

Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

Meeting minutes- June 9, 2009

President – John Scherer

Vice President - Seth Joseph

Treasurer – Sheri Burke

Secretary - Betsey Farquhar-Bradish

Member at Large - Cathy Epervary

Present: Laura Sams, Donna Roach, Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, John Scherer, Sheri Burke, Earl Burke, Jill Bixler, Lori Parfenchuk, Denise Lahrman, Laurie Parsons, Martha von Hillebrandt, Liz Shires, Judy Vires, Melissa Wilson, Angie Anderson, Cristal Lee, Michelle Fought, Doug ONeal, Travis Hicks, Seth Joseph

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

Directors' Report

Travis reported that drumline auditions have been complete and practices have begun. Guard auditions have also been completed with 14-15 members. The field commander will be Rachel Parfenchuk and assistant will be Hannah Meixner. Winterguard and drumline had their end of the year picnics. Jackie Foreman, from Thomas Worthington, will be the front ensemble tech and we have seen great improvement in our students already. She will be in Europe for 2 weeks but will return for drumline camp. A director for HMS has been hired and will be announced as soon as it has been approved by the BOE. Plans are for this person to join Aaron in teching for LHS, assisting during the school day with Jazz band, etc. Travis will also be visiting HMS as he is LMS. Of the 8 possible incoming freshman from HMS we have 7 committed to band at this time. Travis is still checking on numbers from LMS and should get ~25. We also have a couple students rejoining that had to quit last year due to schedule problems. We had ~13 seniors last year. Although most students indicated their interest we only have one parent that has expressed interest in helping to plan our trip. Travis is still putting in for schedule approval with the BOE. Volunteers need TB tests, BCI fingerprinting, safety classes, etc. A couple parents at tonight's meeting indicated their interest. LMS total band students looks to be ~75.

Jill reported that strings graduated 10 seniors and had its first ever awards banquet. It featured chamber music and was well attended. It looks as though we will be getting 3 freshmen from HMS and ~10 from LMS, last year we had 9 so our total numbers should stay about the same. 4 students have come back after having to drop in 8th grade due to schedule problems.

Doug reported that the fall retreat will be Saturday, September 19th. Income received was \$400 in donations. Check requests include: \$142.00 for female vocal tech Amy Ruff, \$46.80 reimbursement to Doug for awards, \$400.00 for Musicol concert recording, \$76.74 reimbursement to Doug for concert supplies, \$40.00 for accompanist Jennifer Hicks, and \$65.00 for La Comedia retreat deposit. There will still be a check request for senior awards for all three programs but the vendor has still not sent the bill after contacts in the last 3 weeks. Choirs got straight 1's at State competition except Men's Chorus that missed by one judge because he gave them a 2 in sight reading. The pop concert went well with 'beat boxing' a notable new trend. We are losing ~35 great seniors this year. Chorale will be the ~same size with a total of ~180.

Reports

Active Members

Betsey circulated the report of active and attending members (see separate report) as well as reminding everyone to sign-in.

Minutes/Secretary Report

Minutes from the May 2009 meeting were reviewed by all in attendance. No corrections were requested. John motioned and Sheri seconded approval of the report. The motion carried by unanimous voice approval of the voting members present.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by all in attendance. Betsey added that total income for spring concessions was ~\$4650 and expenses were \$1789.79 yielding a net income of ~\$2850. John motioned and Sheri seconded approval of the report. The motion carried by unanimous voice approval of the voting members present.

Winterguard and Drumline

John reported that Winterguard had no changes from last month and have ~\$400 in their account to begin next year. Denise reported that Drumline received the \$1K check from Chase to add to the \$ raised from coupon, donut, etc sales for a total income of ~\$23K and an expenditure of ~\$21K allowing repayment of ~\$1500 to LMBA.

