

FRIENDS OF MUSIC MEETING MINUTES
11/9/2015

In attendance:

Paula Castner
Norah Braudis
Rachel Pelchat
Carolyn Soto

Joe McCarthy
Kelly Williams
Karen Fox

A motion was made to close the 10/19/2015 meeting. The motion passed.

Review of 10/19/2015 Minutes

Corrections:

- RE: The FOA ad campaign last minute addition for Berlin Summer Music discussion – will only go into the 7 music department concert programs out of a total of 14, not 15.
- RE: Holiday Pops Concert - because the concert is scheduled after-hours of the early release school day, it is considered extracurricular instead of field trip. This eliminates the requirement to have final participation lists 30 days prior to the event.
- RE: Scholarship evaluation submissions – Paula received an email from the Guidance Department that they are considering a change to have sponsoring groups manage their own scholarships

A motion was made to “accept with revisions” the minutes from the 10/19/15 meeting. Seconded and passed, all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

Reviewed the reconciliation report for period ending 10/31/15. A motion was made to approve the treasurer’s report as is. Seconded and passed, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

October Band Concert Recap

Robin Wendler ordered three party pizzas from Z’s. We mostly covered our expenses. This was not intended to be a source of fundraising, just a convenience for parents. Overall, Paula received favorable feedback about having the pizza available for purchase. Karen was selling the pizza and heard comments mostly that parents were unaware that pizza would be available before the concert, so many that would’ve liked to have taken advantage of the convenience had already figured out a way to sneak in a fast dinner. The bulk of the pizza was sold during the intermission snack. Consensus was that the pizza idea is worth doing again.

UMass Band Day Recap (Lunch Review)

Feedback from the band members is that it went well. The food that was leftover from lunch was mostly eaten on the bus trip home. Only a bag of bread (this was what Subway provided as the vegetarian sandwiches since we requested all the vegetables on the side) and a few turkey sandwiches (we doubled-up the order on turkey). Karen emailed a long summary of her observations about how the food plan went for tailgating to Paula and Joe for consideration in future years.

Joe informed us that the UMass Band Day is up in the air for us next year. He explained that UMass football team is switching to non-divisional, but they have an existing contract with Gillette that needs to be honored, so it is unclear at this time which games will be held there next year. If the UMass Band Day is scheduled in Amherst next year, he might opt to skip it altogether. In case it is held at Gillette again, we discussed what we might opt to do about meals based on Joe and Karen’s observations and feedback from the

band students. Overall consensus is that we should go back to having the kids bring their own lunches, but maybe provide dessert next time.

Holiday Pops Concert (Bus, Numbers)

Initially under the assumption that participation lists needed to go back to the nurse thirty days prior to the event, the tickets went on sale with a short window response time required. Paula noted that this has been the best response compared to prior ticket sales offerings and quipped that we should take that approach for future events. So far, 37 tickets were sold and paid for by students, 3 are reserved for SPED teachers(they are required to pay for their tickets), and one each for Joe and Rachel. That leaves only 9 of the original 51 to continue selling. Because there are 5 faculty chaperones going, there is no need for parent chaperones this year. Joe needs to reserve the bus 3 weeks in advance and FOM will fund the bus. Like last year, they will plan to stop at the Natick rest stop on the way home for dinner, which students will pay for themselves, and expect to be back at the school around 8pm.

Website PAYPAL button(s)

Kelly showed what a screenshot of the website donation page looks like with the PAYPAL button, as well as a screenshot of the PAYPAL payment page after the donation click-thru. We discussed whether the PAYPAL offering should be extended to include payments for things such as concerts in addition to the donation option, but Kelly thought it would be a lot of work to add. Paula volunteered to email the music parents to gauge interest in paying different activity fees via PAYPAL with the understanding that the parents would incur the service charge

End of Year Banquet Research

Norah provided details on her research resulting from brainstorming at our last meeting. The consideration of a range of attendees between 100-200 was too significant a swing and ruled out some places she looked into. One place recommended to her that switching to brunch would provide a considerable cost savings vs. a dinner banquet. Joe and Rachel both felt a midday option would be fine, but Joe did not want to go as early as a brunch and requested an afternoon event after 2pm. We again discussed the tradeoff of reserving a hall and arranging the food catering ourselves vs. going to a place and letting them take care of the banquet. Overall consensus was the latter option which helped narrow the playing field of options further. It was at this point that Carolyn and Karen thought of Devens Commons as an option, both reported good experiences there. Apologies to Norah for not thinking to bring up this option at brainstorming discussion last meeting, for whatever reason, it did not occur to either of us to mention then. Norah will focus on The International and Devens going forward for the next layer of details. We discussed options for a date, settling on the weekend of June 4-5th to avoid all the other conflicts we knew about. Huge thanks to Norah for doing the legwork that enabled us to arrive at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

Central Districts

11/14/15. There are 18 kids going, plus Joe and Rachel. Bus will leave school at 9am and hopefully return around noon. Jazz Band auditions begin at 10:12am, Concert Band and Choral auditions begin at 10:42am. School is paying for this bus. Hopefully everything will run according to plan because the Mid-Watch district playoff game is scheduled at Foley Stadium in Worcester at 3pm. Tania Rich offered to have the Pep Band ride the bus with the cheerleaders, leaving at 1:45pm. Athletics Department is paying for the bus. Pep Band kids will be told to bring their own food / snacks. Joe will take the buckets, cups. No need for involvement by FOM for this.

December Concerts

December 4th chorus concert, December 18th band concert; posters and programs are all taken care of. Berlin Summer Music ad ended up being a business card ad that has been positioned on the bottom of the 1st page of the concert section. Rachel will need to evaluate where the chorus will be standing so that decorations can be planned appropriately, especially trying to minimize any new decorating that needs to happen between the three scheduled concerts. Rachel will get back to Norah about the curtains. Bolton and Stow are hosts.

Senior Citizen Concert

Concert 11:00am-1:00pm on 12/9/15 has been confirmed with school and Councils. Seniors will be seated by 10:45 so that concert can start on time at 11am. Students will go back to their class schedule in time for 12:36pm start. Rachel had suggested offering lunch, giving the students and seniors a chance to mingle. In order to provide lunch, we need counts, although we are assuming 30-50 people. Paula will get counts from the three towns' COAs. 63 students will be participating. For planning comparison, the Dunn & Co brunch is set for ~35 people.

Motion made to approve the purchase of food for the luncheon, not to exceed \$600. Seconded and passed, all in favor.

Room Piano

The concern is with the piano lid on the piano in the chorus room. Since it is no longer attached, Rachel does not allow the students to open it. Joe took a look at what the problem was and determined his handyman skills ought to be sufficient to rig a simple hardware solution (hinge, bracket, whatever)

Funding Requests

Motion made to pay for the Holiday Pops Concert bus, not to exceed \$500. Seconded and passed, all in favor.

Items From the Floor

Rachel explained some of the issues going on with the chorus dresses and reimbursement for shipping back returns. There have been some sizing and cosmetic concerns with the dresses she picked and she may opt for a different style (not sleeveless) going forward.

NEXT MEETING

The 11/9/2015 meeting was continued to next meeting date, 12/14/2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fox, Secretary