

Barrington High School Fine Arts Boosters
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 13, 2014

17 Attending: Barry Altshuler, Marilyn Dato, Louise Fox, Lisa Gabriel, Jay Gerak, Maria Hayes, Cindy Hesselbein, Diana Jonske, Terri Longo, Chrissie Mena, Char Moos, Louise Nelson, Kimberly Priola, Anthony Priola, Grant Sahr, Carrie Stegvik, Kelly Yager.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:36 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - It was mentioned that Terri Longo attended the December 2, 2013 meeting but her name wasn't listed in the attendance section of the minutes. Carrie will amend the minutes to include Terri's name. Chrissie Mena made a motion to approve the amended December 2 minutes. Barry Altshuler seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

President's Report (Kimberly and Anthony Priola):

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3rd. Kimberly stated that Grant Sahr may not be available on February 3rd and asked if she could move the meeting to Monday, February 10th. Everyone agreed that would be fine.
- Kimberly reminded everyone that it was time to form a Nominating Committee to form a slate of officers for next year's Board. The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of officers at the April 14th meeting. The election will take place at the May 12th meeting. It was established that Chrissie Mena, Jay Gerak and Marilyn Dato would form the Nominating Committee.
- Kimberly asked the committee to come up with a simple form that includes the committee descriptions that can be send out to *all* Fine Arts members. Chrissie offered to compile a list of officer and committee duty descriptions. Grant offered to blast the information in an email to all members.

Treasurer's Report (Gregg Werner):

- Gregg was absent. Kimberly distributed the November financial statements and and gave an update from Gregg regarding our status as a charitable organization. He received a report from our CPA that the IRS is now processing applications dated May 2012 and our application is dated April 2013, so it will be a while before they get to our application.

Secretary's Report (Carrie Stegvik)

- Carrie asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

Committee Reports:

Membership (Jeri Broderick, Susan Buerckholtz, Louise Fox and Lyn Messemer)

- Louise reported membership has collected \$31,184 and has 191 members as of December 17th.
- The committee is looking into alternatives to the fall mailing. Grant suggested meeting after Spring Break to discuss different ways of getting the word out about the benefits of membership. Chrissie Mena asked if the membership committee planned to have a table at the 8th grade open house. Louise said they hadn't but thought it was a good idea. Lisa Gabriel offered to staff the table and try to find volunteers from the Student Board.

Website (Chrissie Mena)

- Please send Chrissie any photos or information you want to share. She'd love to have photos from the 8th grade open house. She can also post the committee descriptions from the Nominating Committee.

Citrus (Diana Jonske, Laura Kamptner and Louise Nelson)

- The final numbers are in for Citrus Sales. It made \$12,175 net profit, which is 8% less than last year. We had 268 orders, down from 391 last year. There's a lot of other fundraising going on between fine arts, athletics and school clubs.
- There was a discussion about moving other fine arts fundraisers to different times of the year. Grant felt certain fundraisers do best at certain times of the year. Selling Chip Shoppe, Citrus and pies before Christmas makes sense. Other fundraisers like mattress sales can probably be moved.
- Diana and Louise would like to revamp printing the citrus sale 3-ply order forms. Few students fill them out properly and they are expensive. The majority of Citrus orders come from the fine arts students' family or friends.
- Kimberly pointed out we still make \$12,000 so we'll keep selling citrus.
- Louise thanked Diana for doing a lot of work for Citrus Sales.

Concessions (Marilyn Dato and Char Moos)

- Winter choir concert concessions sales were \$124 on Wednesday and \$191 on Thursday. The next events are the barbershop competition on February 9th and the Spring musical February 27th – March 2nd.
- Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to offer concessions for the barbershop competition. We have not offered anything in the past. Performances begin at 2:00 p.m.
- Anthony Priola said Papa Johns in Palatine and Garibaldi's in Hoffman Estates can provide pizza warmers that can cook pizzas as they are ordered. If we decide to do this, we can let schools know ahead of time and they can order pizzas in advance. We can charge \$9 - \$10 per pizza or \$2.50 per slice. During their competitions, the Robotics team has been able to pre-order pizzas to be delivered at lunch. Marilyn offered to speak with Nancy to get her thoughts.

Scholarship (Kelly Yager)

- Kelly contacted Ron Bedal and is going through the notes. She will give Chrissie information to put up on the website.

Student Board (Lisa Gabriel):

- The student board has prepared videos from the different disciplines to show to the 8th graders at the open house.

PTO Representative (Louise Fox):

- No report.

Alumni Representative (Starr Shum):

- Starr was absent.

Publicity/Special Projects (Terri Longo):

- There will be a Playbill for the musical.

