

Liberty Music Boosters (LMBA)

Meeting minutes- January 19, 2010

President – John Scherer

Vice President - Seth Joseph

Treasurer – Gary Bell

Secretary - Betsey Farquhar-Bradish

Member at Large - Cathy Epervary

Present: Ray Baker, Jane Bell, Earl Burke, Cathy Epervary, Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, Michelle C. Fought, Denise Lahrman, Cristal Lee, Lori Parfenchuck, John Scherer, Liz Shires, Judy Vires, Martha von Hillebrandt.

Directors: Doug O'Neal

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Seth.

Directors' Report

Doug reported that student participation in solo and ensemble contests is up this year, possibly due to the effect of these students having had the opportunity available to them in middle school and there being no Winter Show schedule conflicts. Martha shared on behalf of her daughter and other students their appreciation to the Boosters for making the strings lesson by the professor from Otterbein available.

Before winter break, Liberty Belles, Sounds of Liberty, and Men's Chorus went to Scioto Ridge and Liberty Tree Elementary schools where they were very well received. The participating LHS students paid \$10 each for lunch; thanks to the Boosters for covering the difference between the meals and actual cost with tip, etc. The Holiday concert was a great success. Thank you to Jill Bixler and the Chamber group for performing with us! There have been many requests for the choir to reciprocate at an Orchestra concert.

14 OLHS choir students participated in an event with "singing buddies" at LTES. This was a great success and we hope to inspire other schools to do the same (and hopefully start more elementary choirs:).

Performing Arts Directors' budgets are due to Mr. Raiff by February 12th. The building wide budget has not been determined yet.

Reports

Active Members

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

Minutes/Secretary Report

Minutes from the December 2009 meeting were reviewed by all in attendance and per review of all active members via email. Martha 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

The December 2009 report was reviewed by all in attendance. Gary reported that the Band Camp fees have been paid and we incurred no interest penalty because Ohio Northern University agreed that the delay was due to their billing error. \$800 did need to be moved to other band line items since the final cost came in under budget. Band has ~\$4K left, Middle Schools have not requested any funds, Spring concessions and Pride Day will be providing additional income this year. John motioned and Cathy seconded approval of the report as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous voice approval of the voting members present.

Winterguard and Drumline

In Donna's absence, John reported that Winterguard paid over \$700 in WGI entrance fees before realizing LHS would not have a Winterguard this year. WGI has maintained their position that all fees are non-refundable. Discussion included ways to recover the cost including Mr. Hicks requesting a credit for next year. John reported that Winterguard now has \$900 in their account to use for next year.

Denise reported that the Drumline account is busy now with member participation fees coming in, etc. LMBA has agreed to pay half the fees for 3 students qualifying for financial assistance. The Tuttle Mall gift wrapping fundraiser brought in \$315 and the Drum-a-thon \$400 for the general fund.

Scrip and Kroger

John reported \$45 was earned in December by participants.

Fundraising Plan Update

Michelle reported that there will be another Wendy's Burger Bash fundraiser, Tuesday, January 26, from 5 to 7pm with 20% of all sales going to Drumline and no coupons are necessary. Advertising will go out on the LHS and middle schools' list serves. We have already received our fundraising check from the last Burger Bash in November. Denise suggested a book swap as a fundraiser which she has seen be very successful at her church.

Pavers & Avon

No report.

Scholarship Committee

Liz & Denise shared a copy of the Guidelines with all in attendance with no changes from those shared last at the November meeting. Liz motioned and Cathy seconded approval of the Guidelines as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous voice

approval of the voting members present.

Bylaw Committee (Liz/Michelle/Belinda)

John reported that he has received a draft of the Committee recommendations and he will first route those to the board members for review and comment before presenting at next month's meeting.

Important Dates (per meeting Agenda)

- Next LMBA meeting: February 16th at 7PM

Old Business per meeting agenda - meeting discussion

- Raffle with athletics - John & Gary met with Mr. Gerhardt and discussed tentative plans for LMBA to join with LAB (Liberty Athletic Boosters) in this fundraiser with the hope that like LAB did, this can replace our Pride Days fundraiser. Some ideas discussed were for a set number of ticket sales to be assigned to students and/or for rotating music program groups to be responsible for sales at targeted events. Betsey said with the reduction of home football games next year to 3 we may need to keep Pride Day (John said Mr. Gerhardt said we WOULD have 5 home games next year). Martha suggested incentives for top selling students. Denise suggested a pizza party or similar type of incentive for Pride Day participants. Cathy agreed to be in charge of routes for Spring.
- School board's "Adjusting Elementary Strings Program" - Betsey reported that she and Martha were again the only Arts In Our Schools/SOS (Save Our Strings website <http://saveolentangystrings.org/>) attendees at the last Olentangy BOE (Board of Education) meeting. She shared with all in attendance a hard copy of the text of the last email to those who have joined this LMBA Arts in Our Schools/SOS Taskforce subcommittee. Thanks to Laura Sams for providing an inspirational and informational website (<http://www.supportmusic.com/>) with many other related links and a story of one school's success story in saving their strings program! Betsey asked those in attendance that did not receive this email to give her their email address if they wished to be included (as several did).

The status of the action items agreed upon from December:

1. Encourage attendance at BOE meetings (the next one is January 13th) identifying ourselves with shirts, buttons, etc. - see statement above.
2. Send a representative to the Elementary PTO Presidents' meeting to inform and elicit support - we are unable to get a date, time and location of this meeting. There appears to be resistance from the chair in fear of our opposition to District Administrative/BOE policy regarding the intended changes to the strings program. Betsey discussed and emphasized that our intent is to inform elementary school PTO presidents and in turn parents of our concern about negative impacts to the string program such as participation and quality. Our approach will definitely be one of respect for Administrators and the Board. Our hope is to simply raise awareness and support for Arts in Our Schools and in particular at this time, the Strings Program.
3. Be sure to post the Save Our Strings website link on our website. - done (thanks John)
4. Draft a Press Release (with a Photo Op) that we are searching for a BOE member that will be our advocate for the Arts. Kelley suggested that events such as *Jeff's Jam* in Delaware are good places to solicit support. - in light of the low participation (see #1 above) this action is tabled at this time.

There was further discussion, including what to do with the hundreds of petition signatures that Martha and others have collected on behalf of SOS. The concern was that there needs to be a significant number of individuals and support in attendance when we make a formal presentation of the petition to the BOE.

New action items agreed upon before next month's meeting were:

1. Betsey will make contact with Jim Hofstetter of SOS to coordinate further. Discussions will include plans for the petition presentation.
2. Updates to those who have joined this LMBA Arts In Our Schools/SOS Task Force subcommittee will be provided via email before the next LMBA meeting.

New Business

OIAP * OLHS Hosting Saturday, January 23, 2010 - there was lengthy discussion about the late notice for parent volunteer requests and opportunities lost for fundraising.

Online Sign-up Information

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

Earl motioned and Ray seconded for adjournment of the meeting at 9:10pm. The motion was carried by unanimous voice approval with no objection.

Next Meeting Will be Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00pm in the LHS choir room. -Respectfully submitted by Betsey Farquhar-Bradish, LMBA Secretary