

Blue Springs Music Booster General Membership Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2013; 6:30 at Sunny Vale Middle School

Attending:

Melinda Bowman
Jon Robichaud
Jennifer Conner
Chrystal Simon
Michelle Cunningham
Ronnee Schweizer

Elizabeth Puyear
Terri Arbeau
Julie Phillips
Devin Ceperley
Evelyn Ericson
Jim Clark

Cathy Althoff
Lauren Malone
Tim Puyear
Liz Loos
Mike Marcella
Deborah Wimmer

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:40 pm with a Blue Springs High School jazz combo under the direction of Mr. Wilhoit. They performed two songs. Their performance was amazing, and we thanked Mr. Wilhoit for sharing such a talented group with the membership.

Michelle welcomed all attendees to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. She introduced the board and asked that all teachers introduce themselves as well.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the November 12, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Jennifer Conner motioned and Melinda Bowman seconded that they should be accepted. Minutes were approved.

Financials: Chrystal Simon distributed financials and went through them. She reiterated that the "Funds Held for Schools" accounts are strictly for teachers to draw from as they see fit for their programs. Michelle mentioned there also is some money available now for "funds requests" for teachers. This is money held in the Music Boosters general fund that teachers can request assistance in purchasing items for their classroom outside of the "Funds Held for Schools" accounts. The question was raised as to what those funds can be used for? Michelle explained that the board had received, at the present time, two requests for funds. One request was from Lauren Malone (SPE) for a Metallophone and the other request was from Nathan Wilhoit and Evelyn Ericson (SVMS) for a Korg Stage Vintage Piano. In both instances, the requesters had provided approximately half the purchase price for these items through their "Funds held for Schools" accounts and other fundraising activities and the balances were approved to be paid from the Music Booster's general funds. Jon Robichaud was asked when the last time was that the Music Boosters were able to disburse funds like this. Chrystal confirmed that it had been at least five years since this had occurred.

Membership: Michelle spoke for Shana, as she was unable to attend. We received just a few more memberships than last year. The board has been wracking its collective brain trying to figure out how to grow memberships in the future, and we would love suggestions and feedback.

- A DWMS parent suggested we offer memberships at concerts.
- Mrs. Puyear suggested we offer rolling memberships based upon when one joined the group, not necessarily on school year calendars. She also suggested we could change membership drives to December since concerts are not typically planned for the start of the school year. Chrystal mentioned that taxes would be problematic with rolling memberships because of how our fiscal year end falls for tax purposes.
- Having a Music Booster table at school registration was suggested. And this is a terrific idea, but with our membership just starting to grow, there are very few people to handle lots of these registrations district-wide. As we continue to grow and are able to have a parent representative from each school, this will become a more viable option. Michelle mentioned we would research this further to see if we could possibly do just middle schools instead.
- A parent mentioned possibly having a Music Booster table at TTIN parent info events.
- Michelle mentioned having online memberships may be a possibility in the future.

- Mrs. Althoff suggested a banner or poster to put up at building functions that would let parents know there is such an organization and how they could get involved, possibly with forms offered directly underneath the banner; which wouldn't require staffing.
- Mrs. Puyear mentioned that if teachers are able to mention items that are purchased through BSMB assistance, this will raise awareness of the organization and help those outside the organization to better understand and "buy in" to what we are accomplishing and trying to accomplish (which will drive more membership).

Try the Instrument Night: Jon Robichaud explained that the past TTIN did not meet teachers' needs well; the goal is to meet with the majority of students to assess their band interest. During the past events they were only able to see about half of the students, so the South side is planning to meet with students during the school day. Then a separate informational night will be held for the parents at a date to be determined later. North side goes to each individual building and then has a parent information night. This saves money on clinicians, as fewer are needed. Music Boosters is very open to paying for clinicians or to cover other expenses related to this event.

Social Media: There are many platforms on which to connect with Blue Springs Music Boosters. Most prominent are Facebook, Twitter, and our website. Follow us on Twitter @bsmusicboosters, website www.bluespringsmusicboosters.org, and Facebook www.facebook.com/BlueSpringsMusicBoosters.

Singfest: Mark your calendars! Singfest is coming up April 29, 2013. Fifth grade students as selected by their music teachers from all elementary schools in the district participate in a rehearsal and concert at their attending high schools. Since they leave school early to rehearse and perform, Music Boosters provides a dinner of pizza, water, and cookies for these students. This is one of the major functions we host as the Music Booster organization, and helping hands are always welcome. Please contact us if you would like to help. It's a fun, rewarding afternoon for all who attend.

Board members not returning: Chrystal Simon, Jennifer Conner, and Melinda Bowman will not be returning. If you can think of anyone, possibly at the elementary level, who could be involved long-term, please email suggestions for these positions to Michelle prior to March 31, 2013 so that the individuals may be voted on April 8, 2013. Of great concern is finding a qualified candidate for Chrystal's position since it deals, obviously, so heavily in classical accounting functions. As Michelle has a background and experience in this area, she has contemplated stepping down as President and moving into the Treasurer position (if someone would be willing to take her place as President).

Charging for concerts: A parent questioned why we don't charge for concerts? The general answer that came back was that, unless there's a copyright issue or the program being performed requires a "cut of the gate" proceeds, performances are not purchased events. Unsure if this is district policy or just status quo at work. But Music Boosters would welcome a way to promote its endeavors through concerts at individual buildings.

Adjournment: Mrs. Puyear motioned and Jon Robichaud seconded that the meeting should be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Melinda Bowman