

**Barrington High School Fine Arts Boosters**  
**Minutes of the Board Meeting**  
**March 3, 2014**

**19 Attending:** Barry Altshuler, Claudia Altshuler Jeri Broderick, Pam Conroy, Marilyn Dato, Louise Fox, Jay Gerak, Cindy Johnson, Diana Jonske, Terri Longo, Char Moos, Louise Nelson, Kirsten Neptun, Kimberly Priola, Anthony Priola, Chris Rudolphi, Grant Sahr, Carrie Stegvik, Gregg Werner.

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:31 p.m.**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** Marilyn Dato made a motion to approve the February 10, 2014 minutes. Barry Altshuler seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**President's Report** (Kimberly and Anthony Priola):

- Kimberly asked Jay Gerak for an update from the Nominating Committee. Jay passed out an example of the nominating committee interest form for the FAB to review. He asked us to email him with any changes. Once the form is set, Jay will email it to Grant, who will blast it out. Chrissie will put it on the website. Jay let us know that, if Board Members are interested in any of the positions, we still need to fill out the interest form and send it back to him. There is a 2-year term limit for Officers. The other positions don't have a term limit. The slate will be presented to the FAB on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Kimberly had no report.

**Treasurer's Report** (Gregg Werner):

- We have about \$40,000 we need to spend by the end of the year. Greg set aside \$12,000 to pay back income taxes in case the IRS reinstated our charitable status this year. If the IRS does not recognize us as a 501c3 organization this year, we will be charged income tax at the end of the year on any money in the account. To avoid that, we'll need to spend down or pre-pay the school any money left in the account at the end of the year.
- Greg asked town President Karen Darch, to reach out to Congressman Peter Roskam to see if he can intervene with the IRS on our behalf to speed up our review.

- There were questions about sheltering any unspent funds in the Nancie Tobison scholarship fund or offering to spend the money by matching donations to the fund. Grant said he has new teacher requests he will present later, so this may not be necessary.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

- There is nothing new to report. Jeri met with Grant to start discussing how to cut the cost of the Spotlight membership mailing. One idea was to mail a flier or postcard that encourages families to become members and also lists membership benefits. This would be less expensive to mail. Grant will investigate the postage costs of different sizes and weights of paper.
- Grant looked at older Spotlights. Instead of functioning as a calendar, the purpose then was to highlight the seniors and staff members (i.e., putting a spotlight on those people).

#### **Website** (Chrissie Mena)

- Chrissie was absent. There was no report.

#### **Citrus** (Diana Jonske, Laura Kamptner and Louise Nelson)

- After Citrus Sales were over, Louise received a call from a woman who sells imported coffee asking if we'd like to add that as a fundraiser. Louise will keep it in mind to discuss when we meet about next year's fundraising.

#### **Scholarship** (Kelly Yager)

- Kelly was absent. Grant stated that last year, the due dates for the scholarship applications were before the last FAB meeting. Two scholarships, the Lageschulte Interlochen Scholarship and the Spring & Summer Lesson/Workshop Scholarship are awarded through the FAB. The Jon Lynn Black Box Scholarship, the BHS Performing Arts Alumni Endowment - Richard C. Johnson Galfer Award and the Agnes Krueger Memorial Scholarship are separate from the FAB. The Krueger scholarship is administered through Harris Bank.

- There is \$3,000 in the budget for lesson scholarships. Grant agreed to send out information to current students and their families about which scholarships are available. There is a scholarship page on the website that list the scholarship descriptions and application forms. There is also a link on the Boosters website.
- Barry Altshuler asked if there were criteria for awarding scholarships in case we receive more applicants than the budget allows. Lesson scholarships are usually \$100 each. Kimberly said the committee would review the applications and ask for more money if needed.

