

## **Orchestra Parents Association Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

PRESENT: Amy Bade, Will Burck, Robin Chimniak, Jeanne Cordes, Helen Damore, Lisa Gruman, Tracy Nash, Claudia Schmidt, Wendy Watkins

- 1) Meeting called to order by Claudia Schmidt at 7:30 p.m.
  - i) Reviewed past meeting minutes of 1/13/15
  - ii) Lisa Gruman made motion to approve minutes
  - iii) Jeanne Cordes seconded the motion
  - iv) Vote taken and passed unanimously
- 2) Music supplies drive
  - i) Reviewed e-mail sent by Nancy Vickers explaining Fox Valley El Sistema
  - ii) Reviewed list of items needed by the organization
    - (a) Gently used instruments
    - (b) Strings
    - (c) Woodwinds
    - (d) Rosin
  - iii) Needs could be fulfilled by music families' responses to e-mail outreach by OPA board
    - (a) E-mails sent to orchestra, band and choir parents
    - (b) E-mails sent to student exec
  - iv) Needs could be fulfilled through a collection box
  - v) Will Burck provided insight into organization
    - (a) El Sistema, organization originated in Venezuela
    - (b) Great support program for building music education and performance
  - vi) Will Burck provided a summary of needs within our own music program
    - (a) WVHS music program is also struggling due to budget cuts
    - (b) Orchestra and band program now starting in sixth grade rather than fifth due to budget cuts
    - (c) Suggestion made to approach Fischer teachers with the donation idea
    - (d) Inquire into needs at the middle school level
    - (e) Donate used music books, etc., to Fischer students struggling to stay in the program
    - (f) Provide support to students struggling to pay for rentals or those who have free instruments but can't graduate to a larger-size instrument on the current program
    - (g) Used instruments can be donated through MEAC
    - (h) These instrument donations are possible tax credits
  - vii) Claudia Schmidt suggested supporting our own music community before going outside
- 3) Director's report
  - i) Electrical outlet has been installed above orchestra room TV that was purchased and installed last year
  - ii) Orchestra room to be painted over spring break
  - iii) Thursday night varsity concert at Wentz Hall, Free
  - iv) Friday, March 29, Concert, Wentz Hall, tickets available for \$25 at [tickets.noctrl.edu](http://tickets.noctrl.edu)
  - v) Sponsored by Indian Prairie Educational Foundation
  - vi) Tuesday, March 10 concert

- (a) Concert strings, concert orchestra, symphonic orchestra, and symphonic strings perform
    - (b) Reception to follow concert
    - (c) All families requested to bring edibles for reception
  - vii) Discussion of testing and how it affects orchestra rehearsals
  - viii) Solo & ensemble
    - (a) WVHS hired judges
    - (b) WVHS did all the scheduling
    - (c) Overall, event was a success
    - (d) Mark Duker sent thank-you note to OPA regarding solo & ensemble event
    - (e) Thank you note was read during the meeting
  - ix) Italy trip
    - (a) Fast approaching, during spring break
    - (b) Italy orchestra is coming together
  - x) Discussion had regarding model of the new music program resulting from budget cuts
    - (a) Best use of time
    - (b) Prelude held in fifth grade to introduce music program
      - 1. Each student got to try every instrument
      - 2. New format will hopefully bring more students into the music program
  - xi) Claudia Schmidt introduced discussion regarding publication of Wentz Hall concert
    - (a) Why isn't it published more widely?
    - (b) How can we publish the concert beyond the boundaries of our school?
    - (c) Will Burck discussed Mark Duker's efforts to publicize
    - (d) Lisa Gruman commented agreement, music events need to be more widely publicized
    - (e) Amy Bade pointed out PTA has larger reach, to the whole community, while band, orchestra, choir only reach to their own smaller communities
    - (f) Will Burck informed that orchestra admin is working with PTA to help with advertising events
      - (i) Concert notices are uploaded to general announcements
      - (ii) Someone outside the music department decides what should be publicized from all notices
    - (g) Lisa Gruman commented Metea and Neuqua include music activities in daily announcements, while our music announcements wait until Friday.
- 4) Committee updates
- i) Pops Concert, theme will be announced next week during the concert
  - ii) Banquet-Helen Damore
    - (a) Banquet date, Sunday, May 17, 2015
    - (b) Date confirmed with restaurant for food delivery
    - (c) Invitation was reviewed
      - (i) Discussion of student awards listed in the invitation letter
      - (ii) Discussion of offering an option to come for presentation only and not for dinner initiated by Jeanne Cordes
      - (iii) Option offered to people with other events on the same day

- (iv) Further discussion over possible options to offer for banquet attendance
      - (v) General consensus favors keeping the status quo
    - (d) Pricing based on break-even price point
    - (e) Will Burck confirmed Eola Center is reserved for the date
  - iii) Apparel update- Jeanne Cordes
    - (a) General consensus is not to do a spring apparel sale
    - (b) Discussion of planning for a fall sale immediately upon start of school
  - iv) Puffins fundraiser final totals wrap-up
    - (a) 213 units sold at a total profit of \$1,171.50 to OPA
    - (b) \$1,011.75 went into student accounts
    - (c) OPA realized \$159.75 in profits
    - (d) Pick-up was easy
  - v) Fundraisers for next year
    - (a) Possible repeats
    - (b) Possible popcorn fundraiser
- 5) Treasurer's report-Lisa Gruman
  - i) Approximately \$19,000 in OPA account
  - ii) \$3,300 in student accounts.
- 6) Student exec
  - i) Hasn't had a recent meeting
  - ii) Still have chocolate bars to sell, which will be brought up at next meeting
- 7) Shutterfly account
  - i) Initial informative e-mail was sent out to all parents
  - ii) Update e-mails are sent out by Shutterfly informing of new pictures
  - iii) Pictures cannot be edited once they are uploaded
  - iv) Editing must be done before you share
- 8) New business
  - i) Discussion of officers for next year
    - (a) Claudia Schmidt volunteered she and Nancy Vickers would begin nominating committee
    - (b) Committee will need a chairperson
    - (c) Looking for volunteer to be chairperson
    - (d) Descriptions of officer positions will be created by committee
  - ii) Music Education Association awards
    - (a) Publicized in e-mail of District 204 news
    - (b) Winners, Michael Baker (band) and Josh Iyer (orchestra)
    - (c) Discussion of recognition for these awards
      1. Will Burck described the process of getting to the winner's platform
      2. One of Josh Iyer's compositions will be played at the concert Tuesday, 3/10
      3. Symphonic strings has given him feedback on his piece
  - iii) Claudia Schmidt raised discussion of decal sales
    - (a) Band sells decals
    - (b) Possibility of fall fundraiser; rosin, t-shirt, decal combined as a packaged offer
  - iv) Claudia Schmidt raised discussion of pillow project for seniors

- (a) 33 t-shirts left, small sizes
  - (b) 33 seniors
  - (c) Do we have manpower to make pillows from leftover t-shirts for outgoing seniors?
- v) Will Burck discussed rehabbing of worn instrument cases
  - (a) Replace worn-out Velcro
  - (b) Fix worn interiors
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by Claudia Schmidt