Best Seat in the House (Cindy Hesselbein)

- Grant is talking with other high schools regarding their expansion/renovation projects. There are many other schools that have undergone significant renovations to their auditoriums. Our auditorium opened in 1961 and is the only space in the high school that hasn't undergone a major renovation. The life expectancy of seats is 30-40 years. If we go ahead with the renovations we have planned, it would cost between \$300,000 on the low end to \$600,000 on the high end. We have to find out if there are long term plans to demolish our auditorium and rebuild it at some point. If so, it may be a waste of time and money to move forward with our current project.
- Kelly wondered if we could pull out and reuse the new seats in case the school decides to demolish the auditorium at a later date. Grant said it would be tough reuse the seats since they are made based on the size and layout of the current space. He needs to speak with Steve McWilliams to see what Steve thinks about the new seats and find out if there are long-term plans to build a new facility. The seats will last 40 years but the current facility may not last that long. If the school decides to build a new auditorium, the question is how to tie that project into other projects without having to go to the voters with a referendum. It may take years to fund a new facility.
- Maria Hayes asked if Best Seat in the House donors are wondering why new seats haven't been ordered. She felt we have an obligation to use the donations as they were intended. Grant replied he's in a bind given the uncertainty about the long-term plans for the auditorium. The current auditorium is landlocked and can't be expanded to accommodate bigger catwalks, a larger fly space or other important needs.

Rep Reports:

Choir (Cindy Johnson, Maria Hayes and Chris Rudolphi):

- Rehearsals for the spring musical *Cats* are underway. A preview show has been added for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 22nd. The preview includes a portion of the show and a reception. There is a 4:00 p.m. show for senior citizens on Wednesday, February 26 and the elementary school matinee is on Thursday, February 27th. There are 7:00 p.m. performances on Thursday, February 27th, Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st and 2:00 p.m. performances on Saturday, March 1st and Sunday March 2nd.
- Choir is the largest fine arts discipline with 230 students participating in 4 different choirs.

Drama/Theater (Jay Gerak):

- The Theater Festival last weekend was a big success. Congratulations to:
 - Quinn Kelch and Jesse Thoma for participating in the All-State production of *The Grapes of Wrath*.
 - Justice Good and Tommy Derken for participating in the All-State Improv Show (200 auditioned, 20 were cast).
 - Vanessa Woods, Quinn Kelch and Justice Good, who had 19 callbacks EACH for their college auditions.
 - Lida Rubanova, who had 18 callbacks for her tech portfolio presentation.
- The Fine Arts Open House for 8th graders is set for Thursday from 6:00 – 8:00. We are looking for student volunteers to greet the kids, play improve games and tour the facility. Volunteers will need to be at school at 5:30 p.m.
- The Drama Club will be hosting an 8th Grade Workshop will be on February 8th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. There is no charge but participants need to email Lisa Southern to register.
- Auditions for the spring main stage play, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, are being held in March.

Band (Barry Altshuler):

- The band enjoyed a successful, if damp, trip to London. About 100 students and 60-70 family members attended. The parade was terrific and featured many bands from the U.S.

Dance (Kirsten Neptun):

- Kirsten was absent. Orchesis dancers are preparing for the Giordano Dance Collaborative on February 1st and are working on choreography for the spring performance.

Orchestra (Pam Conroy):

- Pam was absent but reported that Orchestra had a terrific holiday concert with a full house. The students took two field trips, one to the Art Institute along with the CSO and one to the Lyric Opera. Around 60 kids attended each trip.
- The Orchestra is still trying to find a professional violinist to come to school. They thought they had an agreement with a professional quartet but couldn't make the dates work.

Department/District Report (Grant Sahr):

- An email was sent out to all 8th grade families inviting them to the 8th grade open house.
- Jason Bourke in the Visual Arts department spent a lot of time putting together a wonderful electronic booklet that gives an overview of everything the Fine Arts department has to offer. It is geared toward 8th grade families and students new to BHS. The booklet gives a description and photos of all of the classes and events offered throughout the year. A link to the booklet will be emailed to each 8th grade family and will be updated each year. Printing hard copies of it would be expensive. We may print a few copies to keep on hand in the middle school fine arts classrooms.
- We received a permit from the post office to do our Spotlight mailing, which costs \$200. Grant will give Gregg the bill.
- There was a discussion regarding the impact of the new 2014/2015 district calendar that moves 1st semester final exams to before winter break. Grant said he plans to talk with the faculty regarding what's best for the kids and discuss what it means for scheduling performances around the holidays. He will start working on next year's calendar of events in February with the goal of having it set by spring break. Maria Hayes wondered about outside organizations that rent the auditorium for their holiday events, such as the Barrington Youth Dance Ensemble's Nutcracker performances during the first weekend of December. Grant said BHS performances take precedence over community events.
- Grant gave an update on the search for a new Choir Director. The position is still open but they have received a number of applications. An all-state music conference is held the first week of February. This is the place where attendees learn about the open positions available throughout the state. He expects more applications to come our way after the conference. Steve McWilliams is also interviewing for two other open positions - Assistant Principal and English Department Head. The goal is to have the new Choir Director chosen and approved by the Board of Education in mid-March.

Kimberly Priola reminded everyone the next meeting will be on February 10th and not on February 3rd. Louise Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maria Hayes seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Stegvik
Secretary