

# Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

## Meeting minutes- April 14, 2009

*President – John Scherer*

*Vice President - Seth Joseph*

*Treasurer – Sheri Burke*

*Secretary - Betsey Farquhar-Bradish*

*Member at Large - Cathy Epervary*

*Present: Doug O’Neal, Aaron Given, Laura Sams, Donna Roach, Travis Hicks, Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, Lori Parfenchuk, John Scherer, Denise Lahrman, Michelle Fought, Cathy Epervary, Sheri Burke, Earl Burke, Jill Bixler, Seth Joseph*

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by John

### Directors’ Report

Doug reported that the NYC trip was incredible thanks to the chaperones. One of the many highlights of the trip was visiting the largest neogothic cathedral in the world where the choir performed Sing Me To Heaven amidst thunder and tears. Doug is taking submissions for a new names/logo for the Sounds of Liberty & Liberty Bells ensembles.

Travis reported that he will have 31 students in the Jazz ensemble this year and will evaluate spaces for 8<sup>th</sup> graders afterward and their placement into wind ensemble or concert band. The Winterguard finished their season well beating a 72 at WGI where no group from Ohio made it into finals. Guard went from 9<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> at MEPA and broke a 85.6. Drumline ended 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at MEPA and got good feedback at WGI. At WGI they were in an especially hard bracket this year in semifinals where if they had made it out of semis they would have stood an excellent chance to make it into finals. Their absences for WGI on Thursday & Friday were counted as ALEs.

Jill reported that she is getting started on end of the year auditioning for next year’s chamber and concert orchestras. There will be a celebration May 18<sup>th</sup> with awards and performances by solo and ensemble participants.

Aaron reported that the OLMS Jazz band will be performing at the LMS Celebrates the Arts night next Wednesday, 8:05pm. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade music students will be attending the Music in the Parks day at Cedar Point on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Donna reported that except for \$39.50 rental truck fuel to be paid by boosters, all fees have been paid of the \$3K balance remaining in dues. The rental truck cost and fuel paid by John will perhaps be reimbursed by the school. Guard is looking at fundraising this summer for the next year with expenses such as the tarp in mind. They have secured a space and supplies for bead sales at the Powell Street Market.

Denise reported that she has received all student fees with the exception of two students that received 50% financial aide from boosters. She is making the final staff and hotel bill payments this week and looking forward to receiving the \$1K corporate donation from Chase. There also is still outstanding fundraising \$ from gift card sales, t-shirts, donut sales and parent donations. She has a PDF of the current budget for board members in addition to giving it to John and Sheri. John said that after these items are closed for the season we will need to reassess and consider LMBA forgiving the \$3K loan.

Sheri asked why the Guard staff payments budgeted at \$1600 had been increased to \$1800. Travis said it was done to equal the Drumline staff payment and was made possible due to Guard's ability to stay within budget because of savings on tarp, uniforms, transportation, etc.

#### Minutes/Secretary Report

Minutes from the March 2009 meeting were reviewed by all in attendance. Sheri asked that the month (March) be proceeded by the date in the first paragraph. Denise and John asked that the "in addition to the \$3K LMBA advance" be stricken from the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph reporting the Drumline financial status. Betsey said that keeping it would not reflect any deficiency of volunteers but rather a need that would be helpful to be made public. John motioned and Seth seconded approval of the minutes with the corrections. The motion carried with all yes votes and one abstention by Betsey.

#### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by all in attendance. Discussion included that the line item of (\$1,330) for band is for t-shirts and of \$57 for Orchestra is for OMEA fees. The (\$270) is based on the difference between the cash balance and all line items under Funds Restricted for Future Use. John requested and Sheri agreed to email the detail report to all board members. John motioned and Cathy seconded approval of the report. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

#### Important Dates (per meeting Agenda)

- Pride Day: April 21, 6-8pm

#### NEXT MUSIC ACTIVITIES:

- April 24 & 25 OMEA State HS Band and Choir Contest
- April 30, May 1, 2, 3 Spring Musical - OLHS Theater

