**Hammond High School Music Boosters**

 **April 11th Meeting**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:** Jen Larsson, Hillary Bierce, Paul Ijams, Christine Dietrich, Stephen Dunlap, Elizabeth Reinhardt, Shelley Cohen, Laura Henson, Wilawan Wattana and Jen Ward.

**OPENING:** Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**REVIEW MINUTES:** The minutes were read and approved. Paul Ijams moved to approve the minutes; Dunlap seconded.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Recent activity includes payment to clinicians and reimbursement to Mr. Washington for sheet music. There aren’t final numbers for A Little Night Music: the budget was $2500 and we are over approximately $500 at this point. The head count went up by 25 people this year to a total of 145. Profit last year was $2200; we should make about $800 more than last year. Income includes membership dues that came in through Paypal (approximately $40). The $420 credit for returned chocolate is expected soon. A revised budget will be floated towards the end of April. The picnic is scheduled for August 23rd; Jen is still waiting on the contract. We will shorten the timeframe to reduce cost. It will be approximately $350 and will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Jen will make a flier for the website. The students will know the date and times before the end of the year. Jen is working on the student accounts; she will move graduated student account monies back to the boosters account soon.

**BAND DIRECTOR’S REPORT**: Jazz in the Woods is on April 27th and we perform at 1:40p; G/T is at 3p.m. Students will need to be dropped off (1:00 p.m.) so that they can stay later if they choose to. The music trip was great. The jazz and combined bands performed well. A big thanks to all of the chaperones. Chantilly Jazz Festival is on May 18th.

**ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Assessments went really well. Tri-M applications due Friday that we get back from spring break; inductions will be at the awards banquet. Please send in pictures from the music trip last week. Next year’s trip is already being discussed and will be revealed at the picnic in August 2019.

**CHOIR DIRECTORS REPORT:** Mr. Washington’s report was submitted electronically and reported here: “Our choirs did an excellent job performing at Assessments and on the Spring Trip, receiving high ratings at both. Chamber Choir is excited to be performing at the Maryland State Choral Festival on Thursday, May 2nd. Men’s Choir will be making its debut performance on the Spring Concert on May, 7th.The music trip went great for choir; choirs MD state Choral Festival May 7th.”

**WAYS AND MEANS:** Restaurant Nights: Chick-fil-A was in March; the check hasn’t been received. There is no restaurant night for April. It was suggested that we try to have an outdoor restaurant night and have one of the school music groups perform.

A Little Night Music: See the Treasurer’s report for additional information. It was suggested that we should update our records on what went well and what could be improved; that is recorded below. Christine Dietrich is looking for a volunteer to coordinate this next year. There was discussion to consider breaking this up into two different events—a brunch and a dinner. There is a risk of cannibalizing attendance of one event for the other. Suggestions included not doing the whole show in the afternoon, a more family-friendly event in the afternoon, and doing the two events at different times of the year. Another suggestion was to have alumni return to be involved in the performances to increase the attendance of alumni and families. Another suggestion was a show at homecoming weekend; this would give us a fall event and a spring event. A concern with doing two separate shows on different days is the length of time to set up, and also that fall is a big fundraising time for a lot of programs. We should still consider getting corporate sponsorships.

Things that went well: food and its distribution (pasta was plated while salad was being served); each table had its own waiter but waiters would team up to actually serve the food; decorations and lighting were good; the raffle announcer did a great job; the music was great and transitions were seamless.

Things to improve: consider having student training the night before; have more food prep people to make sure that food gets plated faster; we ran out of cups and the cups were very small—consider using pitchers on the table or servers walking around with pitchers next year; the servers did not come around to sell raffle tickets; it was hard to hear in the back of the cafeteria—consider adding a speaker in the back of the cafeteria; it was difficult to hear up front when the jazz band plays—consider changing the order of the performances to match the levels of conversation anticipated during a dinner; consider more performances to make the program longer; the amount of money gained from the auctioned items was less than expected; remind people earlier that they need to bring cash for raffle/auction/tips/etc.; add parmesan cheese at the tables.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** We are at 82 members per Mr. Dunlap.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Scholarships: suggestions for editing the senior scholarship form have been made. These are announced at awards night on May 9th. The forms will be sent out on April 23rd and collected on May 3rd. Mary San Antonio will lead this committee, but we need a choir and a band parent to be on it as well. We have $1250 for scholarships. It is usually dispersed as two $500s scholarships and two $250s, or similar amounts—it is at the discretion of the committee.

 ACTION ITEM: Jen Larsson will make the certificates and Jen Ward will write the checks for the scholarships.

Awards Night: Food is requested by alphabet of the last name (ex. A-D brings soda). We will request desserts and snacks only. A Sign-up Genius will be distributed. We have $300 for the banquet and $1000 for awards. We have used the $300 for balloons and tablecloths for the seniors and other decorations in the past. We also pay for the flowers; Harris Teeter will sell them to us for $5.99/each. They are already ordered. The seniors will all sit together during the awards in the auditorium; we will need balloons to designate their rows. We will be in the auditorium first at 6:30 p.m. for awards; the cafeteria will be second. Attendees should drop off their food in the cafeteria before coming into the auditorium. It was suggested that underclassmen take over setup of the banquet; that will be communicated to families and requested in an email or a sign-up genius by the directors.

 ACTION ITEM: Jen Larsson will determine if we need to get any additional soda and paper goods based on what we currently have in the inventory.

 ACTION ITEM: Paul Ijams will pick up the balloons prior to the event.

2019-2020 Board Positions: The proposed slate is Jen Ward--Treasurer; Hillary Bierce--Secretary/Webmaster; Paul Ijams--President and head of the Haunted House event. We need to recruit a vice-president and fundraising chairs. Samantha Newman will continue to do chocolate; Renee Cooper will do pies; membership will be Tessa Goldscher; Christine Dietrich will do Big Bear Band, A Little Night Music, and band uniforms. The new VP will take over communications—Twitter, newsletter, email communications, etc. Earl Dietrich and Chris Ward will coordinate the car wash. We should distribute the vacancies and job descriptions.

HCPSM: Last month they voted to write a letter on our behalf to the Board of Ed. and County Council to advocate for the music department needs in the renovation. We will request their help getting new instruments and supporting the building plan that we support; we will ask that they request more information about what the specific plans are. Hammond Music Boosters should consider attending the April 25th 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Capital Budget Hearing. An Atholton student proposed that students in southeastern Howard County create a pooled resource agreement of high school feeder schools so that music programs got the resources they need to make their programs more equitable. Jen Larsson told the student we would support the project. It is also time to nominate the HCPSM Music Educator of the Year. Nominations can be made from the HCPSM website and are due May 1st at Jen Larsson’s house.

**BUDGET:** none

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

The next meeting is a May/June meeting and on May 23rd. The budget planning meeting is on June 13th for Board members.

**CLOSE MEETING:** Paul Ijams moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dunlap seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillary Bierce

Secretary, Hammond Music Boosters