

Barrington High School Fine Arts Boosters
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 8, 2014

21 Attending: Barry Altshuler, Susan Buerckholtz, Pam Conroy, Marilyn Dato, Louise Fox, Mary Gerak, Cindy Hesselbein, Cindy Johnson, Diana Jonske, Laura Kamptner, Terri Longo, Chrissie Mena, Lyn Messemer, Char Moos, Kirsten Neptun, Kimberly Priola, Anthony Priola, Grant Sahr, Carrie Stegvik, Gregg Werner and Kelly Yager

Meeting Called to Order at 7:40 p.m.

Citrus (Diana Jonske, Laura Kamptner and Louise Nelson)

- Diana introduced Bridget and Jim Couch, who own Healthwise Coffee. Healthwise Coffee is low-acid and less bitter than most coffees, which makes it easier for people to drink without stomach discomfort. The couple lives in the 220 school district and has been buying citrus for 20 years. They would like to add their regular and decaf low-acid coffee to our Citrus fundraiser. They sell ground coffee in vacuum packed cans. People can purchase by the can or by the case. If our fundraising customers continue to order coffee throughout the year, Healthwise will still give us 10% back. They provided samples for us to taste and to take home. We all agreed the coffee was good and decided to add it to the Citrus sale next year.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Mary Gerak made a motion to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes. Diana Jonske seconded the motion. All voted in favor of passing the motion and the minutes were approved.

President's Report (Kimberly and Anthony Priola):

- Kimberly reminded everyone that we are moving our May meeting to Wednesday, May 14th. The Priolas have kindly offered to host the meeting at their restaurant, Circa 57, in Arlington Heights. Drinks and appetizers will be served at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The new members will be invited as well.

Treasurer's Report (Gregg Werner):

- There are a lot of approved teacher requests still outstanding. Once those are paid, we'll have a better idea of where we stand financially.

- Peter Roskam was able to move our 501C3 reinstatement request to the top of list, so hopefully we will get good news shortly. If we are reinstated, we need to find out if it will be retroactive or if we will incur income taxes. If we are reinstated, we can build up our funds without having to worry about paying taxes on the funds carried over from year to year. This will end the process of having to “zero out” each year. We will also be able to qualify for corporate matching once again.

Nominating Committee (Chrissie Mena, Marilyn Dato and Jay Gerak):

- The Nominating Committee still needs to fill some positions and needs more time to collect applications. Chrissie asked if we could vote on the slate via email and officially announce the approved slate at the May meeting. Kimberly said that was fine. Chrissie will let us know which positions are still open and will confirm the discipline reps that have been assigned by the teachers/directors.

Committee Reports:

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

- The committee will have a turnover meeting with Grant in late May or early June to decide on the mailer for next year. Louise asked for our postage account number to determine our postage costs from this year.
- Lyn asked if she could take money from the budget that has been allocated to Membership so she could replenish promotional items. Greg said a vote isn't needed as long as she doesn't spend more than is budgeted.

Website (Chrissie Mena)

- Chrissie asked us to please send her info and photos.

Scholarship (Kelly Yager)

- The Scholarship committee received two applications this month. One was for a non-Interlochen summer camp that cost \$5,200, of which we would usually pay 20%. After some discussion, everyone agreed that 20% of the \$5,200 (\$1,040) was too much to give to one student. There have not been any Interlochen scholarship applications yet this year. The FAB has \$3,000 to spend for spring/summer lessons and workshops.

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- Kimberly mentioned extending the deadline to May 7 for summer lessons/camps and for Interlochen. Kirsten Neptun suggested we let the staff know since they might be able to identify the kids who really need the scholarship money.
- Kelly and Grant discussed the status of the remaining scholarships:
 - The Jon Lyn Black Box scholarship committee is meeting on April 25th.
 - The \$1,000 Galfer Award that recognizes a student's outstanding contribution to the theatre will be awarded on April 22nd. That student doesn't need to study theatre in college.
 - The Agnes Kruger Scholarship is awarded to one student to study music after high school and can be given in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000. The student may study any discipline of music and must live in the Barrington 220 district, but doesn't have to attend BHS. So far there are only 9 applications, so the committee is extending the application deadline until April 28th.
 - The Nancie Tobison fund will begin awarding scholarships next year. The money will be given to a senior who has made significant contributions and has demonstrated outstanding leadership in Choir. At this point, the committee plans to award \$1,000 to one student for the next 18 years based on current funding.

