

Barbara Ingram School for the Arts
Parent Guild Meeting
March 15, 2010
7:00 pm

President, Rob Smetzer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following officers/committee members were present: Becky Arnemann, Treasurer; Julie Cade, Secretary; Michele Fuller, Vice President; Susan Mowen, Arts & Academics Program Committee Chair, David Sheredy, Fundraising Committee Chair, Toni Webb, Campus Life Committee Chair. Also present were, Principal Thorsen, Dale Bannon, Board of Education, Cynthia Perini, Foundation member and parents (sign in sheet distributed).

Introductions

Executive Committee members, administrators and parents present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes from the February 22, 2010 Parent Guild Meeting was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Arnemann reported that to date \$1,900 has been received for the Hearts for the Arts Campaign.

Foundation Report

At the invitation of David Sheredy, Dale Bannon was present to provide background regarding the Foundation. Mr. Bannon distributed a facts sheet about the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Foundation. He explained that the Foundation was created in the summer of 2007, incorporated September 28, 2007 and received non-profit status February 13, 2008. Mr. Bannon discussed the mission statement of the Foundation and how the core of this mission is to ensure success for the students. The Foundation's current pledges are \$800,000 (over a five 5-year period) and as of June 30, 2010 the total amount distributed to support the school will be \$101,375. These funds are utilized for the school's artists-in-residence program as well as to provide for numerous projects at the school.

Mr. Bannon highlighted the upcoming Roaring Twenties Gala. The Foundation has a goal of netting \$45,000 from this event with *possible* return of approximately \$30,000 to the school (ticket sales, royalty fees). The Gala is the Foundation's annual "big event" to raise money for the school's artist in residence program. Next year, the

Foundation's big event "Take Flight II" will not be combined with a school's production.

Mr. Bannon acknowledged that the February 1 launch of the Hearts for the Arts campaign was delayed due to bulk mailing issues, which unfortunately resulted in the arrival of the Gala invitation and Hearts for the Arts info at the same time. The Foundation recognized this and is offering a special combined offer for parents. This offer allows parents to purchase 2 Gala tickets at \$250 with \$100 of this contribution being given directly to the Hearts for the Arts Inaugural Class Circle Campaign, in honor of your student. Proceeds from the Gala and the Hearts for the Arts Campaign benefit students by providing artists in residence, specialized equipment and other supply needs.

The Foundation has announced its 2011 Take Flight Campaign which will feature hot air balloons. These balloons will have the capability of illumination. Mr. Bannon said more details about this campaign are forthcoming.

Mrs. Cynthia Perini thanked the group for inviting she and Dale to the meeting and added that the Foundation's long term goal is to raise \$5 million for an endowment fund. Mrs. Perini discussed the Foundation's philosophy and approach to fundraising. She asked that if parents have contacts with the financial wherewithal to make donations to the school, to please let her or another Foundation member know. While encouraging parents to seek financial contributions, she cautioned parents to watch that "paths do not cross". The Foundation is primarily seeking larger financial contributions and often spends many months planting seeds in order to gain these contributions. Mr. Bannon added that if you are unsure about the status of a potential contributor to first ask the Foundation if they have been working with the individual/firm.

Committee Chair Reports

Communications, Michele Fuller, Chair

Michele introduced Marci Howes, explaining that Marci is in charge of our website and that she is making improvements to the site. One such improvement is an *In The News Tab* where newspaper articles about the school will be posted. Michele asked that if you observe an item in the news to please let me know to ensure it is posted.

Campus Life, Toni Webb, Chair

Toni presented Millie posters and offered them to anyone for display and promotion of the show. Millie t-shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase. Order forms were distributed. Toni also discussed sponsor/patron pages and advertisement opportunities that are available for the show program. Handouts were provided, along with the same information being distributed via email and copies with the students.

Arts & Academics Program, Susan Mowen, Chair

Susan announced several upcoming fundraisers for the Carnegie Hall trip:

- The first is a spaghetti dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church, date to be determined. Mr. Weary is in the process of preparing a letter for the parents.
- Vocal students will also perform at Mr. Weary's church - date to be determined. The free-will offering will be donated to the students.
- A spirit night will be held May 3 at Buffalo Wild Wings with a Longaberger Basket raffle. Susan requested assistance in obtaining prizes for the basket.

Principal Thorsen added that the Downtown restaurants have agreed to have vocal students perform at their restaurants on May 13 with a portion of the evening proceeds benefiting the school.

Fundraising, David Sheredy, Chair

David explained the tier level fundraising approach and that all funds contributed to the Hearts for the Arts campaign go into Tier 2 for the Parent Guild. These funds provide equipment, uniforms and supplies. Rob added that the Parent Guild is the voice of the parents and thus we recognize and do not expect parents to personally support all the programs. Rob asked that parents help spread the word about the various ways to contribute to the school. Principal Thorsen stated that there will be no conflicting campaigns next year that there will be two giving campaigns - one in the fall, one in the spring. A parent questioned attending the Gala at \$125/person yet not desiring to pay full price for a child to attend as well. Principal Thorsen felt that some type of solution could be reached. Another parent expressed concern over ticket prices being a deterrent to seeing child/ren perform. Principal Thorsen acknowledged the fees for the Gala, and suggested perhaps volunteer opportunities/discount options that could be explored.

Parent Liaison Reports

Linda Kelly, Dance Liaison, reported that the dancers had a field trip to Frostburg State University and reminded all about the upcoming Teen Idol event where the dancers will perform a Michael Jackson tribute. Linda added that students will have an opportunity for a Master Class with the Moscow Ballet in April. Seats are limited.

Rebecca Diehl-Sheredy, Visual Arts Department Liaison reported on the recent art exhibit held at the University of Maryland Hagerstown campus. Our students received 3 top awards. The students recently had a field trip to Washington, DC. The printer (earned via the movie night in February) has been ordered. The department is planning another movie night, as well as other upcoming trips and exhibits. Michele asked for information about the awards to post this information to the website.

Sheri Stewart, Instrumental Music Liaison reported that the students would like to organize a Keynote Club. The purpose would be to provide additional service opportunities and to give students exposure to performing for audiences. Michele asked Sheri to get the solo/ensemble information from Mr. Harrell to post results to the website.

Theatre Liaison – Pam Allen did not have a report from Ms. Ridenour for tonight. Toni Webb added that she has made reminder phone calls to all the volunteers. People have been busy cutting and sewing costumes, etc. Becky Arnemann has agreed to lead coordination of the program.

Principal's Report

Principal Thorsen reminded everyone that the guiding philosophy when the school began was to base student acceptance strictly on talent. Grades are not a consideration. Principal Thorsen proudly distributed a tally of pass grades by cohort as of March 12, 2010. All rates for Algebra, Biology, English and Government are above 90% with the Seniors receiving 100% in all areas.

Information on the National Honor Society was distributed.

A Fellowship of Christian Artists (student led) met at the end of February. The gathering was so successful that the students will begin meeting regularly. The next gathering is March 26, 2010 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Principal Thorsen reported that there was a mix-up with the recently released grades – especially those for the full-year classes. This will be corrected and new grades resent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Cade
Secretary