

GBN Choir and Theatre Parents Organization Meeting

October 7, 2014

The meeting was held in the Student Services Conference Room at GBN. The meeting had to be moved from the originally scheduled Green and Gold Conference Room because it was being decorated for Homecoming. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present at the meeting:

Maria Doughty, Chad Davidson, Andrew Wallace, Julie Ann Robinson, Nashwa Mekky, Cynthia Nadig, Christine Hultman, Heidi Good, Jeannie Chang, Lisa Raufeisen, Nancy Frese, Sue Frieden, Erika West, Sally Norlie, Julie Snyder, Tracy Meyer, Patricia Dolins, Amy Oberholtzer, Regina Ruocco, Ellen Westel, Carol Currie, Elyssa Siegel, Heather MacDonald, Esther Kelly, Alison Whitlock, Cheri Kates, Mary Ernster Andrews, and Renee Poczatek

Julie Ann Robinson reported first because she had to leave the meeting.

Kiss the Air was a great success. She commented that the show was long (3 hours).

She Kills Monsters will be running from October 16th through the 18th and the evening shows will begin at 7:00 instead of the usual 7:30 P.M. A 2:00 P.M. show on Saturday (10/18/14) has been added. The show meals for the cast and crew seem to be in good order (more later).

Theatre Fest sign-ups are closed. GBN will have a full bus of kids going in January and staying at the Hawthorne Suites.

The Orlando trip planning is going well (more later).

There will be a Thespian meeting on 10/22/14 in the drama room after *She Kills Monsters* has ended.

The College Parent cohort (for kids who want to pursue drama in college) now has a Google community. On January 14, 2015, there will be mock auditions for college interviews. Julie Ann commented that seniors have been asking for recommendations earlier this year, which is very helpful.

Julie Ann would like to take a group of students to see *Amazing Grace*. Chris Hock, a GBN Alumnus is in the show. Julie Ann is working with the Express schedule to find a good date to see the show.

Winter play auditions will be 10/28/14 and 10/29/14. Students can come to one day or the other to try out. There is no title selected for the Winter Play yet.

She Kills Monsters will be at the Black Box Theatre so there will not be on-line ticket sales (can't do it with the seating). She will start selling tickets a week before the show. Advance ticket sales will be available to cast and crew.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and announced their position in the CTPO.

II. September Meeting Minutes Approval

There were no changes noted to the September meeting minutes. Esther Kelly moved that the minutes be approved. Mary Ernster Andrews seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the September meeting minutes.

III. GBN Faculty Reports

Chad Davidson reported that 13 students from GBN had been selected for the IMEA choir. Thank you to all the students who tried out.

Booster Shot Checkbooks are being handled by Patricia Dolins. Sales are going well.

Butter Braids will be sold soon. Chad and Andy Wallace will present the sales information to students on Monday and Tuesday next week (10/13 and 10/14). The sale of Butter Braids will end on November 7th. Butter Braids will be delivered and should be picked up by students on 11/18 immediately after school.

Variety Show auditions will be held on November 17th.

There is a new student teacher in the choir department, Mr. Kirby. He went to GBS and University of Illinois and is now student teaching at GBN. He will be with us through winter break.

Chad met with Kris Orticelli last week to go over the plans for the Orlando Tour. There are currently 74 students signed up to go. There are also currently 4 staff (Davidson, Wallace, Robinson, and Susie Hall) as well as 4 parent chaperones. Chad will hear very soon from a fifth parent who is interested in chaperoning the trip. He will be more comfortable with 5 parent chaperones but 4 will still provide an acceptable student / adult ratio.

The question came up about what the stipend will be for the chaperones. Maria commented that she is looking into the matter and would like to have the stipend be the same percentage of the cost of the trip that has been covered by CTPO in the past.

Dr. Pryma and Chad Davidson had a discussion about the curricular choir uniforms. Chad will be drafting a letter to Dr. Pryma to give details of the past replacement cycle and anticipated cost of new uniforms. The current curricular uniforms are about 10 years old and are starting to look a little ragged. The cost of the current uniforms was generously subsidized by a donor many years ago. Extra-curricular choir outfits are replaced more frequently because they get heavier use and the replacement is paid for with funds that are raised by the groups performing for pay. They are replaced every 3 or 4 years. Boys' uniforms are easier to maintain because the tuxedo style does not change. Every year, about 8 to 10 new pairs of pants are ordered. Boys buy the shirts, ties, and cumber buns.

While on the topic of CTPO spending, a comment was made that banquet centerpieces need to be replaced. Maria commented that she thinks there is money in the budget for that.

There is a contest being held by Baymont Inn and Suites to win \$5,000 for school uniforms. Carol Currie and Nancy Frese submitted entries for GBN Choir. If selected, there will be voting on the site between 11/3 and 11/9. We will let you know if we make it into the finals. Here is the link:

https://www.facebook.com/baymontinns/app_432082963537112?ref=ts

Monday 10/13/14 is the day that boys should go to school from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. to purchase tux shirts (\$25), ties, and cumber buns.