Concessions (Marilyn Dato, Char Moos)

- The March Choir concert made \$142. There are still three more Orchestris concerts, the Mainstage play and the a'capella/talent show this month.

Student Board (Lisa Gabriel):

- Lisa was absent. She has not informed Grant about hosting an event this spring, so he is assuming there will not be one.

PTO Representative (Louise Fox):

- The Choir was asked to provide entertainment at Barnes and Noble for two hours last Friday and Saturday during the Project Horsepower fundraiser.

Alumni Representative (Starr Shum):

- Starr was absent. There was no report.

Publicity/Special Projects (Terri Longo):

- Terri was absent. Grant reported the playbill is all set for *The Sparrow* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

Best Seat in the House (Cindy Hesselbein)

- Cindy was in attendance but there was no report.

Rep Reports:

Choir (Cindy Johnson and Chris Rudolphi):

- Cindy didn't go on the choir trip to Prague but Kirsten Neptun did and said the trip was amazing. The choir placed second and was fabulous.
- The New York trip to Carnegie Hall is coming up in a few weeks. 153 students are going. She and Chris purchased Nancie's plane ticket for \$321, which was approved at the last meeting. The costs for the New York trip have risen for various reasons, so the Choir is having a fundraising dine-n-share event at Meatheads on Thursday.
- Nancie is having surgery when she comes back from New York.
- May 27 is the choir banquet at Willow Creek and May 29 is the concert.

Drama/Theater (Jay Gerak):

- The student-created Studio Theater play *The Sparrow* was a success. The Main Stage play *Brighton Beach Memoirs* will be performed May 1-3.

Band (Barry and Claudia Altshuler):

- The solo ensembles performed this past weekend. There were 30 or more acts.
- April 25th is the next Java and Jazz event from 7p.m. – 10 p.m. at BHS. Come out for great food and music.

Dance (Kirsten Neptun):

- The Orchesis concert is this Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. The Orchesis Fashion show is on Sunday, May 4th.

Orchestra (Pam Conroy):

- The Young Artists concert is coming up on April 15th with 7 kids performing solo pieces with the orchestra. May 2nd is the CSO Field Trip and May 8th is the final orchestra concert.

Department/District Report (Grant Sahr):

- The AP visual arts display is going up right now. There will be a reception this Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Grant sent out an email that detailed the process of hiring Nancie Tobison's replacement. Below is a summary of what was discussed:
 - The search process started in December with ads in major choral publications and two paid ads on national websites that drew over 1,000 views.
 - Grant received feedback from the performing arts faculty and Nancie about the future of the program.
 - Grant attended the IMEA conference to speak with representatives from top musical education universities so they could encourage good people to apply. He wanted them to know the position is solid and the program is well funded.
 - There were 96 candidates in the final pool but 60% had less than 4 years of experience. He reduced the field to the top 12 candidates and asked them for concert recordings and copies of their concert programs.
 - We hired an outside consultant named Bob Boyd to help with the search and candidate selection. Bob was the Lyons Township choral director for 30 years, was an All-State choir conductor and is highly decorated and respected in the choral community.
 - 11 candidates were interviewed in the first round and 5 made it to the second round. Not all of the candidates are external to the district. All of the final candidates have either completed or are close to competing their Masters of Fine Arts degree in choral conducting from top-rated schools.
 - Nancie suggested a list of students to form a Lab Choir that would help evaluate the final list of candidates. Those candidates will lead the Lab Choir in warm-up exercises and sight reading, conduct a piece of music from the New York trip and teach their own music. Clark Sheldon, Randy Karon, Nancie Tobison, Bob Boyd and Grant will be present for the Lab Choir sessions. The students have been instructed that the names of the candidates and the things that happen during the Lab Choir sessions should remain strictly confidential and not be shared with anyone outside the group or discussed on social media.
 - Who directs the musical will depend on the strength and experience of the new hire. It's possible may need to hire a vocal director and/or a stage director. If we do, those positions would be stipend positions.

- Grant has done his best to make the process completely open and transparent with the staff, parents and students. He hopes to present the final candidate to the School Board in May.

The May Old Board/New Board meeting will be held at Circa 57 on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Gerak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirsten Neptun seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Stegvik
Secretary