



MINUTES TO GENERAL MEETINGmar

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Via Zoom

Welcome

Molly Cote called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

Kelly Meraw made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November meeting and to accept them as is. The motion was unanimously passed and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Jenn Caiazzo

- The report is posted on the POPS website. Highlights include:
 - \$2,5000 targeted donation from last year to the WHS Choral Department has been received and spent.
 - \$1,0000 liability on the books for instrument repair. The money has not been used. Last week, the Executive Board voted to reverse these monies.
 - \$3,700 has been raised through the Fun-raiser campaign.
 - The long-term frun of approximately \$76,000 has been invested in CDs per the requirements of the Long Term Fund governing documents. Those CDs are maturing. CDs currently have very poor interest rates. Jenn made a motion to amend the Long Term Fund governing documents to allow the amounts from the maturing CDs to be inverted in a money market account which has better interest rates than CDs. Molly Cote seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Co-Presidents' Report

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

- Patti opened a discussion on the Spring Grant Cycle for 2021 and stated that as a result of the challenges to fundraising this year, there will not be an official grant cycle this year. The Board feels that it would be fiscally irresponsible to award grants at the expense of having the appropriate monies to cover the upcoming end of year and start of school year expenses. Patti noted that some of the monies awarded in last year's grant cycle are still being used now

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- Current Executive Board Positions open for next year include:
 - Treasurer
 - Fundraising Rep
 - Looking for any suggestion of who could be asked to fill those roles.
- Next Year's Executive Board to include:
 - Lesley Prowda is joining Susan Calcio as WHS Drama Rep
 - Jill Adams will be the new VP with Marisa Gandler
 - 2 new Co-Presidents: Melissa Mack and Kelly Meraw

Coordinators Reports

- **Julie Verret -- K -5**
 - Julie noted that elementary schools were getting ready to return to in person learning five days per week. The main focus is figuring out spacing. Julie reported that some teachers have already begun holding classes outside so students have been able to sing and folk dance. Each elementary school is doing things a bit differently based on space, number of students, etc.
- **Katie Speed -- WMS**
 - Katie reported on the music programs based on notes from Joanne Wheeler.
 - There are concerns about space when all students return to school. Band and chorus have different rules. Teaching will happen outside whenever possible.
 - For drama, the kids have been doing an amazing job. The 2021-22 season on shows has been announced and it assumes in person rehearsals and performances.
 - Last year's POPS grant for funds to redo the lighting system is being put to use. Almost all materials have been received at this point.
- **Russell Wilson -- IVEP**
 - The program lost 15 - 20 students from first semester to second. This is a typical amount, even in a non-pandemic year. Russell believes the program will bounce back in the fall.
 - The program cannot go back in person this year and will stay on Zoom
 - Rates will increase in the fall from \$60 to \$63/hour for parents (\$925 to \$970 for the semester). This will allow for an increase from \$56 to \$59 per hour for teachers. Teachers have not gotten a raise in five or 6 years.

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- **Kevin McDonald -- Interim Director of Performing Arts/WHS Coordinator**
 - Last year's grant cycle is being wrapped up.
 - New piano is being delivered to WHS.
 - String bass and cello are on their way.
 - There are two new complete set ups for the electric keyboard, which allow tracks to be made so students can learn music faster.
 - Choral across the district.
 - Started bringing kids outside about three weeks ago. Some inside signing is happening but the 10 feet of separation rules poses challenges in some buildings.
 - DSSE guidelines for singers have been relaxed but the 3 feet of spacing rules do not allow for singing.
 - WHS:
 - Orchestra is playing inside with hopes of live streaming a concert.
 - Band will perform at two home football games.
 - Choral: Liv has been very generous in providing space to spread kids out in the auditorium. A Cappella groups are working on videos. Figuring out how to include choral and music presences at an in-person graduation.
 - Dance: Janet and Liv are working on creating a dance video. Dancing is taking place outside.
 - Tech: Liv's tech team is working all over the school. So much joy coming from them as they support all other departments.
 - Thank you to POPS for advocacy for the performing arts.
 - With so many changes at WPS in the last three years with new directors and administrators at all levels, we cannot take for granted that the community and administration are thinking about performing arts. All good news from the performing arts department and parents matter.
- **Kara Sullivan -- WHS Drama**
 - There have been two student teachers this semester, which has allowed more opportunities for Zoom shows.
 - Student director from Acting IV will direct a freshman/sophomore show.
 - Thanks to POPS for all of the publicity for the master classes.
- **Olivia Gemelli -- WHS Tech**
 - Tech team is growing, eight new students in the last three weeks.

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- Working on building sets with essentially no budget, using what we can find in the building

Board Updates

- **Marisa Gandler** spoke about reimagining the PA banquet for WHS in May. We are waiting on word from WPS regarding what we can do in terms of numbers and space.
- **Publicity**
 - **Robin Wechsler** reviewed the articles which have been published thus far and what is still to come.
 - **Jen Bonniwell** reminded everyone to contact her if anything needed to be posted on social media.
- **Melissa Mack** spoke about the online spirit wear store through Bleacher Supply. This is for all performing arts, all ages, schools and disciplines. A link to the store has been sent out via email and posted on social media. A link will also be added to the POPS website.
- **WHS Drama**
 - **Heather Schaefer** noted that the Master Class Monday series is winding down. There are four shows ramping up with 63 kids participating in the casts.
- **WHS Tech**
 - **Dave Homa** praised Liv for having done so much to keep the tech program going and noted that the level of current engagement is very high.
- **WHS Band**
 - **Molly Cote** on behalf of Linda Duffy shared that the WHS band is practicing outdoors and that the Pep Band will be playing at the spring football games.
- **WMS**
 - **Susan Schumer** noted that Katie and Leah have been doing a great job to give the kids opportunities and highlighted the after school programs which include the podcasting and virtual scene study clubs.
 - **Kelly Meraw** reminded everyone that the virtual cabaret would be taking place on April 9th at 7:00 pm.
- **Remote Learning School**
 - **Molly Cote** on behalf of Linda Duffy stated that an article had been published in the Townsman about RLS' musical successes.



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New Business

No new business was brought to the meeting.

Molly let everyone know that the next POPS general meeting will be May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., with the hope that it will be in person at Molly's house.

Melissa Mack made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Susan Calcio. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari Prussin, POPS Secretary.



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Attendance:

Patti Ayer
Molly Coté
Marisa Gandler
Melissa Mack
Jenn Caiazzo
Heather Schaefer
Susan Calcio
Jen Bonniwell
Robin Wechsler
Lesley Prowda
Shari Prussin
Katie Speed
Russell Wilson
Kevin McDonald
Kelly Meraw
Julie Verret
Susan Schumer
Joanna Bandte
Arabella Hardgrave
Jill Adams
Liv Gemelli
Kara Sullivan
Jill Fishman
Jennifer Colone
Lucy Wilke