



## **MINUTES TO GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020  
Via Zoom**

### **Welcome**

Molly and Patti welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Susan Calcio made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September meeting and to accept them as is. The motion was unanimously passed and the minutes were accepted.

### **Co-Presidents' Report**

It was noted that the Co-Presidents' report was posted on the POPs website prior to the meeting. Highlights from the report include:

- **New general board members introduced:**
  - Linda Duffy - Remote Learning School Rep
  - Melissa Cornet - Hardy Rep
  - Lucy Wilke - Upham Rep
- **Positions still available for this year:**
  - WMS Tech Rep
  - WMS Orchestra Rep
  - Elementary Reps for Upham, Hardy and Sprague
- **Financial Support provided already this year:**
  - Master classes at WHS -- industry professionals offering classes to students. If there is a charge, POPS is covering. POPS is also helping with thank you gifts.
  - Outdoor teaching supplies for Julie Verret at Fiske.
  - POPS does have some money set aside for this year so if you hear of a particular need or are working with faculty who identify a need, please let POPS know.

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Jenn Caiazzo**

- The report is posted on the POPS website. Highlights include:
  - A few online donations have been received.
  - Laramie Project and Cabaret bundles are on sale.
  - Expenses are unchanged with respect to Master Classes.
  - Taxes will be filed in a timely manner before 11/15/2020.
  - It was noted that the backpack letter did not go out despite POPS sending it for distribution. Donation information is posted on the website and has been posted on social media. Not much is coming in, which is a big change from last year.
  - There currently is \$16,000 in unrestricted case and approximately \$92,000 in total cash.
- Lesley Prowda made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire treasurer's report and to accept it as is. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **Publicity Team's Report**

**Robin Weschler and Jen Bonniwell**

- Robin and Jen have had discussions with two volunteer writers regarding ideas for articles and who will be pursuing those. They are reaching out to teachers. Ideas include: Laramie, Cabaret, good news/exciting things happening in the PA department (across the district), choral program at WHS, ensembles at WMS and the WMS podcast club.

## **WHS Drama**

**Heather Schaefer**

- Improv Troupe had a live performance in the beginning of October with 20 in attendance in person and others watching by Zoom. A Zoom recording is available. Auditions were held and there are now 12 in the main cast with two understudies. Rehearsals are taking place in person.
- One Act festival with senior student directors and 37 actors is scheduled for December 10 and 11. Rehearsals are taking place in person and virtually. The format for presenting (streamed live or recording) is still being discussed.
- Laramie Project was rehearsing virtually until this week when in person filming began. Filming is to take place through the rest of November, then the editing process and presentations on December 18 and 19.
- Master Class Mondays have been very popular.
- A senior showcase is being planned for the spring.
- There is a new assistant in the department -- Zoe who is a master's candidate from Emerson.
- Cambridge Trust, which acquired Wellesley Bank, has agreed to be a season sponsor, although at a lower level than in previous years.
- Susan Calcio asked if there were any new restrictions on performances. Mike

LaCava stated that more guidelines were expected at the national level soon and then we would have to see what was adopted at the state or local level. Mike noted that school guidelines are not the same as those for entertainment venues. At this time, you cannot have more than 25 at a gathering, which includes the performers. Mask breaks are allowed for schools.

### **WMS Drama**

### **Susan Schumer**

- Cabaret is being put on rather than a musical. Rehearsals are taking place virtually. The performance is scheduled for December 14.
- There are two new clubs being offered, pod casting and scene study. Both are virtual and are open to all.
- Stage crew is also being offered virtually and is open to all.

### **Coordinators Reports**

- **IVEC** (Russell Wilson's report was read by Patti Ayer)
  - Enrollment is down about 20% but this is in line or better than other districts' numbers.
  - Participation amongst returners is strong. The number of new students participating in lower.
- **K- 5** Julie Verret
  - The music kits (rhythm sticks, scarves) that were put together and distributed are very helpful and were well received by the students.
  - Students have been outside a lot because of the warm weather. This allows for singing.
  - Recorders are being ordered for third graders but we are still waiting for guidelines for using.
  - Standards based report cards are being worked on.
- **WHS** Kevin MacDonald
  - Noted that Heather covered happenings in drama in her report. Also praised Kara and Olivia for their hard work to open up opportunities for students.
  - Olivia is working with Kevin and Janet to make their efforts more efficient.
  - Janet has started getting Footworks up and running.
  - Sergey is able to have strings play inside.
  - Steve Scott is working outside with the wind ensemble and concert band.
  - Choral:
    - Acapella auditions have happened via video submissions and results will be posted tonight.
      - Acapella has some restrictions -- 10 feet of distance, masked, facing the same direction. Rehearsal will be by

Zoom.

- Winter concert prep is happening with outside practices and includes many of the songs traditionally performed.
- 36 students have been submitted for Senior Districts, which is happening online.
- Melissa Mack asked if there was a way to do an outdoor live concert with the audience in cars.
  - Kevin responded that performers need to be 10 feet apart and that we do not have the needed microphones to do that and the 25 state limit on outside gatherings would apply.
  - Olivia thought that there could be some options for running body microphones.
- Olivia noted that a lot of filming for Laramie had happened today. That the focus was on the process and that the kids have a good time versus the quality of the product. Tech would be filming, lighting, sound mixing and editing.
- Olivia noted that the opportunities from the master classes would likely not have been able to happen in “normal” times.

#### **Director of Performing Arts**

#### **Mike LaCava**

- Mike noted that the PA teachers are doing amazing work and so much new work, some of which will be kept on even as we return to “normal” times.
- Mike continues to watch for new guidelines and changes from the state.
  - Once something is ok'd by the state, the discussion then becomes what does it mean for WPS.
- Remote Learning School families are still participating in and connecting with the performing arts.

#### **New Business**

- No new business was presented.

Molly reminded everyone that the next POPS general meeting will be either March 16 or March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Kelly Meraw made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari Prussin, POPS Secretary.*

In attendance:

Patti Ayer  
Molly Cote  
Marisa Gandler  
Melissa Mack  
Jen Bonniwell  
Robin Wechsler  
Jenn Caiazzo  
Shari Prussin  
Heather Schaefer  
Susan Calcio  
Joanna Bandte  
Lesley Prowda  
Linda Duffy  
Susan Schumer  
Kelly Meraw  
Mike LaCava  
Kevin MacDonald  
Olvia Gemilli  
Julie Verret