

# Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

## Meeting minutes- January 8, 2008

*President – Diane Pax*

*Vice President - John Scherer*

*Treasurer – Sheri Burke*

*Secretary - Betsey Farquhar-Bradish*

*Member at Large - Susie Norris*

*Present: Diane Pax, Sheri Burke, Earl Burke, Susie Norris, John Scherer, Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, John Taylor, Doug O'Neal, Brian Bell*

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Diane

### Minutes/Secretary Report

Betsey distributed the December 2007 meeting minutes to all in attendance. Sheri requested correction to an error she had not seen during prior review by board members that she should not be listed as in attendance at the December 4<sup>th</sup> special LMBA meeting with Dr. Davis. Betsey so noted the correction. Seeing no other requests, Diane motioned and Sheri seconded approval. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### Treasurer's Report

Sheri stated our current cash balance is ~57K. The 2007 band camp invoice has still not been received for payment. The fruit and wreath balances are still outstanding. The profit & loss detail (or checking account register detail) shows several LMBA checks that have never been cashed/cleared by the recipients and so added back into the treasury balance.

### Directors' Report

Doug reported that the Holiday concert was held Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> due to the inclement weather on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> when it was originally scheduled. Chorale combined with Orchestra for Pergolesi Magnificat and Concert Choir with a quintet for a song. Many alumni (over 30) returned for the event! Two other gigs were performed in December at the Powell Women's Club meeting by SoL and at the Masons meeting by Liberty Belles. Liberty Belles also won the Sunny 95 radio "Dino and Shawn's Olde Time Radio Show" Christmas Idol contest with a grand prize of a piano and the opportunity to perform live on the air Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The prize piano is not appropriate for the classroom use for which we have been looking so perhaps LMBA can donate the additional amount necessary for an upgrade. Participating in the Eric Whitacre Choral festival at Capital U will be a great honor and due to savings Doug was able to achieve earlier this year it can be covered from his budget. Doug has contacted the middle school choir directors to plan a visit by him perhaps next Wednesday or Thursday. The Karl family has donated a piano to the LHS music department. Initially Doug planned on putting it in a practice room but now will put it in the band room as an acoustic piano for Jazz Band. Doug is considering changing the preOMEA contest event from LHS to a church for recording purposes. We have received approval to change from district 10 (Newark) to the closer district 15 (Thomas Worthington or Whitehall) this year. Pay-ins to the LMBA budget this month from Choir are \$230.

Brian reported that the HMS band had good first concert in December. Members have received 8-9 new pieces of music upon return from winter break and he is looking forward to a challenging remainder of the year. There has been good support from volunteers at MS basketball game concession fundraisers.

Important upcoming dates: Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Winter Band concert; Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Solo & Ensemble contest; Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm – OLHS Orchestra concert; and Friday or Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> – State Orchestra concert.

### Old Business

- LMBA is still interested in sharing financial responsibility with OMBA for the district MS solo and ensemble contests once corporate sponsorship options are exhausted. Three possible sponsors proposed by LMBA tonight were: 1) Prestige Music (contact: Sara Marie Ikenberger); 2) Colonial Music (Brian has a contact card for the Music & Arts President); and 3) Music Royal. John S said we definitely need to discuss this with and work with Ian Brun at LMS. Susie said she would be willing to help contact sponsors.
- Doug reported that he, Travis and Rachel haven't had time yet to meet re: starting a TriM music honor society

and it may be in jeopardy in the short term if the LHS music chair position and thus contract time to work on this are cut with a failed levy. Hopefully we will be revisiting this in the early spring.

- Upcoming events that may benefit from LMBA support for i.e., refreshments are the Choir precontest event as detailed above in the directors' report and the Orchestra contest that can be better planned for after the upcoming parents meeting.
- Earl reported that we confirmation with the district on truck insurance for upcoming competition travel. Doug said there will be a conflict on dates for drumline and orchestra competitions that will have to be worked out. Earl said he will stay overnight at his own expense in Dayton for the upcoming Carol & Kettering contests on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to save on fuel cost/use. He working on an advertising contract to present to corporate sponsors. Current corporate advertisers' contracts are good through the next year. Parent sponsors will be solicited right away as the previous sponsorships really expired this summer and haven't been followed up on. The plan is now to request \$450 for parent sponsors to begin now and continue through next year rather than wait and collect the previous payment of \$300 for a year's advertising. Betsey asked and Earl confirmed that this opportunity would be posted on the website as well as announced by Diane at upcoming concerts, etc.

### New Business

- LMBA is interested in helping support MS music program fundraising and to work within each budget. Brian said he will provide a budget for HMS music programs' supplemental fundraising.
- Brian reported that HMS would like to spend LMBA donation funds on a guest conductor as part of a plan for LMBA to offer this experience to MS in the LHS district on a rotating basis. Brian said that this opportunity will include the benefit of this conductor/professor to work with students all week and includes assistance from his students all at a cost of \$500. Doug shared that the 2hour master conductor class that he took his choirs to this year cost over \$150. It was also noted that a professor's salary is ~\$30/hr and this experience will be like that of the MS summer band camp. John motioned and Sheri seconded approval of this expenditure. The motion carried with unanimous approval.
- Discussion continued on Doug's request per the Directors' report above on LMBA purchasing an upgrade to the quality of piano LHS will receive from the radio contest. It was noted that Doug has had an ongoing request to LMBA for the purchase of a piano to replace the baby grand that currently is being used in the choir classroom and then must be wheeled onto the stage for performances resulting in great wear and tear to such an expensive instrument. It was further noted that the cost of an upgrade will be much less than that for a new piano of sufficient quality for classroom use and that John S has visited the dealer in question to verify the cost at \$2K and possibly \$1600. John moved and Susie seconded approval for purchase of the upgrade of the prize piano. The motion was carried with unanimous approval.
- John S shared that he has been investigating the feasibility of beginning a SCRIP program to help offset the cost to music student families for camps, travel, etc. John provided a powerpoint handout on the topic adding that the plan would be for 100% of the profit to benefit individual student accounts and this should not impact the necessity for the major income generations from concession sales.
- There was discussion on recruitment of music students at the MS through such methods as guest appearances by alumni participating in their college music programs.
- Diane requested that all music program/booster activities be sent to her attention and can be accomplished through the OLHS Website at: <http://www.olintangy.k12.oh.us/buildings/olhs/perform/>
- There was discussion on the need for a set structure and planning to include goals for LMBA in the upcoming years and the need for increased involvement from students' families. To this end Diane shared a list of chairperson positions for which LMBA is currently recruiting. Other 2008 Goals are:
  - 1) Develop a contingency plan in case the upcoming school levy fails.
  - 2) Start a monthly newsletter for parents and try to increase the community's awareness of our programs.
  - 3) Develop initiatives to improve retention of students at the HS level, especially targeting orchestra, band and boys in choir.
  - 4) Further develop additional leadership opportunities for parents.

Diane adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

### Next Meeting

Will be Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquahar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary