

Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

Meeting minutes- September 15, 2009

President - John Scherer Vice President - Seth Joseph

Treasurer - Gary Bell Secretary - Betsey Farquhar-Bradish

Member at Large - Cathy Epervary

Present: Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, Heidi Hamilton, Earl Burke, Laurie Parsons, Lisa DeLeon, Michael Luers, Gary Bell, Doug O'Neal, Cathy Epervary, Michelle C. Fought, Becky Shatto, Cindy Paul, Cyndi Singery, Lori Parfenchuk, Cristal Lee, John Scherer, Seth Joseph, Belinda Simile, Dan Simile, Angie Hurd, Laura Sams, Judy Vires, Liz Shires, Nancy Passarella, Patrick Passarella, Erin Wahl, Brad Wahl, Donna Roach, Martha vonHillebrandt (not on sign-in sheet but also in attendance: Mark Raiff, Jill Bixler and Stephanie Marxen)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by John.

Following self introductions by all in attendance, Mr. Raiff addressed the group saying that he is also a music parent at OHS. The Olentangy District tries to provide for the needs and wants of the music programs as it can but the Boosters are essential for much of the wants. He said that we appreciate you and the open lines of communication through the Directors. All of this supports the District's core values of academic, athletic and artistic excellence in a quality environment. Performing arts are huge and life changing for individual students. Today LHS received recognition as one of 260 Blue Ribbon schools in the country. LHS has been rated as superior 5 years in a row by the Ohio Department of Education. This, along with a 30 page application, made the Blue Ribbon recognition possible. This recognition is a tremendous way to honor students, staff and the community.

Directors' Report

Doug reported that the ~60 Chorale students are excited about their upcoming retreat to Dayton where they will attend a class at Wright State taught by Choral Director Drew Collins, attend the show Technicolor Dream Coat, and sing for the first time as a group publicly at Holy Trinity church in the Oregon District where he has learned that one of the student's parents happened to be married ☺

Jill reported that women's uniforms will be in in ~2 weeks. She is promoting LMBA activities such as Pride Day and working on a fundraiser for the trip in February where students will attend 2 clinics, one with a Director at Case Western Reserve University. The first Strings concert will be October 21st.

John reported for Travis that went home sick. At the recent Licking Heights competition the band earned a rating of 2 just missing a 1 (and thereby qualifying for States) by half a point as well as coming within 1.5 points from that of Grand Champion. The Guard earned Grand Champion out of 6 participants and the parents earned us the Spirit Award.

Reports

Active Members

Betsey circulated the report of active and attending members (see separate report) as well as reminding everyone to sign-in. John said he wanted to make clear that active membership requires attendance of 3 out of the last 6 meetings and it is therefore important to sign-in.

Minutes/Secretary Report

Minutes from the July 2009 meeting were reviewed by all in attendance per review of all active members via email. Betsey apologized for the wonderful problem of not having enough copies for each person due to the outstanding turn out and she requested that those in the same household share a copy. John motioned and Cathy seconded approval of the report as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous voice approval of the voting members present.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of a treasurer, John said there was still no report but we will catch up next month and he supplied a report of all bank transactions with a reconciliation for expenditures.

Winterguard and Drumline

John reported that Denise couldn't be here to present the Drumline budget but there was little activity which included 2 deposits of ~\$250 for the car wash and ~\$800 for the Pride Day. Donna said there was nothing to report for the Winterguard.

Scrip and Kroger

John reported that there is ~\$500 in the Scrip account.

Fundraising Plan Update

John asked for the report from Fundraising chairs Laura & Michelle adding that they are happy to take help from others. Laura said that since she began her involvement in January she's been looking for ways of growing our group and reaching out to the community, i.e., at the Frosh Fest involving the Principal, Athletic Director, etc. She would like to see us growing resource with fundraising becoming just one of our focuses. She and Michelle are working on a Grapes and Grains fundraiser with beer and wine tasting at Kinsdale on December 3rd. She is beginning the Fruit Fundraiser October 5th and will collect orders after 2 weeks with delivery expected the first week of December. Volunteers are needed for unloading, tracking sales, etc. Seth said we all should be talking this up to everyone we know and perhaps post it on our website. Name? said our website still lists the LMBA meeting time as 7:30 (since fixed) and doesn't have the concession sign-up link - can only find it on the band website. Laura continued that she and Michelle are still working on a fundraiser at Noodles Inc. restaurant. The manager wants student performers. Michelle added that Noodles will give us 25% of sales as they did with the Athletic Boosters. They will need ~3 weeks lead for advertising, etc.

