

GBN Choir and Theatre Parents Organization Meeting

December 2, 2014

The meeting was held in the Green and Gold Conference Room at Glenbrook North High School. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

Present at the meeting:

Chad Davidson, Andrew Wallace, Julie Ann Robinson, Maria Doughty, Patricia Dolins, Tracy Meyer, Nancy Frese, Regina Ruocco, Amy Oberholtzer, Jeannie Chang, Julie Snyder, Alison Whitlock, Elyssa Siegel, Christine Hultman, Lisa Raufeisen, Cheri Kates, Mary Ernster Andrews, Esther Kelly, and Carol Currie.

I. Welcome

CTPO President, Maria Doughty welcomed everyone and thanked Nancy Frese for running the November meeting.

November Meeting Minutes Approval

We neglected to approve the November minutes so that will need to be done at the first meeting in 2015.

II. GBN Faculty Reports

Andy Wallace commented that the department has been very busy. The Variety Show preparations have started and vocal ensemble auditions were held today. The Winter Concert will be two weeks from today on 12/16. **The call time is 6:00 P.M.** (not 5:30 as was originally scheduled). The winter concert falls on the first night of Hanukkah. Students should turn in a conflict sheet right away if they have a conflict with the Winter Concert on 12/16/14.

Chad Davidson noted that Express is “out and about” performing. The Express Friends and Family Concert will be this Sunday, December 7th, at 3:00 P.M. in room E103. Nancy Frese and Carol Currie are coordinating the reception. Express kids will provide the treats.

On Wednesday, December 17th, (the day after the Winter Concert) GBN will have their Winter Assembly. That will be during the school day for blocks 2-3 and 4-5.

Thursday, December 18th is the day of the Travelling Show. Traveling Show is sponsored by Student Activities (Dr. Tarjan). Some of the same choir kids will be in the Traveling Show and will miss school on Thursday. On Friday, December 19th, Express will leave school early (11:00 A.M.) for a concert. There is potential for a lot of school to be missed that week – parents be forewarned.

The public performance on the Choir Tour to Orlando will be on Saturday, January 24, 2015. It will be at 2:45 P.M. on the Waterside Stage in Downtown Disney (outside of the theme park). This will be nice for families who want to see the show but who do not want to enter the theme parks.

A letter was presented to the School Board by Superintendent Mike Riggle regarding the Festival of Music that has traditionally been held at Techny Towers. The School Board discussed the matter. The 2015 concert will be held at Glenbrook South. The 2016 concert will be held at Techny Towers and in 2017 there will be a re-evaluation of the venue options. Because the concert will be at GBS, there will be a smaller need for chaperones and there will be one concert instead of two because GBS can seat many more people than Techny. Techny seats about 600 and GBS holds more than double that number. We will probably not need a snack because there will be no break to fill between concerts. GBS does not have a CTPO so we will still need to support them for the 2015 concert. Chad and Marty (at GBS) are discussing ticket prices. The concert runs at a deficit when it is held at Techny so it would be nice to charge about \$5.00 at GBS to build a fund that will help prevent a deficit when we are back at the Techny venue in 2016. The concert will continue to have a guest director, regardless of venue.

Julie Ann Robinson spoke about the winter play, *Don't Drink the Water*. She said that the show is very fun. There are 19 students in the cast and Alison McDonald is the student director for the show. Sign-ups have gone out for assistance with meals and ticket sales. The show will be in the CPA at GBN. Seats are not reserved and Julie Ann said that the side seating sections will likely not be used at all. The show is about 100 to 110 minutes in length. On December 12th, the drama and political science classes will preview the show starting at around 8:40 A.M. and it will run through block 4-5. Julie Ann said that she put all the seniors together in one show. They will perform on Saturday night and for the mid-day show. Tickets will be \$8.00 or free with an activities pass. The tickets are being printed and should be ready this week. Student Sarah Dolins will be heading up the ushers for the show. Christine Hultman will get the food for the Friday daytime performance. Posters will be coming soon. Julie Ann expects them on Friday of this week. The cast and crew will have a pot luck dinner on Sunday for their evening meal. Julie Ann suggested that crock pots should work very well for this dinner.

After the holiday break, the Theatre Festival will be the next big event for theatre. Mr. Wallace will drive the bus on Thursday after school as Julie Ann will have to go on Wednesday. It is nice that Theatrefest is not immediately before finals this year. There is a week of school between Theatrefest and finals.

GBN staff member, Amy Ticho, will be in charge of One Acts. On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, there will be combined auditions for One Acts and Group Interp. On January 7th, there will be call backs for One Acts. Six plays are being selected. Isabella Andrews and Cam Norlie have reviewed the student submissions and they will soon reveal the six selected pieces.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, there will be a College Cohort Thespian meeting. Seniors who have been or will be applying to colleges can show off what they have been using for college auditions. Parents are invited to attend.

