

PBA Meeting Minutes – 11/10/09

Present: Gloria Wilson, Nancy Waring, David Leach, Daryl Hurst, Linda Long, Kathy Toy-Nao, Carol Flannagan, Fritz Yunck, Stacey Pakela, Nair Matsuo, Nina Yamakado, Tom McKarns, Uyen Tonnule, Donna Whitney, Amy Olszewski, Janene Centurione, Ann Curtis, Orest Mykolenko, Lucia Campbell, David Baum, Steve Sullivan, Paulette Schonsheck, Jan & Bill Maxbauer, MJ Jones, Nancy Terhar, Cathy Berrigan, and Madeline Diehl

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM. All present introduced themselves.

President's Report – Symphony Band uniforms are due back tomorrow (Wed. 11/11/09). Ken Cook is continuing as Apparel Coordinator but could use some help with the uniforms.

Secretary's Report – Fritz Yunck has volunteered to replace Christine Cook, who had to resign due to accepting a job out of state. The minutes from the 9/15/09 meeting were read and approved, with two name spelling corrections and a reworking of the 'band awards' paragraph.

Treasurers' Reports – Carol Flannagan:

The Board hired Daryl Hurst last year to address some financial issues; he has done a great job stabilizing the situation. The plan moving forward is for Paulette to have responsibility for the day-to-day Treasurer tasks and handling of invoices, with oversight from Daryl. Approximately once a month Daryl will audit the books and deal with needed tax forms. We will configure both email addresses treasurer@aapioneerbands.org and bookkeeper@aapioneerbands.org to route to all three of Paulette, Daryl, and Carol.

Carol distributed and discussed the Financial Highlights sheet. Some observations:

- Details are more important than the top-line summary balances.
- Neither the Candy Sale nor the Car Wash profits met budgeted expectations; Car Wash was down significantly due to a drop-off in pledges. This makes the Gala especially critical to our goals.
- General donations have reached 74% of the annual budgeted amount, which is good.

Paulette Schonsheck:

- Spring Hill flowers looks promising as a new fundraiser. They deliver directly to customers' homes, relieving the Band Directors and PBA staff of extra work.
- Another fundraising idea was car wash coupons that students would sell for \$25. They could make good gifts.
- A total of \$10,500 is budgeted for Tour scholarships this year, for both band tours.

Mr. Leach had some comments on fundraising:

- He has spoken to Symphony Band members who did not participate in the candy sale or car wash. He will do this again in December, then the PBA will send out a letter detailing family financial obligations in January. We need to pin down the exact options by which families may reach the \$100 obligation, since it is new in the past year and parents often lose track of where they stand.
- The candy bars were smaller this year than last, with the per-unit price staying at \$1.00. Next year they will revert to the larger size but increase to \$2.00 per bar. Therefore we may want to consider an alternative to the Candy Sale.
- Car Wash profit was disappointing, but we have historically stayed ahead of the fundraising curve and he hopes we can continue to do so.

Centennial Project 2014/Band Alumni – Daryl Hurst:

Daryl had to set this work aside recently to focus on financial issues. He is now leaning more toward creating a Ken Burns-style video rather than writing a book about the band's history, after realizing that a book might be a bit dry since the band essentially does the same things year after year.

Webmaster – Steve Sullivant:

- Please let him know of any problems with the web site. Emails may have bounced recently.
- Donations have been coming in via the site, both for the China Tour and general program.

Directors' Reports - Nancy Waring:

- Concerto auditions are in progress. There were 29 applicants this year. We are extremely fortunate to have so many talented and hard working students in our music department.
- Varsity Band auditions are ongoing. The large numbers and high talent level make judging extremely difficult, for example with the 21-student flute section.

David Leach:

- Another successful – not to mention cold and wet – marching season has concluded.
- The Concert and Symphony Bands are working on concert music, with Symphony Band already working on pieces to be performed in China.
- Our National Grammy Signature School award in 2006 was \$20,000, the largest amount that the Foundation has ever given out. The required 3-year wait after receiving the top prize is over, we are eligible again, and are one of three Michigan finalists this year, along with West Ottawa and Warren Lincoln High Schools.
- The Jazz Band will be playing at the Martini Lounge in Ypsilanti on Monday December 7th. Watch the web site for details.
- Solo & Ensemble will be January 16, 2010, right before the MLK Monday holiday. Students gain the valuable life skill of learning to present themselves before strangers for evaluation. Pioneer has more participants in these events than any other school.
- Preparations for Band Festival, Bands in Review, and Tours are ongoing. Concert Band may go to Chicago for their tour.

Newsletter – Kathy Toy-Nao:

The PBA Notes Newsletter is now completely on-line. Deadline for the next issue will be 12/11/09.

Gala – Janene Centurione:

The Gala committee met with Jazz Band students, who seem enthusiastic about the 'speakeasy' theme with things like Tuba concerts, passwords, and police busts. We hope to do on-line eBay-style bidding including 'Buy it now'. We've sent 350 letters to local merchants. She encouraged all to talk directly to merchants as an effective way to get their help. We will need new Gala Chairs for next year.

PTO Thrift Shop – The next Music and Munchies is February 13, 2010. We will push harder to get enough kids this time, to fill all the slots. This is an easy \$750 for the band program. There is a way for customers to vote for their favorite band. Students under 18 do need a work permit and one-time training. There was a suggestion made to include the Thrift Shop volunteering opportunity in the financial obligations reminder letter.

David Baum talked more about the financial and treasury issues of the past year. The filing of mandatory IRS Form 990 was late, for which the IRS assessed us a penalty of nearly \$8,000.00. Thanks to the diligent work of Daryl and a group of students from the University of Michigan Law School Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, we convinced the IRS to forgive the entire fee.

Fritz Yunck was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM