

Association of Music Parent (AMP) Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Kim Laird, Amy Raczka, Clare Doran, William (Bill) Guillermo Ortega, Lora Ilhardt, Sherry Scheller, Mary Villmow, Ann Marie Perez, Sharon Creaser, Bob Hernandez, Andy Jeffrey, Mary LaVaque, Kim Ryan, Jennifer Pembroke-Johnson, Susan Blatt, Jeff Laird, Margaret Hernandez, Rashesh Shah, Tricia Posegay, Gail Kelly, Anne Blyth, Betsy Talbott, Jon Walsh

May 31, 2017

Call to Order—President Posegay called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. Review and approval of minutes from the last meeting of AMP: Bob Hernandez moved to approve; Jeff Laird seconded. Tricia Posegay announced that Mr. Walsh will be late to the meeting, expected to arrive about 7:30pm.

President's Report—Tricia Posegay. “Thank you for a great two years of AMP! It has been such a pleasure getting to know all of you.”

Vice Presidents' Reports—

- Lora Ilhardt (orchestra): Did we receive a check from Floral Symphony? (we need to check with Jon Walsh.)
- Rashesh Shah (band)—no report
- Kim Laird (choir) – Kim noted that spring choir concert is a favorite, always awesome! She highly recommends it, as it showcases the performance of all the choirs. Others chimed in regarding the quality of the spring music concerts. All three were winners according to everyone who attended.

Choir Director's Report—Andy Jeffrey

Noted that four different accapella groups had visited West this spring, including alumni groups. Andy noted that it's great for current students to see and hear alumni who continue to perform, even though they may or may not be music majors. Choir BBQ rescheduled due to rain. Choir concert at First United Methodist was a great success, and provided nice feedback for the students (Andy noted the quality of acoustics at the church). Two students who had participated in independent studies with Mr. Jeffrey practiced conducting and taking on leadership roles at the concert (Caitlin P. and Gaby Winter). The work of both was well received at the concert. Andrew Scheller, Matt Fickert, Zack Wang, and Ellen Maloney also participated in the choir concert. Choir also sang at Memorial Day

Lake Ellyn celebration. 22 students participated, including 2 alumni. GBW Graduation is on Friday June 2nd! One of our students' voice teachers, who has a PhD from the U of I will be leaving us (Chad Valentine) for the University of Northern Colorado. We will miss him!

Orchestra Director's Report—Bill Ortega

Last Wednesday (May 24) was student's choice concert, along with all-state performers (and others who have distinguished themselves) performing solos and conducting. Concert began with pre-game chamber music on the 4th floor of the science wing (glass atrium). Full orchestra with band friends played Lord of the Rings. The concert featured 3 soloists + 2 student conductors. Brad Payne (Cori's dad) conducted the final piece. Speech by Mr. Ortega honored the kids who will graduate this year who were born the year he started at GBW. "We've come a long way since then!" Graduation, new this year: Choir and orchestra seniors can join the band together. Thank you to Mr. Jeffrey for taking in 19 seniors, and practicing with them in his office at West.

Orchestra board includes incoming student conductors, who will be announced tomorrow, June 1st. Orchestra camp is Aug 8 -10 at West. ILMEA audition information is on schoology. Midwest Clinic Director (Laycock) heard our HSO play in Peoria in Jan, and would like our HSO group to perform at McCormick Center as part of the Midwest Clinic next May. This is quite an honor, and the administration at West has approved (despite the event being during finals week). Michael Boitz will work with our HSO at this event.

Band Director's Report—Jon Walsh.

Cynthia Yeh of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra visited the percussionists and impressed us all. Band concert with Jazz band, concert band, and symphonic band was a success. Marching band enrollment is at 135 currently, with 180 total students in the bands. Music by Daft Punk and Lin Manuel-Miranda's *In the Heights*. Jon sat down with the music over the weekend, and is ready to start writing drills. Graduation June 2nd. First marching band rehearsals June 5 and 6.

Corporate Treasurer's Report—Bob Hernandez

Distributed the budget for the year and noted that we are \$7500 ahead in the budget. Distributed a draft budget for next year, indicating the potential

for increased costs for band camp (will square this number with Mr. Walsh).
Balanced budget expected for 2017-18.

Kim Laird asked whether Bob knows anything about the new (revised) Scrip program. Reported that Pam Kelleher will fill us in regarding the new Scrip. Bob suggested that we can change our budget forecast if necessary. Bob commented that AMP membership donations have been trending downward; Mary Villmow asked whether there's any additional information or analysis regarding this. Any historical information that might help us reverse the trend? She suggested that perhaps we need to do a better job of advertising membership, along with its benefits.

Additional budget discussions:

Mary Villmow asked about marketing and communication via Constant Contact. Ann Marie Perez has been paying for Constant Contact from her own pocket, and Bob suggested that we know how much this costs, so we can add this amount to the budget for future planning (even if it is a donation). Mary Villmow, Ann Marie Perez, and Sherry Scheller will discuss this further, to help move the process forward.

Student Account Treasurer's Report- Anne Blyth. Is finishing up senior donations and will be in touch with the directors for students' emails. Donations are closing down.