A footnote was added by Chad Davidson that Julie Ann Robinson and Andy Wallace will be presenting on the topic of Musical Theatre at Theatrefest this year. Theatrefest has about 4500 kids in attendance so there is not space for parents to attend without a full paid registration.

Six students have made the IMEA All State choir. They are Isabella Andrews, Maddy Fornier, Elaine Currie, Kiera McCarthy, Meg Ruocco and Christian Mergl. Congratulations to these kids!

III. Membership Report

Amy Oberholtzer reported that she has reached out to the families of kids cast in the fall theatre events and we added two new members. She will check to see if the cast of *Don't Drink the Water* has any non-CTPO members that she can approach to join the CTPO.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sally Norlie was not present at the meeting so Maria Doughty reported the following account balances:

Choir	\$10,389.85
Theatre	\$12,765.33
Money Market	\$21,765.29

V. Fundraising / EFA Reports

Maria commented that there had been discussion with Ted Monigrim regarding a wish list of items that CTPO may be able to purchase. A traveling microphone / sound system was suggested but this is something that could be used by all departments at GBN and so might not be the best choice for the CTPO to give. More thought will be given to the issue.

There was then a discussion about what, if anything, CTPO may give to the kids going on the Orlando tour. Carol Currie commented that she and Ellen Westel currently have no budget

so planning was difficult. There was a general consensus (although not a vote) that CTPO could possibly fund something (shirts, pizza, ice cream, Disney pins, or something else) probably costing around \$200.00 total for the tour. Carol and Ellen will discuss ideas further.

While on the topic of money, Julie Ann Robinson added that Thespian Troupe has sponsored a small family and she has a sign-up on her door so that kids can sign up to provide this family with a nice Christmas. There is a 40 year old woman and an 11 year old boy who need boots and coats and other things.

Tri-M has a similar sponsorship of a family so students are encouraged to sign up to help provide gifts for one or both of these families.

For fundraising, Patricia Dolins reported that the Butter Braid sale went very well. Over 200 Butter Braids were sold and all have been picked up by or delivered to the students who sold. She has about 25 Booster Shot checkbooks left and these can still be sold. Just let her know if you need one or more books.

Chaperone Report

No report.

Refreshments

No report.

VI. Newsletter / Communications Report

Nancy Frese currently sends and will continue to send (to committee heads) requests for information to be included with the news blasts about one week in advance of our meetings. She sends the blasts on the Sunday before the Tuesday night CTPO meetings.

Esther Kelly requested that we include advance ticket sale information with the news blasts. She would like to have more warning of when tickets will be available for purchase. People agreed that this would be useful information to include, particularly for those who do not have a child in the show.

VII. Show Meals

Mary Ernster Andrews reported on the show meals for *Don't Drink the Water*. The meals will be on December 8th, 9th, and 10th. The meals will come from Panera Bread and Lou Malnati's. Jet Pizza in Wheeling had been contacted but our order volume was too small so that did not work out. Mary has volunteers to help with the meals. There will be a pizza meal provided from the Theatre budget for the performance held during the school day on December 12th.

VIII. Publicity Report

Christine Hultman reported that she expects posters for *Don't Drink the Water* to be available on Friday. This show will be in the CPA so we should not be shy about putting posters up. There will be plenty of seats and it is unlikely that the shows will sell out. The show is appropriate for younger kids (junior high or maybe even younger) so we should put posters up at the junior high schools and around town.

IX. Tour Report

Nothing more was added to the discussion that had been held earlier in the meeting

X. Banquets

Maria asked about the dates as they were not on the www.gbnchoir.com website. Theatre banquet will be on May 8, 2015. Choir banquet will be on May 19, 2015. There was discussion about the choir banquet. We need to nail down a venue. Maria has been talking to Pinstripes and we will need to make a deposit very soon with either Pinstripes or Allgauer's.

Gifts for graduating seniors, which are presented at the banquets, were discussed. Traditionally, choir has given a nice blanket to each graduating senior. Theater has been inconsistent about giving a gift. Julie Ann commented that it is better not to include a year on the gift so that extras can be used in the future. There was conversation about how to "qualify" a senior for the theatre gift. Everyone agreed that being inclusive would be best and if the student had been in or worked on even one production, even if it was when they were a freshman, they would be given a gift if they came to the banquet. Julie Ann said that there are usually about 20 to 25 graduating seniors at the Theatre banquet. We decided that ordering 35 gifts for theatre should cover our need. Since \$20 to \$25 is spend on each blanket for the choir graduates, a similar budget should be in place for the theatre gifts. Julie Ann is working on at Theatre logo and maybe that could be incorporated into the gift. Suggestions were made for a pillow, bag, backpack, or duffle bag. The theatre gift options will be looked into further.

XI. Q and A Session

Maria invited comments and questions and there were none.

The meeting ended at 6:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Currie
Secretary