

## **Downingtown Music Parents Association Board Meeting October 13, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm Donna Beard, President.

Present at the meeting were: Matt McCloskey (West), Susan Chindemi (East), Carrie Fell (East), Nellie Santos (West), Shawna Powel (STEM), Patrice Costanzi (Treasurer), Kyle Costanzi (Food Service), Brent Lewis (East), Sherry Weaver (Orchestra), Jan Lassen (West Sec'y), Nancy Chew (East), Adam Speakman (East), Donna Beard (West), Kathy Collier (STEM), Brian Lloyd (STEM), Kristy Deischer-Eddy (East Sec'y). Ed Otto (West) joined the meeting later.

**Minutes: approval of April's minutes.** Donna reported that a majority of people had no corrections to the minutes sent out via e-mail earlier in the week, so the April 2015 minutes are approved.

**Minutes: September – not yet available.** Approval tabled.

**Recognition of Brent Lewis:** Donna congratulated Mr. Lewis for being recognized at Monday night's School Board meeting for his role in assisting a student that required an epi-pen injection. He was awarded the district's highest honor, the Apple of Distinction.

Mr. Lewis noted that the training that the district was requiring had had a deadline of September 30 to review the tutorial and have a practice session with the school nurse. The irony of the situation was that he had just completed the training that afternoon, and that very night a student was stung by a bee with swelling and hives, and I knew what to do. Mr. Lewis said he was not a hero but knows that any other staff member would have done the same thing.

**Directors Budgets 2015-16:** Patrice reported that the draft of the 2015-16 budget was not yet ready to pass out to the parents as it is still a work in progress. Prior years' budgets have been in the \$36,000 range, but this year's requests total about \$54,800.

A good \$7,000 was lost at the concession stands with the rains for the last two weekends' football games. Soccer has been holding their own. This weekend should be a big game, and barring any weather interfering, the East/West game should be HUGE. With the way both teams are playing, if they stay undefeated, there could be two playoff games.

We did gross \$7,000 from the gate at Music in Motion. After expenses, there was \$1,700 to the positive. Expenses were \$2,200 for judges, \$2,200 entrance fee, and supplies. This figure does not include ad book monies. We did not charge for parking because other contests do not charge either.

For the Drum Corps Classic we netted \$4,030. If there was an ad book, there would be more money to be made there.

Brian Lloyd (STEM Choir) gave \$2,000 as the figure for his yearly budget.

Ed Otto (West Band) asked for \$5,000 instead of \$2,500 for Indoor Drumline & Indoor Guard (combined for all three schools). An opportunity to host a show was taken by Coatesville. Championships are now at the U of Delaware. Indoor Guard is hosting a Chapters show, so the guard & drumline should work together to make money off that show.

Donna asked if there was anything that could be cut from the budgets.

Patrice said that the MPA could cover this budget as presented, but if sales at the concession stands don't turn around, next year there won't be the cushion that's there this year in the money market account. Band expenses recently submitted haven't shown up on the balance sheets yet.

Brent Lewis asked what the \$3,000 West Band line item was. Patrice said it was for the marching band's guard.

Donna stated that the rest of the discussion would be tabled until next month. An e-mail vote can be done to finalize the year's budget.

**Financials – Theresa:** nothing to report.

**Revenue report:** Donna passed out a district balance sheet for funds received through September. The Activity Fees line item shows a \$38,000 surplus through September in the **DASD Activity Fees** collected.

Brent Lewis noted that at this point last year, all the East band kids had paid already. Not sure if the STEM kids paid their fees.

Brian Lloyd stated that he had been asked for a list of kids that had paid their fee & his feeling is that that's for the district to track.

Donna stated that it's worth noting that the district has collected more money than was budgeted for and that money is not coming back to the programs. With the final number of fees not yet totaled, the number might even be higher.

## **Fundraising**

**Ways & Means: Three fundraisers are lined up, with two already approved.**

1. Shawna stated that the Pellman's fundraiser is taking place now through Nov. 2 for a Nov. 17 delivery, in time for Thanksgiving. Brent Lewis suggested that we call it a Thanksgiving dessert sale. Donna stated they do freeze well & could be for Christmas as well.

2. **Dine & Donate at Texas Roadhouse, 10/17 & 10/18:** Carrie reported that this will take place over two whole days with 15% of sales going back to the students, above & beyond normal 10%. Drinks, food, to-go, & gift cards! Flyers were passed out for students to put in their name, school, graduation year, and the pretax total of their meal. The flyer cannot be distributed on site, but if someone forgot theirs, one can be given to them. Texas Roadhouse did ask if we wanted to put out raffle baskets. An idea for next time might be a 50/50 raffle.
3. **Wawa certificates & Regal Cinema vouchers:** Nancy stated that the Wawa hoagie certificates would sell for \$4 (shortis usually run \$4.29) with \$1 each going to the students. Regal cinema tickets would sell for \$10 (usually \$12.25) with \$1.50 each going to the students. Dates to run are November 6-20. Not ready yet; just waiting for school approval.

Donna stated that she had sent Mary Kay information to the Ways & Means committee.

**Policy for Parents in Need of Paying Trips:** Donna stated that a parent had contacted her, a single mom w/ 2 daughters in the band at West. She asked if there was any help the MPA could give, since she is looking at \$2,400 for both. Told her she'd get back to her with an answer. We need to come up with a policy. She was asked if her family was eligible for the free or reduced meal program & they are not. They do have some money in their DSF accounts.

Patrice: may be able to be above & beyond funds in DSF. Move it into a fund of some kind & help kids that need help.

Donna stated that the MPA has the money but needs a policy. How do we determine who truly has a need? What others may have a need? She's the only one that has reached out.

Brian Lloyd stated that he has a small amount he's asking for this year. If I were faced with that situation first, I'd go to the principal first. There might be HSA funds first before we have to come to the MPA.

Donna stated that what she's hearing is that we should refer people back to their directors, who will exhaust resources before coming back to the MPA.

Patrice stated that, as a whole, we say that MPA does not pay for trips.

Brent Lewis stated that when he budgets for a trip he always factors in a cushion. If the group is 100, then budget for 103.

**Follow up from Band Show 9/26:** Ed Otto stated that the show went really well. The next one is state Championships during November 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. We will need parents from string & choir to help out as well as the usual complement—will need about 65-70 more volunteers. This is the same weekend as STEM's Homecoming. The concern is for parking as it is a two-day event.

**Fees for District events (choir) follow up- tabled.**

**Activity vs. Clubs-tabled.**

**Concessions:** Kyle reported.

- **East/West game:** if both East and West go undefeated up until that game, then it will be huge. There could be an East-West playoff game. There could be another playoff after that.

Patrice stated that people aren't necessarily signing up but are showing up to help. If not signed up on ivolunteer then you're not a volunteer. For volunteer meals, the idea of a max of \$6.50 one-time use coupon for free food was suggested, to keep the people at the counter from awkward situations.

- **Cavalcade show:** a list for times of shifts and numbers are yet to be posted.
- **Transition meeting:** On October 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting for next year's concessions team.

Donna adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Deischer-Eddy, Recording co-secretary, DEHS