### **Concessions (Marilyn Dato, Char Moos)**

- CATS made \$2,565 in raffle tickets and t-shirt sales. Concessions grossed \$2,436.
- Grant said the revenues from the t-shirt and raffle sales will go back to the fine arts production account since the t-shirts were purchased from that account. Concession revenues will be distributed to the different disciplines at the end of the year.
- Barry mentioned that Nancie solicited donations for water and homemade cookies from the cast. The cookies were a big seller and families wanted to make them. Grant said that donations are okay as long as the water is Aquafina to keep compliant with our PepsiCo contract and as long as the donations are not mandatory or solicited from a staff member in a classroom setting.

### **Student Board (Lisa Gabriel):**

- Lisa was absent. Grant said he will attend the Student Board meeting next week.

### **PTO Representative (Louise Fox):**

- No report.

### **Alumni Representative (Starr Shum):**

- Starr was absent. There was no report.

### **Publicity/Special Projects (Terri Longo):**

- The Playbill for CATS looked great. Nancie asked the entire cast for biographies but not all kids turned them in. Those who did were included in the program. It was strictly voluntary and no one was left out on purpose.

## **Best Seat in the House (Cindy Hesselbein)**

- Cindy was absent. Grant said the auditorium renovations were on the district facilities master plan. Once it gets to the engineering and bidding phase, the plan goes before the school board. The project is in on the facilities list for 2015/2016, but there are now discussions about the long-term viability of giving a face-lift to an older facility. Getting the land grant for the high school is changing the perspectives on long-term planning for all projects. Since the Boosters have money in our account dedicated to replacing the seats, it's important to have a direction for the project.
- Kimberly asked Grant about money from an insurance claim settlement from a sculpture that was accidentally removed from the front of the high school during the 2002 renovations. Grant said the fine arts department has the settlement money.

## **Rep Reports:**

### **Choir (Cindy Johnson and Chris Rudolphi):**

- Nancie was “over the moon” regarding the CATS performances. The musical was very well attended and was a smashing success.
- Nancie took a fall a few weeks ago and badly hurt her knee. She has scheduled surgery in late April, two days after coming back from the New York trip. She will be recovering a rehab facility for a few weeks, so the spring choir events needed to be rescheduled. The choir banquet will now be held on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Willow Creek and the spring concert will be one night only on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. An email will be going out to the parents shortly.
- Since Nancie will be traveling to New York before her surgery, Cindy and Chris are requesting money to pay for an airline ticket for Nancie so she doesn't have to travel on a bus with her injured knee. Grant was fine with this since Bonnie Spurling will be on the bus with the kids along with 10 parent chaperones. ***Terri Longo moved to cover the cost of purchasing a round-trip coach plane ticket for Nancie to fly to New York. Marilyn Dato seconded the motion. Everyone voted in favor and the motion passed.*** Cindy and Chris will report on the cost of the ticket at the April board meeting.

**Drama/Theater (Jay Gerak):**

- The Drama Board is meeting tomorrow night in the Black Box Theater.
- Auditions begin tomorrow for the student-created Studio Theater play *The Sparrow* and for the Main stage play *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

**Band (Barry and Claudia Altshuler):**

- There is a band concert this coming Thursday.
- The Rhythm Machine came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in State.

**Dance (Kirsten Neptun):**

- The spring dance concert performances will be April 11, 12 and 13.
- The Giordano Dance Collaborative that was cancelled on February 1<sup>st</sup> was rescheduled for Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**Orchestra (Pam Conroy):**

- March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the solo ensembles, where small groups play in front of judges.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> will be the concerto concert. Six to seven students will play solo pieces with the orchestra.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> is the final orchestra concert.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> is the CSO Field Trip.

**Department/District Report (Grant Sahr):**

- CATS generated just over \$20,000 in box office revenue. There were 453 Booster member tickets used for a value of \$5,395. The only performance that didn't sell out was Thursday evening. The show was spectacular. Grant thanked everyone who helped make it possible.
- The Fine Arts Department will rethink the cost of tickets. It currently gives seniors complimentary tickets. Originally, this was done to generate good will among the senior community during times when the district was asking for referendum money. This year, Grant asked the staff in charge of the musical for a proposed budget. We spent more this year than in past years on the show. Grant approved their budget.

