

Parent Guild Meeting

Barbara Ingram School for the Arts – Black Box Theatre

Hagerstown, Maryland

October 17, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. The following officers/committee members were present: Marci Howes, President, Jennifer Silbert, Vice President, Rob Smetzer, Ex-Officio member, Julie Cade, Secretary, Cindy Moore, Treasurer, Committee Chairs Linda Kelly and Natasha Ramos-Izquierdo, and Michael Thorsen, Principal.

School Spirit Gear & Class Rings

Ms. Erin McCarthy, teacher and “school store coordinator” announced that the company that distributes merchandise will be present at school on Monday and Tuesday next week with information about class rings. Parents were encouraged to come and see the selection of merchandise. Rings may be purchased on-line, but this visit to school is the only opportunity to see the selection in person. Parents of seniors were advised to be aware that cap and gown orders are coming up in November. Ms. McCarthy stated that suggestions for specific “gear” (i.e., clings, “sweats”, etc.) are welcome. Any order can be placed as long as the minimum of 12/per item is met.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Thorsen thanked the parents for the good attendance and expressed his appreciation for the involvement. Mr. Thorsen offered the following report and comments:

Report Cards have been distributed. If you haven’t seen one yet, please ask your child.

There have been a few issues with the afternoon dismissal process. A ‘test’ of a rear dismissal procedure will occur within the next week. Advance notice will be provided regarding this test dismissal.

Informational sessions for interested prospective students will be held on October 26, 27 and 28, 2011.

Additional information about the Mummer’s Parade is forthcoming. Mr. Matheny is coordinating construction of the float and will be calling for float helpers soon. Please watch the email blast for more information.

Parade Open house – BISFA will participate in an open house of galleries on the day of the Mummer’s Parade.

The All County Chorus concert is Wednesday evening at North High.

In November, students will be participating in making the tree in the square 'better than before'. Mr. Matheny is working on a design. More information about the tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 21 is forthcoming.

At 7:20 p.m. Marci Howes was excused from the meeting with Rob Smetzer assuming the chair.

Treasurer's Report

Newly elected Treasurer, Cindy Moore, reported that we have a balance of \$590 in our account. \$250 was donated by the City of Hagerstown for participation in the harvest Hoedown and \$300 was donated for participation in Augustoberfest. The Guild will be opening a checking account. Cindy indicated that 2 signatures are required for the account, however, she recommends that we have 3 authorized signers on the account. Membership dues are \$5/per person for the 2011-12 year and are still being collected.

Mr. Thorsen added that \$3,000, for school's general fund, has been collected to date as a result of the \$50 per semester request letter. This letter was mailed to parents of students in late August.

Fundraising Committee

Rob indicated that we continue to seek a chair for the Fundraising Committee. Jennifer Silbert offered to co-chair the committee with another volunteer. She also asked for clarification of how discipline fundraising dovetails with all-school fundraising. Mr. Thorsen explained that the 1st level of fundraising is for the endowment. The Foundation targets large levels donations that support the endowment. The 2nd level of fundraising is at the discipline level and is for trips, etc., which are specific to the discipline (these funds do not support the endowment) and the 3rd level is supplies and miscellaneous items. Mr. Thorsen added that once the goal of a \$5 million endowment is secured, the school will be self-sustaining. The Parent Guild has previously agreed to donate 10% of all proceeds of funds raised via concerts to benefit the endowment.

The Fundraising Chair position(s) were not established by the close of the meeting.

Current fundraising opportunities include live evergreen wreaths and decorative lampposts. Natasha is coordinating the wreath sales and indicated orders are due November 4 with delivery of the wreaths on November 22. These fresh, evergreen wreaths are \$35/each. The Foundation is sponsoring decorative lampposts in conjunction with the City of Hagerstown. For the cost of a \$100 sponsorship, a 14 x 14 sign with the name of the sponsoring business, organization or family will be placed on one of 150 decorative lampposts within the city center. Sponsorships are due by November 14.

Committees

Student life - Natasha reported on behalf of the Student Life Committee and stated that the Homecoming Dance is November 4 from 8-11 pm at the Bridge of Life church. The students

have coordinated a DJ and a theme for the night. Elections for King & Queen will be on October 24. The committee is sponsoring a stand for the parade and will sell soda, chips and baked goods. If interested in donating items, please contact Natasha. The Committee is contemplating a crazy sock fundraiser (in honor of the late Mr. Herr) and will also hold the talent show in January or February instead of November.

Ena Marks, Literary Arts student, attended the meeting as a reporter for the new BISFA newsletter. Ena explained that the inaugural issue of the newsletter will be out soon, with plans to publish a bi-weekly report. Items for the newsletter can be sent to pfantome6@gmail.com

Reporting for the Theatre Department, Natasha explained that the department is hosting a solo showcase on Monday and tickets go on sale tomorrow.

New Business

Mr. Thorsen reminded all about the all-school holiday showcase spectacular scheduled for December 21. One show only!

There will be on-going discussions regarding a task force that is looking into the evolving rationale for arts education in schools. Mr. Thorsen indicated that the new Superintendent is knowledgeable and supportive of arts educations and that these talks are positive. Those with questions should feel free to talk to Mr. Thorsen.

Prize Drawing

Paul and Pamela Hall were the winners of this evening's prize drawing for attending the meeting. Congratulations!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Cade

Secretary