Scrip and Kroger

John reported that we continue to have only ~3 individuals regularly participating in Scrip but a couple have accumulated quite a bit of credit for their student(s). He will send information out via the website, etc on how we can now sign-up for the new Kroger Community Rewards program

Fundraising

Discussed under New Business

Important Dates (per meeting Agenda)

- John proposed that we move the meetings to the 3rd Tuesday to avoid conflicts with the BOE meetings, to allow more time by board and other members for preparation, and in hopes of increased attendance. Michelle seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous voice approval of the voting members present. Next LMBA meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday: July 21st at 7:30pm

Old Business per meeting agenda - meeting discussion

- Truck rental repayment status - stands at ~\$500. John is still looking into this.
- Pride Day (Spring Pride Day cancelled (due to storm)), alternative summer date(s) - John said we have volunteers for small groups and he's trying to clear this with Raiff but there is concern about clear communication with the community. Laura said she will look into how a sign could be placed at the 4 corners in downtown Powell.
- Paver update - Seth reported that he has gotten calls of interest ☺, is working with Mark Marinelli, still hasn't got the final design but it will be on the west courtyard, will be using Mr. Mulch and should begin the 3rd week of July.

New Business

- LMBA Scholarships - John said in attending the LHS senior awards he noticed that athletics have many awards but music/performing arts have none. He proposes that we investigate setting up LMBA Scholarships for \$500 each to one male and one female from each graduating class but we need a selection, etc process to be in place first. Seth said he really likes the idea and thinks we should begin with the class of 2009. Liz said in the school district she came from student applications were taken and the name was removed before the selection committee saw them. John said there were many good ideas and that he would like to recognize 2009 students but the opportunity to do that in front of their peers has passed and there are many options to consider such as whether the one male one female award is best versus an award to a student from each program, etc. Michelle said members on the committee shouldn't have a senior. Liz, Lori Parsons, and Denise volunteered. John said he would help with contacting Mr. Raiff. Jill said the Guidance Office will need to know too so that they can add it to awards available. Doug said he will work on getting other music scholarships' availability made known as well. John then said as there appeared to currently be two schools of thought that have been proposed to him regarding this initiative and that one is we begin with this year's class of 2009 and the other is to wait and begin with 2010. He put them to a vote and the great majority of voting members present indicated that they prefer 2010.
- Approval of drumhead expense - Travis said this would now come out of LHS's next year's budget. John said although he didn't think these items should have to be voted on by line item out of an already approved budget, he moved we approve them and Donna seconded. The motion carried with unanimous voice approval of the voting members present.

