

If We Can't Find the Right  
Answers, Maybe We're Asking  
the Wrong Questions

*(Is It Time to Try Some New Ones?)*

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**The National Band Association**

**TBA/NBA National Convention**

**San Antonio, Texas**

**July 28, 2002**

# ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why doesn't my administration support my band program more?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *What things do my administrators currently support in my school?*
- *Why do those things receive administrative support?*
- *What keeps my administration from giving my band program more support?*
- *What would I need to do to gain sufficient administrative support, at all levels, for my band program?*
- *Can I reach a compromise with my administration so that I can win that support and still maintain my professional and program goals?*

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why doesn't my community support my band program better?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *What is it that I am asking my community to support in my program?*
- *Does my community really know about all the great things that go on in my band program?*
- *What things does my community want to support? What can it support realistically?*
- *Am I willing to spend a little to gain a lot?*

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why can't I get more financial support for my band and band activities so that I can do all the things necessary to have a great program?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *What programs in my school currently receive "adequate" funding?*
- *What would I need to do to get "adequate" funding from my administration for my band program?*
- *How can I maintain balance between "doing what I have to do" to get additional administrative funding and maintaining a quality band program?*

# RATINGS

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why can't I get high ratings and win contests like so many other bands?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Am I building my program based on ratings received and/or ratings pursued?*
- *What is it that I am really working toward with my band program?*
- *Do I truly believe that instructional excellence and solid music fundamentals will produce the desired results?*
- *Based on where my program is now, what would I have to do to achieve the results/ratings I would like?*
- *Am I willing to do what I know to be right in teaching my band students?*

# SCHEDULING

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why do I have so many problems getting my band students scheduled into the right classes?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Do I really understand that band programs exist to the extent administrations wish?*
- *Do those who control schedule make-up know of and value the work done in my band classes?*
- *Is the work done in my band truly worthy of being valued?*
- *Am I willing to take the time to get to know personally those who advise and schedule students into and out of my band program?*
- *Am I willing to work with my school colleagues in getting them personally involved with my band students?*

# RECRUITING

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why can't I recruit and keep large numbers of students in my band program?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Have I taken an objective look recently at the way I conduct my recruitment of band students?*
- *What can be done to make my recruiting process more effective?*
- *What about my band program, or me, would make a student want to be part of it?*
- *To whom and what kind of student does my recruiting appeal? Am I being too selective? Am I targeting the wrong students?*
- *Do I make my program too exclusionary and lose students who might otherwise choose to be in it?*

# STUDENT MOTIVATION

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why aren't my students motivated about being in band?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Why would students want to be part of or stay in my band program?*
- *Do the top students in my school want to be part of my program? Can they?*
- *Am I willing to do what is best for the students when I have to make decisions about participation in band?*
- *Is my program designed so that students can participate in it and still be part of other school (or even work) activities?*
- *Can I honestly say I would want to be part of a program such as the one I have? Would I make sacrifices to be part of it?*

# LACK OF APPRECIATION

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why don't my administration and parents and community appreciate my program more?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *What is there about my program that is really worthy of being appreciated?*
- *Do I make certain that others in my school and community know about the good things in my program and the hard work of my students?*
- *Do I truly appreciate my program and the opportunity I have of working with the young people entrusted to my care?*

# OTHER DUTIES

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why am I assigned administrative and supervisory duties at school that are not related to my band work?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Why are other duties assigned by my administration?*
- *Are other duties assigned to faculty members on an equitable basis?*
- *Why are other duties assigned to me rather than to someone else?*
- *Could those duties realistically be assigned to another faculty member?*
- *What can I do to help avoid/solve this problem of extra duty assignment?*
- *What do I need to do to make things better?*

# DIFFICULT THINGS

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why do so many difficult things come along in my program?*

## NEW QUESTIONS:

- *Are things really as difficult as I think, or is it my perspective on how things are?*
- *What can I do to change the fact that difficult things come my way?*
- *What can I do to change my perspective on the kinds of things that come my way?*

# WHY ME

## OLD QUESTION:

- *Why is it that I get administrations and parent groups that are difficult to work with and students that aren't motivated to have a good band?*

## NEW QUESTION:

- *Have I come to the realization that it has everything to do with the person on the podium?*