Seth reported that the OSU recliner raffle at home varsity football games will conclude at the half of the last game on October 30th. We would like to pull the chair around the track but we need more parent help. Cristal commented that it was somewhat difficult to find the chair and raffle ticket sales at the game. Cindy asked if the chair could be displayed at school. Seth said he has to be careful about keeping the chair clean. He said we do need more promotion and he is working on a flyer to include ticket prices of one for \$5 or three for \$10; feedback on this has been positive. The wrestling boosters want to do a raffle like this during their tournament.

Seth reported on the pavers. Name? asked if anyone can buy a paver? Seth replied, "yes, just like anyone can buy a paver from the Athletic Boosters." Doug added that they can be found on the Athletic Booster website. Lori asked about the cost of the pavers. John said this was listed in last month's meeting minutes. Seth said the target for the kickoff will be at Homecoming on October 16th. John asked if flyers will be ready? Seth said, "yes." Martha asked if this has all been approved with the District? Seth said, "yes." Cathy said she will add information about this in the next LMBA newsletter as soon as she sees that the last one she submitted for distribution via the list serve is sent. Seth said we will need parent and student labor along with help from our vendor Mr. Mulch. He still is working on including benches. Name? asked how much we are targeting to raise with the project? Seth and others replied that there is no set amount, just as much as possible. Judy added that we need funding sources especially since there will only be 3 home varsity football games next year for us to make \$ on those large concessions.

Seth introduced Stephanie Marxen who will do our Avon fundraiser that will benefit individual student trip accounts. Stephanie is a parent of twins that participated in Chorale and graduated from LHS last year. She explained that this fundraiser is flexible so that we can target categories like holiday items, bath items, naturals, etc. She noted that the bath items are less expensive than like competitors such as Bath and Body Works. There is a guaranteed profit of 40% and turn around of 2 weeks. If the group earns \geq \$5K there will be an additional 5% given in profit. She will do all the work in tracking sales by student, etc and work with a LMBA member for audit purposes. She brought a brochure of the categories available for sale as well as a sample booklet of regular catalogue items that students may also sell for a 20% profit. Laura asked how we decide which category we should

select? Stephanie said that was up to us but that she would not recommend perfume or make up because it competes with the other items in the regular catalogue. She also said that we can repeat this fundraiser with other categories. Name? asked if this was a door-to-door sales campaign? Stephanie said yes but students should also focus on the networks of people they know. Name? asked if all music students will be able to participate. John said yes it can go into any LHS music student's individual trip fund. Name? asked how the orders will be delivered. Stephanie said she would have one evening for students to pick-up their orders at the school and then deliver them to their customers. Seth said he has known Stephanie for over 12 years and she will do a great job. He also said that this is something that will be very useful to our students as his son raised the total cost of his choir trip through fundraising last year.

Scholarship Committee

John explained to new meeting attendees that we have begun a Scholarship Committee to emulate those like the Athletic Boosters, etc. Liz reported that she has no report because Denise has the material gathered so far and she was unable to make the meeting this evening.

Important Dates (per meeting Agenda)

- Next LMBA meeting: October 20th at 7PM

Old Business per meeting agenda - meeting discussion

- Florida trip update - John asked Lori if she had an updated number of students signed-up to go? She said it was ~40 and there was \$3700 in the bank. John said \$2K of that would need to be returned to LMBA as it was a lone to set the reservation. Martha asked if there was a minimum number of students needed? Lori said no. John said that the maximum cost of ~\$900 was with the ~40 students committed but wondered if that would go up if students backed out. He said we need to determine now who if firmly committed so that we can cancel the trip if need be and get back everyone's deposit. Betsey said that in last month's meeting minutes Travis said there was no minimum number and even though instrumentation (representation of instrument groups) may be a concern the band wouldn't have to worry as much since we are not participating in any type of competition.