Express will be singing at the Goodman Theatre for the opening day matinee of *A Christmas Carol* on 11/15/14. The theater is offering \$10 off tickets purchased by family and friends but they are selling out very fast. With the discount, tickets are approximately \$40 - \$50 for the main floor and \$30 - \$40 for the mezzanine. There is room for about 20 parents to ride the bus from GBN with the kids. The show is at 2:00 P.M. Students will meet near the fitness center entrance of GBN around 11:30 A.M.

IV. Membership Reports - Amy Oberholtzer

Amy thanked parents who spoke at the Parent Night in the Classroom on 9/11/14 (Kristine Schwandner, Esther Kelly, Lisa Raufeisen, Tracy Parks, and Amy's husband, William). Amy reported that the membership money from the Book Sale has not arrived yet but about \$2,000 is expected. We currently have 117 or 118 members.

V. Treasurer / Fundraising / EFA (Earnings Fund Accounts) Reports

Patricia Dolins reported that we have only about 25 Booster Shot checkbooks on hand that have not been spoken for. The band will be ordering more and we agreed that CTPO would

order 75 more. It will take 3 to 4 weeks for the new order to arrive. There has been one complaint that the store Peyton Rose told a shopper that there is a \$25.00 minimum purchase required to use the coupon. This is not noted on the coupon or in the contract that the store signed so the situation is being looked into further.

EFA (Earnings Fund Accounts) total for all students combined is currently \$15,624.65 as of today. This does not include many of the recent checkbook sales. A sheet containing current EFA balances for the students was passed around.

Treasurer Sally Norlie reported the following bank balances:

\$12,001.34 – Theatre

\$6,651.30 – Choir

\$21,756.29 – Money Market

BrightSpark will need to be provided with a check for the transfer of EFA money to be applied to the cost of the Orlando trip no later than 10/20/14. This means that forms **(Request for Transfer of Student Earning-Fund Balances) must be mailed to Patricia Dolins (her email has not been reliable) by October 15th. Her address is 2212 Woodlawn, Northbrook, IL 60062. THE MOST RECENT EFA BALANCES WILL BE POSTED IN THE CHOIR ROOM. Students can get the amount to give to their parents to put on the form.**

Sally Norlie is not able to track EFA money from 2013-2014 because the Request for Transfer forms were not used. Moving forward, we need to keep better records of the account balances and transfers.

VI. Chaperones Report – Nashwa Mekky and Tracy Meyer

Sign up Genius requests went out for Cider and Song (to be held 10/21/14) and there are still spots available. Arrival time will be 6:45 P.M. for students and chaperones. There will be an emergency kit on hand with needle and thread, pins, etc. in case students have issues with their uniforms.

VII. Refreshments Report – Cheri Kates

She Kills Monsters will be running 10/16 – 10/18 at 7:00 P.M. and a Saturday show at 2:00 P.M. has been added. There will be no refreshments at the Saturday 2:00 P.M. Show. (Ticket sales help will be needed for the Saturday 2:00 show.) The preference is for parents of students in the show to participate in refreshment and ticket sales. A suggestion was made that we ask the Thespian members to help sell refreshments.

Cider and Song refreshments are covered.

VIII. Newsletter / Communications Report – Nancy Frese

Nancy is aware of a correction that was needed to the date on the last newsletter.

Another communication blast will go out soon with reminders of upcoming important choir and theatre dates. Email Nancy at the end of the month if you have something that should be mentioned in the next month's blast or newsletter.

IX. Show Meals Report – Mary Ernster Andrews

She Kills Monsters will have meals on October 13, 14, and 15. They will be from Noodles & Company and Go Roma. Parent volunteers are all set.

X. Publicity Report – Christine Hultman

Christine thanked Alison Whitlock and those who helped with *Kiss the Air* posters.

Lists of volunteers for show meals and publicity were passed so that we could all check them for accuracy. Maria would like to add show meal volunteers to the main contact list.

XI. Question and Answer Session

There were no questions.

Other Business

Maria asked if officers and members are OK with having their names and contact information posted on the www.gbnchoir.com or www.gbntheatre.com websites. There were no objections.

Maria indicated that she has volunteers who would like to be on the committee to review the By-Laws. Currently, Theatre seems to have no By-Laws so we will be looking into that. A meeting will be scheduled soon for the By-Laws committee to meet.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in the next few weeks.

Booster Shot checkbook information can be found on both the choir and theatre websites.

Mary Ernster Andrews requested that if there comes a time that we can be thinking of purchasing new costumes for the curricular choirs, please consider having a washable option. Another suggestion was made that we stay away from black and white costumes.

Chad Davidson will be running in the Chicago Marathon on Sunday 10/12/14. His number is 14630 and he is running for Lurie Children's Hospital. Here is the link to his page:

http://foundation.luriechildrens.org/site/TR/Events/MarathonTeam?px=1477422&pg=personal&fr_id=1530

A wardrobe chair is needed. Maria will reach out to people who have expressed an interest or willingness to help in this capacity.

The meeting ended at exactly 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Currie
Secretary