



## **Lassiter High School Band Instruments and T1 Capital Campaign FAQs**

**Q: Why is the LBBA beginning a Capital Campaign at this time?**

**A:** The Lassiter Band currently provides over 100 school-owned instruments and the T1 trailer to carry the band instruments to events across the country. In general, the instruments provided by the band are the larger and more expensive instruments. The average age of these instruments is 13 years with 51 instruments between 15 years and 31 years old. Many of these instruments are in poor condition because of their constant use, especially the instruments used for marching band where risk of damage is greater. In addition, the county maintenance department informed us that while T1 is in good working condition, within the next few years we will not be able to get a number of replacement parts because they are no longer being manufactured. This puts us at risk of a maintenance failure that would prevent the band from attending an event or competition.

**Q: I heard the band was getting new instruments through SPLOST funds. Why do we need to raise additional funds if SPLOST is handling it?**

**A:** If we receive the full request from SPLOST, it will replace approximately \$60,000 of instruments. The replacement cost of all the band-provided instruments is in excess of \$500,000. The replacement cost of the instruments in most need is approximately \$300,000, not including the cost of replacing the T1 trailer.

**Q: Why doesn't the school system provide money to purchase school-provided instruments?**

**A:** The budget provided by the school system covers about 20% of the band's annual operating budget. The Lassiter Band is a top tier national band program with a nationally recognized marching band program and four concert bands. In order to deliver this level of instruction and support, the band hires specialized, outside instructors throughout the year and provides for the daily needs of the program. Even if we could get additional funding from the school system, it wouldn't be sufficient to provide for the annual operating costs of this program much less provide for the replacement of instruments or T1.

**Q: Can funds raised through the capital campaign be used for other purposes?**

**A:** No. The Capital Campaign proposal approved by the LBBA Board restricts all funds to the replacement of instruments and the T1 trailer. Purchase requests are submitted by the Director of Bands and approved by the LBBA Co-presidents and the Capital Campaign Chair.

**Q: Why doesn't LBBA increase the required fees for band participation instead of a capital fundraising campaign?**

**A:** There are a few reasons why we decided on a capital campaign over increasing fees. We want to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in the Lassiter Band. If we increase the required fees, we risk excluding families. The capital campaign allows families to donate at a level that is right for them. Voluntary donations with no direct benefit to the donor provide the opportunity for the donor to deduct the donation on their federal and state tax returns, which isn't possible through a mandatory fee. Finally, a capital campaign provides us with the opportunity to make grant requests to foundations. An option that is not available with required fees.

**Q: I thought the LBBA was seeking corporate and foundation dollars to fund the replacement of instruments?**

**A:** The capital campaign is designed to enable LBBA to seek company matching gifts and foundation grants. Our goal is to raise a portion of the campaign total through foundation grants with additional dollars from company matching gift programs. **Unfortunately, foundations won't provide grants until the requesting organization can demonstrate that their members are supporting the campaign.** Similarly, corporate matching gift programs only match gifts made to non-profit organizations by their employees.

**Q: What determines if a foundation will support this capital campaign?**

**A:** While each foundation's criteria will vary, there are several factors considered by most foundations. First, most foundations won't support on-going operating expenses of a non-profit, but they will support long-term capital investments. We believe that the investment in instruments will meet this requirement. Second, every foundation wants to see that the people who are benefiting from their grant are materially supporting the campaign. **In the grant applications, foundations will ask what percentage of our families have donated or pledged to the campaign. While there isn't a required level, we believe most foundations are looking for a high participation rate.** Third, foundations will want to see that we are providing the majority of our required funding through donations and pledges.

**Q: What level of pledge or donation is too small?**

**A:** No amount is too small. While we need some families to make larger pledges in order to reach our goal, every family needs to decide what is right for them. Since foundations will evaluate our request based on our level of participation, even small donations make a difference.

**Q: Who can contribute to the capital campaign?**

**A:** Anyone can contribute to the campaign individually or on behalf of one of our Lassiter families. The capital campaign is reaching out to the families of current and former band members for support.

**Q: On the pledge card, I see the Leadership Society. What is it?**

**A:** The Leadership Society is how we will acknowledge pledges without disclosing the exact amount contributed. If a family wants to pledge without having their name disclosed, they can select "Anonymous".

**Q: If my company has a matching gift program, will it count toward my Leadership Society level?**

**A:** Yes. Your level in the Leadership Society will be determined by the total of your donation or pledge plus any matching gifts.

**Q: Why would I want to donate appreciated stocks instead of cash?**

**A:** While you should consult your tax preparer on your specific situation, current tax laws allow for a charitable donation tax deduction at fair market value on the donation of appreciated stock without paying the capital gains tax on the appreciation as long as the shares have been held for at least one year. (Note: The donated property must qualify for capital gains treatment and the donor must itemize deductions. See IRS Publication 526 and consult your tax advisor.)

**Q: If I have further questions, whom should I contact?**

**A:** Contact Mark Neville, Capital Campaign Chair, at 470-564-8014.