



MINUTES TO GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Via Zoom**

Welcome

Molly and Patti welcomed and thanked everyone for coming, noting that it will be a different year for POPS this year.

Approval of Minutes

Julie Verret made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 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 board members were introduced.**
 - Co-VP Melissa Mack
 - WHS Co Drama Rep Susan Calcio
 - WMS Drama Rep Susan Schumer
 - Publicity Coordinator-Social Media: Jen Bonniwell
 - Publicity Coordinator-Print Media: Robin Wechsler
 - Fundraising Coordinator: Lesley Prowda
 - New General Board Reps
 - WMS Drama - Kelly Meraw and Yana Wember
 - WHS Orchestra - Kerry Bedard
- **Positions** still available for this year:
 - WMS Tech Rep
 - WMS Orchestra Rep
 - Elementary Reps for Upham, Hardy and Sprague
- **POPS volunteering/fundraising** this year:
 - Will require flexibility - being supportive in flexible ways. Ordinarily we have the usual shows and know what comes next. This year, everything is new.

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- We will be checking in, asking how POPS can help.
- The executive board is working with Mike and the coordinators to re-evaluate all funds available including the grant money awarded in '19-'20 grant cycle. Any changes will be brought to a vote by the executive committee.
- The Executive Board voted to replenish the discretionary fund which can provide monies for technology or other innovative, creative things that PA teachers need to teach in this environment. Reps may be asked to facilitate purchasing those items.
- A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion update was given by Jill Adams.
 - Jill stated the POPS is a great forum for including all. She asked if something had been created to include in the Performing Arts Department handbook. Pattie responded that Liv is working on this for the high school. Jill noted that interested students can be ambassadors/point of contact for D, E and I. Jill invited others to join in brainstorming, noting that there is information on the WPS website regarding the work already being done. Patti noted that there are opportunities to work with the coordinators and to start the conversation as to how POPS can support initiatives.
 - Russell Wilson stated that there was a WHS senior who, as part of her Girl Scouts Gold Award, wanted to look at gender equity issues in the performing arts. Russell will connect her with Jill.
- A Fundraising update was given by Lesley Prowda.
 - Lesley noted that a new Performing Arts logo was being worked on and would be for new spirit wear, water bottles, etc. She also discussed options for a gala that were being explored, including a virtual gala or delaying the date until the spring when it could be held outside.

Treasurer's Report

Jenn Caiazzo

- The report is posted on the POPS website. Highlights include:
 - The fiscal year started on July 1st. A few online donations have been received as has one targeted donation for the WHS Choral Department.
 - The typical beginning of the year expenses have been recorded.
 - The emergency fund has been replenished to \$1,200.
 - The "backpack letter" asking for donations has not yet gone out.

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- The current cash balances include approximately \$75,000 in restricted funds and approximately \$16,000 in unrestricted cash.
- Patti Ayer 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.

Director of Performing Arts Report Mike LaCava

- Mike gave each of the new coordinators who were present the opportunity to introduce themselves: Russell Willson, Julie Varret, Katie Speed and Kevin McDonald.
- Mike stated that he will be in touch with the coordinators for whatever they need and that he will meet with them every couple of weeks.
- Mike stated that making connections with kids is at the center this year.
 - At the Remote Learning School, working is being done to connect students with program directors.
 - Mike noted that strings can play in small groups in person, and that band, orchestra and chorus are virtual at the elementary level.
- Mike noted that many school districts have made cuts to their performing arts departments and have laid off staff. WPS added staff this year.

New Business

- Molly noted that at the earlier Executive Board meeting there was discussion about highlighting what teachers are doing.
- Patti noted that Linda Duffy is the new WHS Band and Wind Ensemble Rep.

Molly reminded everyone that the next POPS general meeting will be November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Marisa Gandler made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved.

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
Perri Gordon
Leah Fine
Julie Verret
Mike Lacava
Jill Adams
Linda Duffy
Susan Schumer
Chrisine Mizzi
Joanna Bandte