- Pride Day - Cathy said she has posted all the routes in the hallways for students to sign-up but only <1/2 the kids have signed up in groups of 4/route. Doug said the directors have been dismissing students ~5 minutes early to give them time to do this but they have often chosen to talk instead. He showed us a pile of excuses he has received. Jill said ~1/3 of her students are participating with some having a conflict with a Cross Country meet and other families simply refusing. John said this is a necessary fundraiser because it can yield us ~\$4.6K. Erin said in her former school district they took the band truck out and the kids played in the street and solicited donations from people coming out to hear the music, which made it fun as well; but they have since quit doing any type of Pride Day. Judy said drivers often treat their students to a milkshake, etc at the end of the route.

New Business

- Introduction of new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer - John announced that the Board voted a couple of weeks ago to appoint Gary Bell as the new Treasurer and to make a motion to create an Assistant Treasurer position for Mike Luers. John said Gary has a lot of experience with treasury for volunteer groups, most notably Boy Scouts. His wife is the cub master of Troop 428. Gary and his wife also just started a nonprofit for academic chess. Mike has 17 years of accounting experience with the State in non-for-profits. John said it was great to have them both and they have already been working hard. He said he would be making a motion at the next meeting to modify the bylaws so that Mike could be appointed Assistant Treasurer. Michelle said we really need a by-law committee because they have not been thoroughly reviewed other than the tweek in July. Michelle and Liz volunteered to head this committee. John said that would be good going forward but he wants to move forward next month with the Assistant Treasurer position. In the meantime Gary can appoint people like Mike on an ad hoc basis to help with disbursements. Name? asked if the board will just appoint the Assistant Treasurer. John said no because the change necessary to the by-laws require a vote all the members attending the next meeting. Liz asked if it would be a problem to create a 6th board position in cases where a tie needs to be broken? John said this isn't really so much an issue now that all the active members have voting rights except where trustees are appointed and in that case we would probably be working from a position of 5 in filling the 6th vacant position. Cathy said this hasn't been an issue before because this is the first time we've had more than 5 people willing to be on the board.

•Raffle with athletics - John said Athletic Boosters sells raffle tickets at 10 for \$10 and raises ~\$16K with a cash prize of ~\$750. He is working with Mr. Raiff to see if we can participate in this and thereby avoid having to do Pride Day. Dan asked what if students can't sell their allotted number of tickets? Wouldn't this then be pay-to-play? Because now his child has to do this for sports already. John said he assumed this would be the case because it otherwise leaves a handful of parents to do all the fundraising. Cristal said that \$100 or even \$10 is a lot of money to some families. Name? added that the financial requirements in athletics is now trickling to the middle school level as well. Laura said she has a friend in Toledo in a school where the district sets a limit on the total financial contribution any family has to make independent of the number of activities their children participate in. She discussed with Mr. Gerhardt recently the idea that Catholic schools often do raffles, etc to raise funds. Erin said we could do fundraising at community festivals because it would be good to see the kids more involved in fundraising. Betsey said Drumline did this at the Holidays in Powell the year before last but last year they were refused participation. Cathy said she has been trying to work on getting groups of our students to perform at the Powell amphitheater in combination with food sales, etc. especially at the end of the summer where we could also attract young children for recruitment into music programs. Judy said we still need volunteers for this Saturday from 9:45am to 2:45pm for concessions at the JV football and soccer games. Liz suggested that we use the Amazon link on all our music program websites. John said we can do it on the Booster site but not the official school sites. Doug said he can send email reminders to his students' families to go to the Booster site.

Online Sign-up Information

- Scrip Sign-ups online at www.shopwithscrip.com
- Volunteer for concessions at www.libertyconcessions.com

John motioned and Betsey seconded for adjournment of the meeting at ~8:30pm. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Next Meeting

Will be Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00pm in the LHS choir room.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary