

MUNFORD BAND SPECIAL BOOSTER MEETING

The Munford High School Band Boosters held a special meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014 in the Munford High School Gym. President Chris Hacker brought the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., all executive officers were present. Mr. Trobaugh was in attendance.

Macy's Parade Accommodations

The contract for the hotel accommodations and payment schedule, provided by Students on Broadway (SOB), was presented to the general membership for discussion and approval. See attached document. Five days four nights at Hyatt Regency Jersey City, NJ Two Exchange Place, Jersey City, NJ 07032 Monday, November 23 through Friday November 27, 2015. Students will leave Munford on Sunday, November 22 for New Jersey and arrive back in Munford early Saturday morning on November 28. Price is based on 275 hotel occupancy and a cancellation policy is outlined on lines 14 and 15 of contract attached. Cost is based on four students per room with two double beds. A room list is due on or before September 23, 2015. First payment installment is due September 25, 2014. If this contract is not agreed upon, this contract would be scrapped and the process would begin again.

There will be one chaperone per seven students.

Questions: Will chaperones be required to pay for trip? Yes, chaperones will incur a cost. When will chaperones be selected? Next year. The school administration will conduct an intense screening process along with background checks of all active booster members interested and those selected will be notified immediately.

Question: Why is this the first time the booster members have seen the contract and is this contract the only choice available? Mr. Trobaugh and Dr. Fee made all the decisions on the itinerary and tour companies as this is considered a school field trip and it is the responsibility of the school. This option was the best proposal provided by several companies and has the best options to bring to the booster members. Will student phones be taken up at a certain time of night? No, at this age students should be responsible for the proper use of their phones.

All coach transportation to and from New York City (Jersey City, NJ) and for local use per the itinerary is not included and is the responsibility of Munford. **Some meals will not be included in the package price.** Students will use the subway and path train and will travel in groups of 50 with chaperones and tour guide. A path train is located directly outside of hotel property and will be utilized by Munford and the cost of subway use is included in the package price.

The *Hornblower Hybrid* is the yacht reserved for Munford's private use for a Thanksgiving dinner cruise and will display the Munford "M" logo as it travels down the Hudson River. The yacht is reserved for 300 guests and is outlined on line 20. Question: Student package only accommodates up to 275 how will the other 25 seats be filled? A Friends and family package will be offered and extra seats will be filled with those packages.

Students will see the Statue of Liberty.

Trip cancellation insurance is not provided by SOB and can be purchased through an outside vendor and is strongly recommended by SOB. Question: Can individuals purchase cancellation insurance? No, it is just for group cancellation.

A Google Docs App can be provided by SOB to track payments if contract is approved.

Security for students at hotel will have two layers. The hotel provides security and the chaperones will be required to monitor halls as well.

All instruments and equipment will travel with students in the coach bus storage compartments and will be stored on site in the hotel.

Question: Will parents be required to pay for the total cost of trip? **It is the hope** of the boosters that through fundraising and donations the costs will be reduced significantly and parents share **will hopefully** be 25% of the projected costs for students to travel to Macy's.

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Two price options are available, one without the Broadway show *Aladdin*, and one including the show that added \$90 per student cost.

In order to cover the installment schedule provided by SOB the need to move 50k in funds from the general band account into the Macy's account was brought before the membership.

Jamie Edmondson made the motion to accept the terms of the contract provided by SOB as proposed and presented before the membership. Linda Norman seconded the motion. Discussion and questions ensued.

Questions: Is there enough funds to cover the installments and still cover the expenses to run the program for this year? Yes. A breakdown of expenses and funds was provided by Treasurer Teresa Schelly. (Financial reports are provided upon request only to booster members.) How will the band travel to the Southern States Competition with current funding? Funding is tight, so travel to Chattanooga will be expected to be by school buses at this time. Will the school chip in to help fund the trip? Mr. Trobaugh said this will be discussed later. Can members approve the contract at this time to include *Aladdin*? Yes, but it is not advised because it locks the boosters into paying the cost even if funding is not there. It can always be added later but it cannot be removed from the schedule once agreed upon. Will/could the price go up at a later date? Not if the contract is agreed upon and signed as is. Signing the contract would lock all pricing.

A member commented on her experience in searching online pricing along the parade route and stated the cost could run at average 1k per night, just for hotel accommodations.

Chris Hacker reminded the membership of the motion made by Jamie Edmondson and asked if any were opposed. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed to accept the terms of the contract as written by SOB.

Jamie Edmondson made the motion to move 50k from the general fund to the Macy's account in order to make payments as outlined in the contract provided by SOB. Mike Leggett seconded the motion. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

A Friends and Family package with the same hotel as the band is in the works and will be available as soon as pricing, accommodations and activities are agreed upon. Transportation to and from New Jersey is not provided. At this time friends and family will be offered a package that includes the following:

- Hyatt Regency, Jersey City – 4 nights, 5 days- per person, no age restrictions or discounts
- Unlimited subway pass and 10 path train passes
- Dinner cruise on Thanksgiving night after the parade with the band. No alcohol will be served.
- The opportunity to share the experience at Central Park with the band performing in the shell

Questions: What is the cost? Cost is about \$600 – \$700 per person for 4 nights. Room prices are based on two double beds, four people per room. Are any meals provided? No. Can friends and family travel with the band? No. If parents would like to make travel arrangements as a group, they must do so on their own, due to the expense and liability issues the band cannot take on that responsibility. What is the max capacity of the hotel? The hotel has 600 rooms and is subject to availability. In the event Munford exceeds max capacity SOB will work with providing as many accommodations necessary. How soon can family sign up for packages? As soon as pricing is agreed upon. Will *Aladdin* be offered in packages? Not at this time. How will friends and family pay? Friends and family will make all payments to the Munford Band Boosters for reserved packages. Will a package be offered that will include all events the band is provided. No. Due to the numbers and time restrictions in some of the events, it is not practical or possible. What is the max capacity of the yacht? 600. Can cruise tickets be purchase without purchasing a package? No. For the safety of the students the yacht is open to only those who purchase a friends and family package. When is money due? Date to be determined but is projected for next year.

Friends and family transportation to and from the parade must be made on your own. Students will be up at 2 am on Thursday to get in place for the parade. There will be time after the parade to take a nap and dress for the dinner cruise.

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A parade theme will be announced and a video must be presented to the Macy's coordinators in September. Questions: Do we know what spot we have yet in the parade lineup? No. There are two premium spots that have more TV time that is preferred and is given to bands that conform to certain requirements. How many bands are there in the parade? Six high schools and 2 colleges. Is practice open to parents? No, the facility is private and has paid membership requirements for use.

Eighth grade students will receive information on packages and all Macy's info at the same time as the school. If you haven't signed up for text notices or emails, please visit the band website <http://www.munfordband.com/index.html> and click on the appropriate icons.

There were no further questions and a motion was made to adjourn by several and seconded by Sandra Hibbard. All were in favor. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.