

Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

Meeting minutes- March 11, 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, Susie Norris, Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, John Taylor, Earl Burke, Jeannie Danker, John Danker, Rachel Ferrell, Travis Hicks

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by Diane

Directors' Report

Travis reported that there are 5 music contests coming up this weekend! The Drumline will be competing twice in Dayton, Winter Guard in Lebanon, the band in Groveport and the Choir in Pickerington. There is still help needed with chaperoning Friday night. Boosters will be providing dinner for the wind ensemble that is staying after school to practice and then leaving directly for competition. Dankers volunteered to take lead on this.

Next year's Marching Band Show will be *Live On Stage* with the Front Ensemble on risers in the middle of the field; music by AC/DC and Cheap Trick. There will be a nonmandatory small trip next year for Marching Band students; perhaps to DCI finals in Indianapolis, pending Board approval, to include a 2-3 night hotel stay, ticket to the event (when available as they are currently only sold as whole week blocks) and motorcoach transportation. We currently have 2 students that have been accepted by DrumCorps – Sammy Noris and Jason Hanson. Clinic dates for Guard are May 5th and 7th, Field Commander May 6th and auditions for both will be May 9th. Percussion clinics will be April 28th through May 16th with audition dates to be announced. Jazz Band audition material will go out this Monday and the ensemble will travel next year, pending Board Approval and input from parents. A Community Jazz Ensemble lead by Dr. Griffith, will begin this Spring. LMBA's name will be attached to this new group but will require little else from LMBA as the school will support music, etc. Everyone at all levels of ability is invited to participate. What instrumentation we cannot fill from adults will be filled by students to ensure we get this moving including: A-Sax, T-Sax, B-Sax (3-7); Trumpet (3-8); Trombone (3-6); Set (1-3); Piano (1-3); Bass (1-3); Guitar (0-3); Vocals? The group is anticipated to be great for community outreach and recruitment.

Next year there will be a challenge to the Middle School instrumental music program in that students will only be allowed to take 2 rather than 3 noncore classes (music, art and foreign language) as it has been determined that students have not been accomplishing all of the material required for an academic year in core subjects such as math, science, etc. so additional time is being added to their academic block instruction time. General music has been eliminated altogether. This may cause us to lose students that choose Art over music but perhaps not the foreign language students that can complete 4 years during high school.

The meeting of 8th graders and parents of incoming band members will be March 19th where LMBA will be introduced and the Drumline will perform.

Budgeting for next year is planned for April with final approval by June.

Further discussion of private music lessons will be under New Business.

Rachel shared that in February strings earned ratings of excellent for both groups at contest after advancing from C to B level and the Chamber ensemble missing a superior rating by only 1 point. Nine groups participated in solo and ensemble contests with all of them receiving a rating of superior or excellent and everyone being impressed with the comments of the judges. There will be a concert May 22nd of 80's music. The Middle School solo and ensemble contest was last Saturday and all 10 groups received a superior or excellent rating. All of the students seemed to get a lot out of the experience with one student enthusiastically saying, "we got a one!" Rachel will miss OLHS and LMS but is looking forward to her new position at Orange Middle School next year.

Diane reported for Doug who is sick with the flu. Dinner and precontest show is tomorrow night – bless Susie Norris :) for taking lead on the dinner. The kids will eat at 6pm and the showcase will begin at 6:45pm. The Eric Whitacre

field trip was a great success and enjoyed by all. Varsity Chorale will travel to NYC the first week of April 2009. This Friday 4 choirs will compete in Pickerington beginning at 4:30pm. We got very positive feedback on the Disney show and Doug has submitted all the receipts and income.

We will miss Rachel and have no other word on middle school events or teacher placements.

Minutes/Secretary Report

Minutes from the February 2008 meeting were reviewed by all in attendance, Sheri motioned and Diane seconded approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Treasurer's Report

Sheri stated our current cash balance is ~28K. Diane said that we are looking for feedback from the whole parent community and directors on priorities. Susie motioned and Diane seconded approval of the budget as submitted. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Old Business

- There are several chairperson slots still available. Susie agreed to take the Choir Finance Chair. We are especially interested in securing a SCRIP Cochair to help John S. and a Newsletter Chair.
- Earl Burke is still working on truck advertising. He sent out 6 invoices to the families who had ads last year and hasn't gotten any response for renewal so he is working on getting those covered/taken off. The commercial ads on the back of the truck will remain through their 3 year contract with 3 spots left until July '09. The trucks are in good shape right now. Earl has established through Olentangy Transportation Department that we need to pay for the fuel used and Sheri will be tracking costs by group/program. Diesel prices have gone up ~56¢/gal to ~\$4.05/gal and may be more after spring break so the cost will be ~\$200/tank. Diane is looking into the possibility of getting \$ help from the school/district.
- Diane shared the Draft of the LMBA After School Music Lesson Responsibilities guidelines. She said benefits are convenience for families and coordinated instruction with school directors. Travis shared that tentative plans are for ~4 teachers, ~4 strings, and 1 for each band instrument (i.e., Barnhurst-Jones for flute) with eventual plans to serve MS students as well. All instructors will need to have Board approval and a LHS staff member present. Percussion lessons can begin soon with current techs. We have ~3 rooms available right now but need be careful with scheduling because of volume disruptions. Travis plans to survey students about their interest in lessons and will continue working on this over break.
- In John S's absence, Diane shared the Draft of the LMBA SCRIP program guidelines for the purpose of offsetting the cost of student participation in music program group activities such as trips and camps but not individual things like instruments and lessons and that unspent credits cannot be reimbursed. Ordering may be done online or by dropping forms off at the school office. Sheri and Diane have already registered easily for the program!
- Plans are in place to transfer our trailer to OOHS and Joe Taylor of OMBA has confirmed that this will help meet needs. Earl said it will need some work that the district should do but that we should track. Travis shared that when LHS first opened the band program had to use LMS facilities and OOHS may need to use OMS next door. Rachel shared that the tentative opening for OOHS is August 1st.

New Business

- Drumline activities are per Directors' Report. John T shared that attendance by families and community at upcoming contests are encouraged and that the Dayton WGI the 3rd week in April will be a BIG event drawing groups from all over the US and WORLD! Ideas re: local PR?

Betsey motioned and Sheri seconded for adjournment of the meeting at 8:38pm. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Next Meeting

Will be Tuesday, March 8th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquahar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary