

Radford Regiment Band Booster Meeting 11-10-2025

November 10, 2025 – 6:00PM

In Attendance: Harry Farmer, Christie Morris, Vicky Goff, Renee King, Natalie Gibbs, Donna Sams, Andrea Watson, Angelina Farmer, Kenneth Stevens, Heather Ratcliffe, Christie Palmer,

Virtual Attendance: Richard Morris, Karey Gray, Trisha Stewart-Osemobor

1. Call meeting to order and Approve Meeting Minutes from Last meeting-
 - a. Meeting minutes were approved
2. Treasurer Report
 - a. Treasurer reported-
 - i. Added money for bibs and large jackets
 - ii. Added more money for poster frames and wheels
 - iii. Truck rental was \$13572- this includes fuel.
 - iv. Music that was purchased
 - v. Paid hotel for Mr. Farmer for a conference
 - vi. Paid College Student hours-Olivia is about to write some additional
 - vii. Sold donuts and merch and a few donations
 - viii. Merch sales for Hoodies, wrist bands, t-shirts-About \$300
 - ix. Real Estate sponsored a show
 - x. Only have received 3 checks, 2 deposited.
 - xi. Also received the money from the El Charro night- about \$368-Olivia will get this check and deposit it as well
3. Fundraising
 - a. Ken is trying to set up a trivia night at Long Way Brewery
 - b. VA tech Beer -Made \$7179 so far this year, plus cash tips which were around \$100. There is one more game to add to this. The hope is we get about \$8000 from this fundraiser. This is more than we raised from Snap Raise
 - c. The Letter Writing Campaign- just completed these prior to booster and Donna will put them in the mail- they will go out Wednesday
 - d. Donna will send the letter writing campaign to the parents as well
 - e. DieCast Show concessions
 - i. There is a pop up at the Fraternal Order of Police near the dog park on January 17, 2026 possibly.
 - ii. Possible 3 additional shows in 2026
 - iii. Angelina will schedule a meeting to discuss the menu prior to this- there wont be a whole lot to purchase.
 - iv. Angelina will meet this week with Mary to discuss the details
4. Other Updates
 - a. Food Committee-None
 - b. Chaperones-None
5. Holiday Parade

- a. December 9– Bus could meet at school bring kids to Muse, bus will be at Sals to bring the kids back to the school, then do the pizza party at the school. Pizza party will be after school before the parade.
 - b. Plan is to have little Cesar’s- pizza and bread sticks, dessert and drinks. Keep the kids at the school, decorate the instruments- 5pm for the party.
- 6. Slide Show for end semester concert on December 11, 2025- Vicky will do the slide show. In Slack there is a Google Drive that pictures can be uploaded to. ***Please remind the kids to upload.
 - a. Vicky will do the slide show again
 - b. Vickye ran this off her computer last year
- 7. Band Director Report-
 - a. Mr. Farmer thanked everyone for the marching season. The season would have been much harder without the boosters and parents. This helped a successful season
 - b. Mr. Farmer’s mission was the competitions-gave a recap of the season.
 - i. Did well in Wytheville Competition- top half of this competition. These were the best comments that assisted with the show going forward. There were significant differences between Wytheville and John Battle.
 - ii. The Band Assessment was Superior which was the hope for this assessment. This will be paired with the concert assessment in March. If they get superior in this then it will be a Virginia Honor distinction. The last time this happened was 2008. The kids enjoyed going to the park for the picnic. Went back to John Battle for the competition-overall superior. Mr. Farmer did not agree with all of the judges at this competition. Finished 6th overall, and one of only 6 bands that got a superior
 - iii. William Byrd- won this show. Obvious that this was the best performance of the year. The kids were excited on the bus.
 - iv. Pulaski-stood and watched 2 bands perform, watched George Wythe do their show, and the kids stood for almost an hour. This was not as good as a show, it wasn’t bad but it lacked energy. Got some awards and finished 3rd in class. The kids were ok with this
 - v. Mr. Farmer said it was a very good season- he is very pleased with the way it ended up
 - vi. Next year- he is already here-the show will be picked by the end of March or beginning of April and start to get the ball rolling early so when the kids come they are not playing catch up.
 - vii. What he liked about the show- a woman coming up and saying she enjoys watching the show every day. Every parent that he sat beside said this was a cool show. Former students at Blacksburg said it was a great show.
 - viii. Mr. Farmer came back from directing the All County band in Carroll County- one girl said that she loved the show

