program until a new director is hired. Someone needs to monitor the band's Facebook page and the website. Currently, Shari has access to the website to post minutes. They are selling the extra marching band t-shirts at Friday's performance. There are about 40 shirts and will be sold for \$10 each.

Adam reminded the group to focus on building a relationship with the new director. That made a huge impact on him when he arrived in Clare.

Callie stated that there is an all new executive board this year and we will need help with the many tasks during the band year. It will be a lot of us doing a little rather than a few of us doing a lot. She has been talking with the former Booster president a few weeks before any band event and that has helped a lot. She said communication via social media is very important and that we will be compiling a list of parent email addresses at the marching band performance on Friday.

There were thanks and appreciation shared between Adam and the Boosters.

Callie adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Lowe
Secretary