



MINUTES TO GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Held in Wellesley High School Library, 1938 Room

Welcome

Molly Coté

Molly welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and for helping so far this year.

Approval of Minutes

Molly Coté

Laura Foody made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as is and Lesley Prowda seconded. The motion was unanimously passed and the minutes were accepted.

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

Co-Presidents' Report

Molly Coté

Molly noted that the Co-Presidents' report was posted on the POPS website. Highlights from the report include:

- **Positions** still available for this year:
 - Elementary school reps at Hardy and Upham
 - Lesley Prowda noted that there is a rep for Hunnewell.
 - We also are looking for people to shadow positions this year to take over next year. For example for the WHS drama rep position for 2020-21.
 - We are looking for assistance with the POPS website. Laura Foody volunteered to help with this.

- **Student Involvement:** We are looking to get students involved in helping in other areas.
 - Photography: for example of rehearsals, to work with the publicity team in all areas of the performing arts and liaison with photography clubs and classes; and
 - Graphic design: Brian McManimon moving on from WHS and he has taken care of this in the past so there is a hole to fill.
 - Parents need to be involved when we ask students to be involved.
 - If anyone knows someone who may be interested, please let Molly or Patti know.

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- **Gala Update:** February 7, 2020 at TCAN
 - Wendy Paul gave the following update:
 - The event is going to follow the same format as last year but with a few tweaks. For example, the number of student performances will be increased and will include more students of all ages, levels and departments. Also, there will be more supervision for the students in the green room.
 - Tickets will go on sale on December 10, 2019.
 - The event will be promoted at the upcoming winter band, orchestra and jazz concerts.
 - There have been two great meetings of volunteers with lots of brainstorming. A sign up genius will be sent out to all of POPS with many volunteer opportunities. Some key roles are already filled from last year.
 - Donations for the silent auction will be solicited. At last year's event, everything went for over its value.
 - There will be a live auction and paddle raise again this year.
 - Also, looking for understudies who would like to shadow this year and take over the event next year.

- **Holiday party:** 12/9/19 at 6:30 at the Prowda's home.
 - Invites will be sent out.
 - Looking to have one of the WHS acapella groups perform.

Treasurer's Report

Jenn Caiazza

- The report is posted on the POPS website. Highlights include:
 - Playbill donations have increased compared to last year.
 - Jenn noted that the cutoff date for this report was 10/31/19 so it does not include revenue from the WHS production of Hunchback of Notre Dame.
 - The discretionary fund has been replenished and is again at \$5,000 but nothing has been used yet this year.
 - The POPS tax return is due on 11/15/19 and will be filed by that date.
 - Wellesley Bank is again sponsoring the full year of WHS Drama and students in need.



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- Wendy Paul made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire treasurer's report and to accept it as is. The motion passed unanimously and the report was accepted.

Director of Performing Arts Report Mike LaCava

Mike passed out copies of the Director of Performing Arts report. Highlights include:

- Thanks to all the POPS volunteers who have helped so far this year.

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- **K-5:**
 - A new project is underway to develop strategies on teaching “Matching Pitch” to 2nd graders.
 - Ongoing discussions and feedback regarding the changes in elementary schedules.
 - Assessments related to the new Standards Based Report cards are being discussed.
 - Exploring ways to increase participation in the IVEP program.
 - The All-Town Band and All-Town Orchestra will return in January.

- **IVEP Program:**
 - 3rd graders will be invited to join school band programs if they are ready in the second semester or the year; this was successfully done last year.
 - Lesson books for teachers have been streamlined for more consistency throughout the district.
 - An online timesheet system has been implemented. This is more efficient from an operations perspective.
 - Work is happening to streamline expectations for students to join elementary ensembles.
 - Thought is being given to changing the programs name and rebranding.

- **Middle School:**
 - “Singing in the Rain” opens on November 21, 2019. Tickets are available online.
 - Upcoming Winter Concerts for Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Orchestra.
 - General music classes have been working on the “blues” and composing original music.