#### LMBA DATES:

- Next LMBA meeting: Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

#### Old Business per meeting agenda (meeting discussion)

- OSU Chair Fundraiser - Seth said the company he works for sells sports team licensed furniture like recliners that retail for \$700. OSU is the #1 seller with Texas a distant #2. He wants LMBA to raffle a recliner and/or a whole sports room "Best Room In The House" furnished with other products from Seth's company such as rugs, etc. He said he may be able to get a product discount on cost and proposes that raffle tickets be sold 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20 and 5 for \$25. Betsey asked if LMBA would need to cover cost if not enough tickets were sold? Seth said "yes." John asked if group wanted to make a motion to proceed? Seth said we should wait until next month after he attends a big furniture show and can see if there are any other new ideas. He said furniture could have logos from LHS or any other of 47 pro teams and universities. He would like to display the merchandise behind ropes at LHS football games.
- Paver fundraiser update - Seth said he wants this project to be called Legacy Pavers for the Performing Arts at LHS and shared a draft design. After the initial project he envisions sale/addition of pavers in future years as well replacing non-engraved pavers. He plans to work with student leadership and design students on design, etc. He still needs to submit the plan for approval. The cost of stones has increased since he help lead this project at Olentangy's Tyler Run Elementary school but tentative cost, size, etc are:

Paver size	Cost to LMBA	Selling cost	Engraving lines and characters/line
Small	\$30	\$50	3/8
Medium	\$45	\$75	5/10
Large	\$60	\$100	6/16

Seth proposed that the pavers we choose from the Mr. Mulch catalogue be Brussels (a neutral/creamy tan). We should make ~25-30% net/sale. Tyler Run cost was ~\$80K but got ~\$4 to 6K of that in donations primarily from Mr. Mulch. Michele asked if we need to commit to a # of pavers? Seth said no but we will need a minimum number if we want to use the proposed jigsaw design but we could plan to presell them so LMBA won't have to front the cost. Liz asked if there will be one time/year campaign? Seth said we could think of it as 2 short campaigns each year beginning with this Spring and also target alumni. Jill asked who supplies the labor? Seth said primarily volunteers with hope that many students will see this as an opportunity to get volunteer hours and Mr. Mulch will probably donate too.

- Kroger program update - John said Kroger is changing their program beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> to a community rewards program where individual contributions from Kroger generated by participants can't be tracked and the total donation from Kroger from our participants will not be known until next year. Sheri agreed that we shouldn't commit to trying to follow-up on crediting individuals when the method may be time consuming and impossible but that we should advertise on the website and perhaps directors could also send out an email about this change and the benefit of families signing up with Kroger as LMBA supporters.
- Pride Day - John said Directors are sending out reminder emails and there is a sign-up website. It should run from 5:30 to ~8pm. Liz asked why we are doing it on a weekday evening instead of a weekend day? John said we think more people are home and its easier to work around students' schedules. John said he will be out of town for work for this event. Sheri will be here to collect the \$ and Cathy can head the project at the beginning while Steve Schnulo said he can do the second half. Betsey said she will be busy with concessions that night. John said postponing due to inclement weather will be called by Monday.
- Other fundraising - John said we had to call off the BD Mongolian BBQ fundraiser for the winterlines due to a lack of participation based on presale of tickets and perhaps this was due to the cost of \$20/ticket. Donna noted that at Easter cost is \$11 for all you can eat and even with our ticket price we were only earning \$5/ticket. Seth said boy scouts do well with car washes. John said he was planning on doing those this summer. Betsey said even though concessions generates our biggest \$ in fundraising right now we have suffered due to rainouts which also makes stocking inventory a challenge but we are doing okay there. She also said that there has been some discussion/suggestions about menu items and criteria she looks for is a ~50% profit (i.e., the item costs us \$1 and we sell it for \$2) and it has a reasonable shelf-life with little food safety threat. She said there are still 11 volunteer slots needing filled this season.