Secretary's Report—Betsy Talbott. Note that we need to recruit a corporate treasurer, fundraising coordinator, Barone's & cookie dough chairs for next year.

Committee Reports (chairs reporting are in bold below)

- a. **Volunteer Coordinator- Mary Villmow:** One last job to do for the year: 4th of July. Darryl White is in charge again. Mary V. and Susan Blatt invited 91 individuals who had volunteered over the course of the year to attend tonight's celebration (2 people had volunteered 8 times each!)
- b. Music Mixer-Mary LaVaque
- c. **Fundraising-Amy Raczka.** All fundraising chairs are coming back! We tried the bracelet idea last year, but that wasn't a success—however, we're looking at popcorn sales at the end of the year (for AMP). All ongoing volunteers have chairs will continue. Clare Doran: thank you for stepping up to chair Butterbraids! Fundraising chair is an easy job because

everyone has stepped up to the plate. **(Talbot note: need a new fundraising chair for 2017-18)**

d. **Annual Contributions-Sherry Scheller.** First check received for the new year!

e. Marching Band volunteers – Sharon Creaser

f. Scrips-Pam Kelleher

g. **Barone's- Lee Fruit (Note. Need a new committee chair for 2107-18)**

h. Greens-Ed Herlihy

i. Communications-Ann Marie Perez

j. Yard Signs-Nicole Krueger/Krissy Dougherty

k. Sweatshirts-

l. Marketing/Promotion/Website-Ginna Neme Jarrett

m. **Cookie Dough-Heidi Hoppe (Note. Need new chair for next year)**

n. Poinsettias-Susan Blatt

o. Floral Symphony-Lora Ilhardt (Mary Villmow next year)

p. Butterbraids-Clare Doran

q. **Concessions-Darryl White/ Mary LaVaque: Mr. Walsh** noted that Darryl White is willing to continue to serve and organize the July 4th concessions.

r. Madrigals/Cabaret Night

s. **Program Ads – Mary LaVaque**

Mary would like to select 1-2 dates in August associated with band practice so that band officers can help recruit ads. Mr. Walsh noted that we have prorated costs for next year! Get your ad in now.

Unfinished Business/New Business:

Annual audit

Kim Laird mentioned that all VPs should be aware of the annual audit that occurs, beginning in the fall. We need 2 additional ad-hoc people to participate in the audit, in addition to the 3 VPs . Rashesh, will you kindly take the lead on this? Members of this committee of 5 get together to cross-check the numbers. We held 2 additional meetings this past year to conduct the final cross-check. Sharon Creaser volunteered to assist; Tricia Posegay may assist as well (thank you!)--TBD. Thank you all.

Keeper of contact information for AMP volunteers

Mary Villmow raised the point that we need to have an ongoing list of names and email addresses (to post on the website and to keep information and communication current). Bob Hernandez moved that the secretary keep track of the names and emails and communicate those with the webmaster and others, as the need arises. Jeff Laird seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion of the auditorium sound system and AMP's potential contribution, as well as the possibility of a fundraiser. Mr. Walsh led the discussion, noting that Boosters and GBW are contributing; AMP has been approached to contribute as well. Mr. Walsh raised the possibility of AMP donating \$3500 at the outset of the project (this summer), followed by a additional donation of up to \$3500. Second donation would depend on the outcome of the initial work and the needs that follow. Mr. Walsh noted that the sound quality has been atrocious in this 87 year old auditorium! Tricia Posegay echoed that evaluation.

Further updates on the sound system overhaul: Dave Hecht will begin the week after next to start working on the sound system, including replacement of the sound board (\$150,000 total cost estimated). He comes highly recommended, and is someone we should hire as opposed to someone inexpensive who is less knowledgeable about music and sound.

Discussion continued. Booster donation is going to the sound system, generally. Fundraising could occur in a second phase, after the first phase takes place this summer, depending on costs estimated at that point in the process.

Bob Hernandez moved that AMP contribute \$3500 initially and set aside up to \$3500 to contribute in additional funds to support the installation of a new sound system. Ann Marie Perez seconded, and all were in favor.

Schedule of meetings for next school year: Mr. Walsh proposed the following meeting dates (all on Wednesdays):
First AMP meeting Aug. 9; curtainraiser Monday before Labor Day (Aug. 28).

Additional proposed dates include: Sept 6; Sept 27; Nov 1; no December meeting; Jan. 10; Feb. 7; April 4; May 9; Music Awards May 21; final AMP meeting May 23rd. All concerts in 2018 will be held before May.

Bob Hernandez moved to accept the dates for next year's AMP meeting calendar. Jeff Laird seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Marching band at Whitewater: Bob Hernandez noted that AMP paid for chaperones last year. Do we want to continue, stop, or amend? Bob's recommendation: Pay for the full-week people (\$25 each); partial week-attendees should pay more (\$50 each). Cost to participants is \$190 per room.

Margaret Hernandez moved that we accept Bob Hernandez's proposal. Sharon Creaser seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn at 8:24pm—Next Meeting Aug. 9, 2017 at 7pm in the orchestra/choir room.

Have a safe and relaxing summer!