- **Gala:**
 - 2 ukulele ensembles want to perform
 - HS flutes
 - Preview of Fame, Jr.
 - Recorder groups from the elementary schools
 - WHS groups

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- **WHS**

- PEP Band has been entertaining at home football games, directed by Steve Scott.
- ACATOBBER was a huge success again.
- Senior District Auditions are Saturday, November 16th.
- WHS Jazz concert is November 25th with the WHS Jazz Band and Rice Street Singers. Date was changed to accommodate special guest artists, "New York Voices."
 - Discussion followed regarding charging minimal admission (\$5) when there are guest artists.
 - Mike said that he was not comfortable doing so with two weeks notice of the event and given that there is room in the budget for the guests. But this is something that may be considered for future events with guest performers.
 - Wendy Paul brought up that these events are part of the curriculum so there should not be a charge associated with attending.
 - Mike recognized this point but also noted that Acatober is also part of the curriculum of some of the groups that perform.
 - Another reason not to charge is that these concerts are not as well attended and we would all like to see more people in the audience.
 - Mike noted that as they are trying to get more guest groups to perform, the department is applying for grants from Wellesley Education Foundation and POPS to help cover the costs.
 - Mike stated that there has been a lot of discussion and differing views amongst the staff. Another thought is that charging admission can create the idea that this is a special event.
 - Wendy Paul noted that some WHS groups perform at other venues and families need to pay to attend those performances and that this should be taken into account.
 - Molly Cote noted that some go to concerts to see their child perform and that they may not wish to compare their child's performance to that of a professionals

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- .Mike acknowledge all of these opinions.
 - Combined WHS Band and Orchestra concert is to be held on December 10th. The concerts are being combined in an effort to have a larger audience and to foster collaborations between the band and orchestra.
 - Moving Company will begin rehearsals in January with Footnotes scheduled for the spring.
 - Many thank yous were given to all those who helped make the performances of Hunchback of Notre Dame happen.
 - Having Joanne Wheeler help/shadow Allison Madden with tickets and front of the house was great.
 - Ticket sales were about average. Did not make as much as had been hoped but did not lose money.
 - A debrief with the staff will occur on November 15th. This will also include a discussion about trends over the last several shows, ticket revenue balanced with experience for the students, educational v. entertainment.
 - Discussion included looking at the season as a whole, balancing such a dark and heavy show with something lighter. Kari Culhane noted that the musical for the last three years has been male heavy in lead roles. Mike added that many things are considered when looking at shows in an effort to include so many kids who want to be involved. For example, the choir element in Hunchback allowed many to be involved and provided challenging music.
 - Molly and Patti are always great about sharing what they are hearing from parents and Mike stated that he is always open to hearing directly from parents.
- **Other District Items**
 - Budgeting for FY21 is happening now.
 - The middle school and high school Program of Studies are being reviewed and changes are being discussed to meet student needs. Example is a dance class elective.
 - Capitol projects for this fiscal year continue to be discussed and monitored.
 - The department is working on a three year Performing Arts Strategic Plan, reevaluating what we do and how we do it, including things like adding

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Rock Band, ukulele, songwriting labs, meeting the needs of all students and getting even more students involved. Looking at new ways to do things rather than just repeating all of the same things.

- Discussions with Patti and Molly have been ongoing on how we can continue to work together for a successful year.
- Congrats to Steve Scott who welcomed a new baby. Molly noted that POPS gifted a onesie with the POPS logo on it to Steve.
- Mike stated that Friday's meeting at WHS will also include planning something to mark Brian McManimon's departure.
- Regarding the search for a replacement for Brian, Wednesday (November 13th) a site visit was scheduled for one of the four candidates. If that candidate did not prove to be the right person, the search would be reopened. If the candidate was the correct person and an offer was accepted, the hope was to have that person start after Thanksgiving and work with Brian until his departure date of December 20th.

New Business

- Laura Foody thanked all of the parent volunteers who helped the kids during Hunchback.

Molly reminded everyone that the next POPS general meeting will be March 31, 2020. Marisa Gandler made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari Prussin, POPS Secretary.