

Providing Students with Additional Music Lessons

Background:

Band Director Mike Stittsworth directs one of the best band programs in Class AA in Iowa. BK is one of the smallest schools in Class AA. Most schools our size only have one instrumental music teacher. However, many of the larger schools in Class AA employ two band teachers.

A key to Maestro Stittsworth's success has been his emphasis on elementary students. He gets them started early and feeling successful, and they stay with him and improve even more. Now his numbers have really grown:

5th – 39

6th – 15

JH – 27

HS – 67

Another factor that has contributed to the success of his program is the number of new musical instruments the school board has purchased. We have a high poverty rate, but because we are providing so many students with instruments, there are students learning to play who would not have learned such a gift otherwise.

We are not in a financial position to hire another band director, but the Maestro asks if the Board would be willing to pay someone to come into the school and help teach individual lessons. Maestro Stittsworth proposes \$25 per hour as reasonable compensation.

Retired band director Al Mattison said he is willing to teach lessons.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to approve four to six hours per week for an outside person or persons to teach individual music lessons on our school premises at a rate of \$25 per hour for a maximum of \$5,000 annually.