- ix. There is a football game on Friday- will NOT play the halftime show. The kids can wear something warm. This will be the only home game that we plan. Mr. Farmer does not plan on taking anything to away games unless they make the state game.
- x. The Parade is December 9th- The plan is to have the kids wear black pants and a holiday sweater, decorate the instruments. The parade is at night. The song will be changed to Angels we have heard on high. There will be one practice for this after school and Mr. Farmer will put this out closer to the event
- xi. Concert is December 11-this will include the Belle Heth Kids. Polar Express and Sleigh Bells. Probably won't do jazz band.
- xii. All district try outs are the second Saturday in December- December 13th. Kids need to let Mr. Farmer know before Thanksgiving. \$10 per kid. Practices every day after school except for Friday. Goal is to have more than 1 kid make it. Tryout is at Franklin County High School. Mr. Farmer has to register the kids, if they need to leave early Mr. Farmer needs to know. Auditions start around 930 or 10am. Audition takes about 5-10 minutes once they are in the room. Most of the time is sitting around waiting. If they want to go home after they audition- Mr. Farmer will need a parent to go to check kids out. Natalie Gibbs will be one parent to assist with checking kids out. Middle school try outs are January 10th at Lord Botetourt HS. There are 3-4 kids that are interested. Mr. Farmer wants the All District to be built in the culture of the band. Mr. Farmer wants them to put the work in to get better.
- xiii. Spring Semester- The biggest event is in March- the Concern Assessment, there will be 3 tunes for 3 judges. It is open for anyone to come and watch at Blacksburg High School. They also have to site read one song. The site read is 2 levels below typical level. This is also graded.
- xiv. In May- would like to take the kids to Kings Dominion or Carrowinds- Only high school students. This would be a charter bus. There is a contest assessment for this. They would perform on the park grounds. This will NOT be an overnight. Mr. Farmer would like for the Boosters to pay for 1 charter bus- this would be between \$2500 and \$3000 for one day. The cost for the kid to get in would be under \$80. Have the kids make installments for this- possibly have sponsorships if a kid cannot pay. There are some funds at the school level for this. This would not include food. Chaperones- 1 per every 10 kids. There are 40 something kids without the 8th grade.
- xv. Mr. Farmer wants to clean up a lot of stuff in the Band area such as the uniforms. There are several spaces that things have been sitting for a long time. There was no inventory left, but there is a list for the music library. Mr. Farmer will be pulling out everything they own and put in an inventory.

- xvi. Also not sure when some of the instruments have been serviced. Some of them are in rough shape. Instruments will need to be sent off for repairs. Mr. Farmer met with Mr. Simpson about what needs to be serviced and how much this will cost. It could cost about \$10,000. Mr. Farmer is going to approach the school board about a budget to send of instruments for repairs. The school and the school board are going to help repair the Marimbas.
- xvii. Mr. Farmer spoke to Larry about purchasing a trailer- possibly purchasing a 25 foot trailer truck- possibly make payments on this. Angelina might assist with purchasing a trailer for the band to use. Annual expenses would be- inspection every year and someone would pull it, and insurance.
- xviii. Uniforms are very old and on the last leg- Bands are starting to go away from the traditional uniforms. Mr. Farmer would like to look at getting show themed uniforms. The pants were straight leg jazz pants- these are \$20-\$30 each. The cost was built in to the fee price and the kids own the pants. The tops would change and would be \$65-\$85 dollars.
- xix. The band has a CD that has about 3-5,000 in it. Mr. Farmer will see if the School Board can put some money in the budget for the CD and then purchase uniforms.
- xx. Mr. Farmer says that the band is in a great place.

Next Meeting is Monday December 8