

Minutes of the SME Orchestra Boosters Meeting

November 4, 2014 - 7 p.m.

Officers Present:

Amy Wulfemeyer – President
Karen Armstrong – President Elect
Diane Levin – Secretary
Janet Monday – Membership
Heidi Bennion – Fundraising
Vicki Sharp - Treasurer

Not Present:

Director Present:

Jonathan Lane

1) Review and Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2014 Meeting (Amy Wulfemeyer)

- Amy asked members present if there were any questions or comments on the minutes from the September 5th meeting, noting that minutes were made available by email and on the website. There were no comments or questions.
- Amy then requested a motion and a second to accept those minutes.
- Motion was made and seconded and minutes were approved.

2) Update from Orchestra Director (Jonathan Lane)

- Mr. Lane said students are busy preparing for district auditions which take place November 15th – location information will be coming from Mr. Lane.
- The woodwinds are beginning to join the orchestra now.
- Clinicians will be joining the 1st hour students on Wednesday November 5th to work with them on district pieces and what to expect at auditions.
- Orchestra students will be taking their field trip to the KC Symphony on November 21st. (More information follows in agenda item 6.)

3) Treasurer's Report (Vicki Sharp)

- Treasurer presented a review of Booster expenses school year to date. Most expenditures have yet to occur for the year.
- Amy commented that, for the full year, the Orchestra Boosters are in very good shape financially. This is attributed to great support from orchestra parents and sponsors whose donations have exceeded budget expectations and the securing of an East Fund grant to cover some of the clinician expenses for the year.
- Vicki stated that historically the boosters have financially supported a great deal of student trip expenses (\$15,000) and approximately \$18,000 for Los Angeles in 2012. However, at the present the Boosters have planned to subsidize no more than \$5,000 of trip expenses this year and that this seems attainable with no negative impact on the planned trip activities.
- Amy stated that the objective of this year's changes in Booster subsidies are not only to make the trip this year financially viable, but to maintain and build reserves that will help

perpetuate the ability for the orchestra to travel in future years. Otherwise, the resources available for future trips would be minimal. She reiterated that the booster parent and sponsor support has been critical in meeting this objective.

4) Philadelphia Trip Update (Vicki Sharp, Lisa Engelken)

- Lisa stated that there are 86 students in orchestra, of which 81 are confirmed to go. 15 adults are committed to go as chaperones, with two parents as back-ups.
- Students are confirmed to perform in a clinic with directors of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Orchestras will work individually (Symphony; Concert/Philharmonic) with the conductor in a clinician format while the other group tours the Campbell Center facilities. And then they will switch.
- Students will also attend a performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra and have dinner prior to the performance.
- The committee is currently waiting for final airfare and flight schedules before finalizing Philadelphia itinerary and event schedule.
- Students in Philadelphia will utilize the 'Philadelphia History Loop and Trolley Tours' to see the historical, entertainment, and shopping sites in the city. This is a onetime ticketed service which also includes admission to many museums and other sites on the loop. This service greatly decreases in-city transportation costs like those experienced in L.A. Parents interested in viewing the route and sites along the history loop can go to www.phillytour.com.
- Vicki stated that several students have already earned ½ of their trip expenses using fundraising opportunities.
- Housing in Philadelphia will be at the Hilton Garden Inn. Vicki indicated that they are very flexible in working through the dates and rooming issues and have agreed to ensure that all rooms are located in the same area. Students will have one dinner and three breakfasts at the hotel.
- Vicki reminded members of the new SMSD policy that requires adults traveling and working with students to receive safety instruction and background checks. This training is available for parents at SME with information in the admin office. Philadelphia chaperones must also complete this training.
- Further details of the trip are being hammered out. There will be a meeting later for parents covering trip information such as expected student behavior and logistics.

5) Fundraising Updates:

- Grocery Sacking at Hen House (Heidi Bennion)
 - Kids have the opportunity to sack groceries and move carts on Monday through Wednesday, November 24-26, at the Corinth Hen House.
 - Hen House will pay a lump sum for the service and the students generally also receive tips. Funds collected will be pooled and allocated to students according to hours worked. Students also have the opportunity to play at the store, with schedules for playing to be determined.

- Signups will be coming on SignupGenius.com with sacking and playing slots. Students will be allowed one signup until a time to be determined, then they can sign up for as many slots as desired.
 - T-shirt orders are on hold pending Philadelphia confirmations, but if they are available it would be good for students to wear them sacking to promote SME Orchestra. If they are not available, any SME T-shirt will work.
 - Sacking will be after 3:00 on Monday and Tuesday and all day on Wednesday.
 - Karen Armstrong suggested a large decorated jar for donations to SME Orchestra. She had seen a similar one in a business out of town that looked to be well supported by the community there.
 - There will be sacking training prior to the event with time and day to be communicated.
 - It was suggested that the SME Orchestra sign board also be taken to Hen House to promote the orchestra.
- Other Fundraising (Heidi Bennion)
 - Heidi said she had been in communication with a thrift store that will pay for clothing by the pound at \$0.15/lb.
 - Students would collect bags of clothing and deliver them to a trailer in the East parking lot.
 - It was determined that December is too busy for the collection, and that mid-January would be better. Students could begin to collect clothes over winter break.
 - Members agreed that this would be good to try, and Heidi agreed to look into it further.
- Poinsettia Sales (Diane Levin)
 - Diane said that she had been receiving many inquiries about Poinsettia sales and has already received a few orders.
 - Amy suggested an email reminder for all SME orchestra members regarding Poinsettias. Diane will create one and send to Amy for distribution.
 - Joe Levin will speak to the classes the following week to also remind students of the Poinsettia sales opportunity.
 - Vicki requested to receive checks incrementally so she can begin processing them which Diane will do.
 - Vicki requested that Diane also contract Penrod's to see if they need a separate check for the Pre-Thanksgiving deliveries.
- Grocery Coupon Books (Amy Wulfemeyer for Tiffany Flanagan)
 - Amy said that grocery coupon book sales are exceeding sales from last year. The HyVee coupons book is particularly in demand.
 - Parents should contact Tiffany Flanagan for more books.

6) Upcoming KC Symphony Rehearsal Field Trip (Sarah Biles/Karen Armstrong)

- The field trip to the symphony is scheduled for November 21, 2014.
- There are three buses going and two parents are needed to ride buses with students. Mr. Lane will ride on the third bus.
- Buses will leave at 9:00 a.m. and return approximately 11:30 or 12 for pizza lunch. Volunteers are needed to help set up and serve lunch.
- Parents are encouraged to complete district safety training before the field trip but at this early date it will not be required.

7) T-Shirt Orders (Tash Davis/Amy Wulfemeyer)

- T-shirt orders will be held until Philadelphia trip is finalized, since the design is trip-related.

8) New Business and Questions from Booster Membership

- A question was raised about those out of town for Thanksgiving and how they can participate in the sacking fundraising. The answer was given that Monday and Tuesday afternoons after school would be available for those traveling on Wednesday.
- A question about the structure of the district auditions and the timing was asked. Mr. Lane said the auditions were blind auditions and they were preparing for it in class. Also the District Concert for students selected will be December 6th at an Olathe district school.
- Mr. Lane suggested that a link to the KMEA website be added to the SME Orchestra Boosters website. District and state information is located at this site.

9) Meeting Adjourned

Minutes recorded by: Diane Levin, SME Orchestra Booster Secretary