#### New Business

- 2009/2010 Directors' budget - Doug shared that the entire budget to teachers at LHS is ~\$200K not counting student fees and that the music programs enjoy ~25% of this. The district's philosophy is also to fund schools less over time because their new equipment needs should decrease even if their student numbers increase. We need to start considering working on budget considerations before

Spring Break ~February. Other booster programs, such as athletics, only pay for coaches with supplemental contracts and for busses. Uniforms, etc are all paid for through ticket sales and boosters. Hockey club families paid for all expenses for several years before becoming a school team and still pay for gear and ice time. The Orange HS pep band will get a staff supplemental contract that will first be approved by the Performing Arts Committee and then the BOE. Laura asked why this was going to be approved? Doug said because someone asked and did the work in researching but this has been discussed with everyone involved before hand so it will probably be approved. Doug also noted that ~75% of all the other Olentangy schools' music budgets are paid by boosters while LHS is 39% and 49% if winterlines are included. Choir Keynotes at OHS cost ~\$18K. Jill and Doug referenced an article that said 64% of schools' boosters fund >50% of their music program budgets. Aaron said that Centerville's boosters fund 100% of their music programs including some staff salaries that would have been cut to parttime. John said he made the LMBA budget for things the school should fund if LMBA \$ is to go for trips, etc. Doug said if he submitted the total cost of LHS the music programs that serves ~400 students (~\$90K) that would be ~half of the school budget for less than half the student body in just one area. Other examples of costs are funding the marching band to do more than a \$2500 prepackaged Hal Leonard show. Doug said costs can be cut in instruction, uniforms (dresses, tuxes, etc). Jill said she submitted a budget request to the school of ~\$11 and ~half was cut. Doug explained that Mr. Raiff is very supportive of the LHS music program but needs to give the majority of \$ to staff and then building needs. John asked what would happen if Doug asked for ~\$20-22K? Doug said he would be told no. Doug said if LMBA cuts program funding things like plagues, accompanists, guard outfits, silks, etc will need to be cut. Earl said it sounds like we are heading to 100% booster funding of the music program. Lori said she thinks the funding reflects the values of the society, i.e., cuts to the Columbus Symphony. Travis said Hilliard, Centerville, etc. boosters pay for instruments, uniforms, etc. Jill said in Port Clinton the music budget is supported 60-70% by the boosters. She said Delaware City schools gave her a budget of \$300 for two years and so she was unable to buy any music because it quickly was spent on repair costs alone which is typically the largest for the orchestra in the music program. Laura said it was hard to understand why the district was cutting music program class time, etc just after getting an increase in funding from the recent levy. Travis said Olentangy is trying to avoid funding problems like that experienced in Westerville and Dublin. Aaron said we need more of a positive/fun attitude in the boosters to help increase participation. John said boosters needs to work at showing the community and the board the value of our music programs. Aaron said that is hard work and needs a continuing commitment. Doug said the middle school participation looks as though it is decreasing and we need boosters to be consistent in support, i.e., 2 years ago trips were an add-on in addition to program support. John said he will route the budgets to the people on the active membership list. Doug said we should sit down and work on a budget in the late fall/early winter next year.

- Truck status - John said he would be looking into submitting the cost of truck rental to Mr. Raiff that was covered by Deckers and himself.
- By-Law changes - John provided a copy of the previous By-Laws with suggested changes indicated in red. John said the idea as proposed by many parents was to increase participation and took into consideration previous concerns about the undue influence of parents that could show up for only one meeting rather than giving input as active members. The other issue under consideration for change was to coordinate the LMBA Board member terms with the fiscal and school year while being mindful that the current terms were meant to help provide continuity from school year to school year. All changes need to be passed with a 2/3rds majority by those in attendance. Discussion of changes included: Sheri asked why the president in Article II 2. (a) has always had the power to appoint chairpersons? John said it is just a formality since it still needs a majority vote by the Board. Laura added that Co-Chairs are a good thing. Sheri said in Article III Membership

1. that Winterguard should be added - John agreed and said he would make the change. Sheri asked in III 7. (b) if the requirement that notice be given through the Middle Schools to families of the Annual Membership meeting is a reliable expectation? Laura said she has many ideas for By-Law review but for the benefit of moving forward we should probably approve the changes we have and then just resolve to review and update the By-Laws often. John concluded by saying that these proposed changes mean that we need elections next month. Cathy should put an announcement in the newsletter even though it will be short notice. John moved and Betsey seconded that the Board adopt the change in By-Laws as presented. The motion passes with unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Online Sign-up Information

- Scrip Sign-ups online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)
- BD Mongolian tickets [www.libertygrillers.com](http://www.libertygrillers.com)

John motioned and Seth seconded for adjournment of the meeting at 9:29pm. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Next Meeting

Will be Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary