

## CHORAL BOOSTERS INC.

### Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2014

Attendees: Joanna Dietz, Cindy Schelhorn, Shawn Barnes, Becky Martin, and Katie Pierce.

Meeting started at 7:08pm.

#### MINUTES

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed via email as well as at the meeting. Cindy motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Shawn seconded the motion. Becky will upload the approved minutes to the choral website.

#### CHOIR FOR A NIGHT

The first event for WHS and middle school choir buddies will be held December 12, from 5-7pm, in the Choir Room. A school-wide announcement inviting the WHS school community is scheduled for Thursday. Choir Council met Monday and they are excited to plan this.

They will serve as guides/team captains and handle Q & A. The schedule is:

5:00pm—games, scavenger hunt around school and fun activities

6:00pm—pizza party, social time, Q & A

6:30pm—warm-up, sight-read, rehearse "Believe"

Requesting students pay \$5 for pizza. Boosters will provide water bottles/snacks/ candy. Student name tag will indicate if they are current choir and non-current choir student. No parents have signed up to volunteer for this event yet so Joanna will make a few calls. Musicals at Stone MS and Rocky Run MS are this weekend which might impact attendance but all students were encouraged to come first to Choir for a Night and then go to the musical. If this event is successful, Katie will look into making it a required choral event.

#### BUDDY PROGRAM

Currently there are 39 middle school students signed up. Katie has been to all Stone MS classes, all but the men's class at Rachel Carson MS and all but the advanced women's group at Rocky Run MS. These classes meet during WHS first/second periods and conflict with Katie's teaching periods. She is working to pair up Buddies with WHS students. After this is done, the WHS student will write a letter to their buddy, including a wristband.

#### PARENT MENTORS / CONCERT RECEPTIONS

Joanna stressed the importance of letting parents know Katie has been to all the middle schools, except for Franklin Farm MS. When planning to host receptions at Carson MS and Rocky Run MS, Cindy asked if most middle school concerts are on a "set" night of the week but it appears the concerts are held any week night depending on other activities at that school. Joanna thanked Shawn and Becky for representing the Boosters at the Stone MS

Winter Concert earlier this month. The Bidinger, Gore, and Lehrman families were also VERY helpful with this event. Mr. Kogut was supportive of this new community outreach effort by announcing the reception at the beginning of the concert, asking WHS students to assist the groups get in the proper order before they went on the risers, inviting WHS students to sing the last piece with the Stone choirs, and asking WHS students if it was difficult to continue taking choir even with a busy high school schedule (they said "No."). WHS students also attended Rachel Carson winter concert. CBI will consider hosting a reception at Rocky Run in the spring, perhaps with their awards concert on June 1. Katie will discuss and confirm a date with their director.

#### WINTER CONCERT

Katie will call her contact at Cox Farms to see if they will donate poinsettias. If not, a volunteer will pick up 6-8 poinsettias to decorate the ends of the risers. Becky will rope off a space near the Check-in Area for the Winter White donations (new pillows, pillowcases, diapers and wipes) for Hanley House Family Shelter. Donations will be kept in the Storage Room and delivered in January.

#### FINANCE REPORT

No printed report as it was a quiet month for transactions. Greg Rupert forwarded the final enrollment numbers for Bulldog BBQ and Tag Day student participation numbers to Music Boosters. Shawn and Glenn Martin will review prior to disbursing funds to Booster groups. MBC is still waiting on one more piece of information and Moe's check from the BBQ. Shawn suggested making a public presentation of check at future concert to demonstrate direct link of student/parent participation in these events. Katie mentioned choir Tag Day participation numbers were not as good as expected as several students enrolled after Tag Day so we don't get credit for them. Discussion of September vs. October date for Tag Day impacts participation ensued. CBI prefers later date so there is more time to prep students. Directors set date in the spring after syncing with sports schedule and frequently there are only 1-2 possible dates.

#### DISNEY TRIP

First invoice from the trip company was received and Shawn will make sure check is sent this week. Currently 75 students are registered. Several people indicated they want to go but haven't sent in any money yet. Student applications for trip scholarships were finalized. Katie will notify recipients via letter before the Winter Concert with the scholarship amount. Students/parents will still be responsible for the remaining portion of the trip payment and must let Katie know in writing or e-mail that they accept (or reject) the scholarship. CBI discussed possibility of not offering trip scholarships every year.

## HONORS CHOIR

Becky reported that Abigail Martin and Jonathan Bidinger enjoyed the whole Honors Choir experience. They made friends with other singers from Loudoun County and appreciated the challenging music selected and the comments the director made during rehearsals. Both families appreciated the support their students received from the Boosters.

## LETTERS TO BUSINESSES

Shawn drafted a letter from the CBI to local businesses asking for donations to support trip scholarships. Joanna and Cindy made suggestions for revisions that will be incorporated. The goal is to finalize the letter in early January and begin contacting businesses so that donations are received prior to final payment date of March 5, 2015. As with potential Spirit Night fundraising proceeds, the CBI will decide whether to utilize donations for trip scholarships and/or reduce each trip total amount.

## FUNDRAISER

Joanna contacted Moe's about hosting a Spirit Night and the Assistant Manager was not very helpful so the CBI will not pursue it further.

Applebee's offered a breakfast fundraiser when the restaurant is not open. Menu would include: pancakes, eggs, sausage and beverage. The CBI would set the ticket price, typically between \$10-12. Applebee's would retain \$4 from each ticket and CBI would get the rest. CBI would agree to sell a minimum of 100 tickets, with a maximum of 300 tickets to be sold. Tickets would be pre-sold and additional tickets can be sold at the door. Students would serve and bus the tables, and Applebee's staff would cook. Suggested time is 8-10am on a Saturday or Sunday of our choosing (probably early February). Katie suggested approaching Tri-M as students could help for service hours. Cindy suggested asking Tim Thomas and other "celebrities" to come and the CBI would promote it as "Rise and Shine" with WHS Choir through area newspapers, FCPS PR office, school announcements, etc.

Katie suggested setting up an Amazon Smile account for the Choral Boosters. Parents could designate CBI as a recipient from that list. Joanna mentioned WHS PTSA also uses this as a silent fundraiser. More research/discussion is needed before a decision is made.

## PIANO KEYBOARD

Becky presented bid from Guitar Center for Yamaha electric keyboard (weighted keys, transposition button, few preset piano sounds and recording capabilities), sustaining pedal, X-stand, soft-side, padded case with wheels, and 5-year warranty for piano. The total for these items is \$875. All items can be ordered online and will be shipped to Guitar Store in approximately 6 days, with no shipping charge. Shawn confirmed CBI has Capitol-Equipment funds for this purchase. Katie recommended a platform stand as it is more

stable than an X-stand. Becky will investigate the price difference for this, report the final items and cost to CBI Board members and make the purchase after receiving e-mail confirmation from all Board members. Katie forwarded a Guitar Store coupon that Becky will use on this purchase.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On December 8, ten Chamber Singers members went to Grace Covenant Church and performed as part of an Advent & Music Concert. All students said it was an awesome experience. The Grace Covenant members are very talented, especially their drum line, and they made it snow while singing "Let it Snow". The Church generously provided dinner and small gift bags for the students. Grace Covenant will send donation to the CBI.

Katie and MVLE have had various discussions trying to find a time for students to sing there but MVLE wants daytime performances which conflicts with student schedules. No response yet to request to sing at Zoolights or Bull Run Lights. Cindy emailed various local shopping centers and will see if we can get some opportunities at local civic groups. Katie contacted Fair Oaks Mall but they do not have carolers anymore. Indoor malls are too crowded and carolers can cause traffic flow problems. All agreed that we might not be able to arrange something this month but by starting now we may be able to do something in the spring or at assisted living/adult day center in conjunction with Grandparents month.

#### SIBLINGS

A parent of a senior contacted Katie about the possibility of transferring the fundraising credits from a graduating senior to a rising freshman sibling. The senior is not able to go on the spring trip and all fees are paid so the senior will not use the credits prior to graduation. The Executive Board voted to allow the transfer from one sibling to a sibling as long as both are registered choir students. Shawn will figure out the best way to document this in Charms before the End of Year Close Out. Katie will contact the parent and inform them of the CBI decision.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

#### UPCOMING DATES

12/12	Choir for a Night	1/18	MLK Festival (tentative)
12/15	Processional Rehearsal	1/19	Student Holiday
12/16	Candlelight Concert	1/21	CBI Monthly Meeting
12/22-1/2	Winter Break	1/23	Cookie Dough Sales start
		1/29-30	Student Holidays