- Grant mentioned we did not do a student ticket pre-sale for CATS this year. Usually the school gives out one free ticket per student. This year, they tried to have students get their tickets at the box office and resold any leftover tickets for each show once all of the students were accommodated, but there isn't a way to track student ticket distribution. After Saturday afternoon, all of the tickets were sold out, so students wanting to go on Sunday were out of luck. The school is trying to set up a Google Gmail account for each student where the students can get their free ticket by using Arts People. This will allow for easier tracking of free student tickets and will encourage students to get their tickets before they sell out.
- Louise Nelson wondered if the school would continue to get a stipend to fund the student run productions. Grant said he needed to discuss how this is going to get funded next year with Lisa Southern, Amy Jessup-Tilford and Brian Denesha, the faculty director.
- As Greg mentioned at the start of the meeting, we still have \$40,000 left to spend in our budget. Grant asked the staff if they had any additional requests. The staff came back with the following new requests:
  - Musical Theater – Star Curtain - \$3,550. The Playbill brought in \$3,050 in ads. Since we budgeted \$600 for ad revenue, it was \$2,450 over budget. The star curtain for CATS cost \$6,000 to rent. By using the extra ad revenue to offset the cost of the curtain, the musical theater program needs \$3,550 to cover the remaining cost. We were the first school in the area to rent the curtain from a vendor in the area. Usually the curtains have to be rented from New York and cost a lot more.
  - Visual arts – Permanent collection of senior works - \$1,500. The visual arts staff asked to form a permanent collection of senior artwork. If we want, the work can be juried or not. The staff would decide which pieces get selected on an annual basis to be added to the collection. They estimate it would take about \$1,000 to purchase the set pieces and \$500 for framing and mounting. During the years that a staff member retires, the works selected may focus on that discipline of that staff member. The staff can come back to the Board for additional money once the number of pieces outgrows the current space.
  - Ceramics/Digital Art – Glass Kiln - \$2,045. Jason Burke, the ceramics and digital arts teacher, would like to purchase a glass kiln to add glassworks to his ceramic class. We already have the infrastructure, so we only need to plug in the kiln and go.

- Woodworking – Go Pro - \$600 – Jason Kaiser, the woodworking and jewelry teacher, would like a Go Pro to create demo videos for his students.

Below are the teacher requests from the beginning of the year that put on hold:

- Drama – Theater Awards Display Boxes - \$800. Drama teacher Lisa Southern would like display boxes for the Black Box lobby to display theater awards. The boxes would include 2 Plexiglas photo cases and a sliding show poster system.
- Orchestra – Phase 1 of New Stereo System - \$3,000. Clark Sheldon would like a new stereo system for the orchestra room. The total cost for the entire system is \$6,700. The first phase would cost \$3,000 for a secured wall mounted system. He is willing to come back for the cost of Phase 2 at a later date.
- Visual Arts – Gallery Lighting - \$1,500. Our current lighting is very old.

The total cost of all unapproved teacher requests, old and new, is \$33,195.

- Greg reminded everyone we have already approved \$20,500 in teacher requests from the beginning of the year. So far, we have still have yet to pay \$6,000 for the Thodos dance company residency & performance for Orchesis, \$3,500 for choir workshops in New York and \$2,200 for chamber coaches and an accompanist for orchestra. With the additional \$12,695 requests, the total for all teacher requests comes to \$33,195.
- Greg said we set aside \$12,000 for income taxes. If we don't get charged for taxes this year, we'll have to spend down the money anyway. If we do get charged, the IRS will give us time to pay the taxes. Either way, Greg feels we have enough money to cover all \$33,195 of teacher requests.
- Grant felt we are expecting to be \$14,450 over budget overall. Given the additional teacher requests are \$12,695, we can afford to fund them. Greg agreed.
- ***Pam Conroy made a motion to fund all seven additional teacher requests items for a total of \$12,695. Kristen Neptun seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.***

The April board meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The May meeting will be held at Circa 57 at a date to be determined in April.

Louise Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marilyn Dato seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carrie Stegvik*  
Secretary