- Approval of final 2008/2009 drumline funding -John said that the \$3K moved from the band budget to drumline was based on an assumption of fundraising that fell ~\$1.5K short and Denise added that there was also \$500 in financial aid. John moved and Liz seconded the motion that this expenditure be allowed as part of the band budget. The motion carried with majority voice of approval of the voting members present.
- Approval of 2009/2010 Directors' budget (see separate report) - Copies of the proposed report were given to all in attendance. ? (new meeting attendee) asked what the monies are currently being spent on. Doug said that directors submit a budget to the school which invariably gets cut which is the staffing and other items that add sparkle to our programs such as a piano accompanist for choir, a sectional coach for orchestra, marching band show props, etc. Jill said she would like \$3K as choir is budgeted for her retreat. Martha asked why so much of the budget is devoted towards the band when orchestra needs staff as well. Travis said that the band budget represents not only concert bands with solo and ensembles but also the very expensive marching band that needs choreographers for both instrumental and guard, etc. He said band staff work many hours for their compensation and the hourly rate would be very, very low not to mention all the Friday nights, all day Saturdays, etc that are required. Betsey said that if we could maintain the level of participation as we have this evening we could raise more \$ and then it could be available for the increases desired. ? (new meeting attendee) asked why so much more of the OHS budget is devoted to choir. Doug responded that a large portion of that is for the Key Notes performance group that requires a large budget. Jill said she is working on a district orchestra festival but getting an open date is proving difficult so it will probably come to LMBA in the 2010-2011 school year. During the ongoing discussion of our history of funding programs and fundraising, Judy and Michelle said they want LMBA to truly be for all the music students but we have had hard time getting much parent participation especially from the orchestra. ? (new meeting attendee) said that the orchestra students have really developed a great respect for Mrs. Bixler especially after doing so well at contest but that it was embarrassing to see our kids not have uniforms like the other schools. Jill said this is her third district to teach in and there always seems to be a Catch 22 of attracting volunteers because they don't see the \$ going to their student but then without volunteers there isn't \$ to go to their students. John said our budget is conservative at this time based on projected fundraising this coming year but we hope it will be greater and that we can revisit increasing expenditures. He also noted that we can't increase the orchestra budget that was at ~zero to ~\$15K without taking it from the other programs that have been counting on similar support we've given them in the past. Laura asked how the band and choir will function with the budget given since it is significantly reduced from the original request. Travis said things will be tight. ? (new meeting attendee) said historical spending/budgeting shouldn't be the basis of this budget because all programs have more subgroups for the students' benefit but there hasn't been any increase in funding. Lori Parfenchuk said the bottom line is that we need more \$ coming in to LMBA. John moved and Lori Parfenchuk seconded that the LMBA Directors' budget be approved and that band budget be "bucketed" such that expenditures for winterlines could be moved from the band budget and vice versa without additional vote approval noting that line item detail should still be given as much as possible for accountability to the parents. The motion carried by unanimous voice approval of all voting members present. Laura said she thought it would be helpful to document amortization of uniforms, etc or use other big ticket items as incentives in fundraising. Doug said in the past LMBA hasn't had to pay for uniforms or instruments because the first purchases were covered by the district but going forward this will probably have to be an LMBA expense.
- Discussion: LMBA Family fee - John said that we should consider a fee of \$50-\$100 through the school towards LMBA which would raise \$20-30K and could be "worked off" through volunteering i.e., 2 times in the concession stand. This action would need a formal letter and discussion with Mr. Raiff. Liz asked if these fees would go toward the program(s) in which the student participates or the LMBA general fund and if the family chose to "work off" their fee would that decrease the amount credited to their child's program? John said he envisioned the fee going into the LMBA general fund. Betsey said that although she would support the concept of a fee she is concerned about families feeling as though they are paying to opt out of volunteering which would create a great problem if we didn't get enough volunteers for i.e., concessions. She said that volunteering is important not just for fundraising but for community building and things like concessions are an important community service that LMBA provides. ? (new meeting attendee) asked how we can really insist on collecting a fee. Other comments were that the LHS Athletic Boosters tell all their families that they expect a \$100 contribution. ? (new meeting attendee) said she thinks the fee will

result in a loss of participation. ? (new meeting attendee) said that \$100 is a lot of money for many families and that if we assess any amount it should be \$50 or less.

- Car wash - John said he would be coordinating with Laura on Drumline fundraising car washes for June, July and August.
- other - ? (new meeting attendee) asked to be added to the email list to receive meeting minutes. John said approved minutes are posted online but signing the attendance sheet and providing your email address would result in receiving them via email as well. He added that in addition to directors sending email communication to their students' families about LMBA we need lead parents from each program to attend concerts, etc and purposefully help with communication.
- other - Fundraising - Liz said that her church youth group had a fundraiser through Amazon to advertise their website. Jeremy Jorgenson (drumline tech that joined the meeting toward the end) said that this could be done through Google Ad Sense as well. Seth said a friend of his raised ~\$4500 for their elementary school through Avon in one weekend. Laura said she will be hosting a Pampered Chef party on June 25th as a drumline fundraiser.

Online Sign-up Information

- Scrip Sign-ups online at www.shopwithscrip.com

John motioned and Liz seconded for adjournment of the meeting at 9:20pm. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Next Meeting

Will be Tuesday, July 21st at 7:30pm in the LHS choir room.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary