

Downingtown High School Music Parents Association (DHS-MPA)
Regular Meeting, Downingtown East High School
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 8:30 pm

Donna Beard called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. She stated the meeting would be brief due to the weather.

Website: the new website is live: www.dhsmpa.org. Rhonda Marks is to be commended for designing the new site; and Rich Goldberg is to be thanked for his continuing to host the site for us for free.

Open Positions: there are several open positions at the end of the year, and some that have been filled already. Open are: President, Treasurer, West Vice President, and West Secretary. Ideally, we'd have people on the Board a few months before the school year ends to shadow the current members.

Neil Johnson is taking over Concessions. We have someone for scheduling carwashes in the summer.

We also will need someone to help with the DSF Accounting (Kim Woodward is currently running this).

Scholarships: Each year, DHS-MPA gives out five \$1,000 Scholarships—two to East, two to West, and one to STEM. We are also looking for a scholarship sponsor for the STEM scholarship.

Scholarship Committee: Donna Beard announced the need to form a scholarship committee to meet and decide upon this year's winners. The basic requirement is that you cannot have a senior to serve on the committee. The applications are anonymous. The committee reads them, ranks them, and gets together to talk about them & make their final decision. It does not take a whole lot of time. If interested, please E-mail me at mpa.donna@gmail.com.

Donna Beard announced for the benefit of new families, there is a Downingtown Student Fund (DSF), to help pay for any trips, uniforms, fees, or whatever music-related expenses that come up.

Fundraisers: Nancy Chew stated that the upcoming fundraiser for the spring is Joe Corbi's. 60 students raised \$2,300 from the [December] gift card fundraiser.

Donna Beard asked that the parents who know about DSF to talk to other music parents to let them know about it. It's frustrating to plan the fundraisers and not a lot of participation. We want to have the opportunity for to fundraise for those that need it.

Financials: Patrice Costanzi passed out the financial report of the budget through Dec. 31st. Concessions cleared \$55,000 for 2015. The budgets are up this year because we told the directors if there's something extra you want, let us know. It was seven years ago that the budgets were last raised. There are differences between budgets. Just because a program is in same school district, it doesn't mean they each receive the same amount of funds across the board. It depends on the principal dividing the funds, the number of kids in the school, etc. So their budgets are very different.

We don't pay for trips. That's one thing we don't do. But we do everything else for the music programs that you can think of.

I am looking for a replacement. Any questions, e-mail me.

Concessions: Kyle Costanzi stated that the concessions will re-open for lacrosse season in spring. The schedule will be available shortly. The spring sports with concessions are Girls' Lacrosse for West and Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse for East. The amount of work is like that for a soccer game. It's a perfect time to volunteer to come find out what it's like.

Indoor guard has chapters the last weekend in April. Concessions will be moved into the West Cafeteria, and we can use help for that. Anyone 9th grade and up can help out. It counts for National Honor Society (NHS) hours, too.

Directors' Reports:

Adam Speakman, East Choir: I'll pull out the parents to the next room to discuss Cougar Cabaret. Any parents that have students in other programs, please join us once your other directors' reports are done.

Ed Otto, West Band: the trip to Universal Studios was great. We had a recording session to a film of Frankenstein from the early 20th century, about 2 ½ minutes. We recorded the music (Night on Bald Mountain), then the soloists, then the sound effects (crumpling paper for the fire sounds, whistling for the wind). We even had auditions for the evil laughter. The kids learned a lot at the recording session. It was about four basketball courts big without any echo.

We had a field show competition also. We filled the holes because there were a lot of kids missing. I looked like a genius because Penn State was playing the [Taxslayer] Bowl we played at. The kids had a blast.

For spring, we're hitting the ground running. March 1 is the Honors Band Concert at West for both Concert & Symphonic Band. We'll be playing "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Armed Forces Salute," which includes the Coast Guard.

Indoor drumline & color guard is up & running. We are able to host a show on March 19th if we want to. We'd like to have it at East if we can. At west, they've redone a lot of things to the doors; only one set can be used.

The football schedule is still tentative. For now it looks as if the first three games are double-booked away games. There are also some double-booked home games which they need to work out.

Brent Lewis, East Band: we have midterms coming up. For Juniors & Seniors we've got our Florida trip coming up in about two months. The final payment is due by the 25th, a \$415 check made payable to DHS-MPA. Jazz band started today. The next Band performance is April 28th, the Spring Concert. I want to thank everyone here for all the hard work in the fall. It was a fruitful fall for all of the organizations.

A parent asked if there were any thoughts on next year's trip, where it would be.

Brent Lewis stated yes; not an expensive trip, but it will be a profile trip. The Indy 500 was only \$400 but it was a great trip by doing it ourselves & not through the travel agent.

Matt McCloskey, West Choir: Our holiday concert had a packed house. Right now we're in the middle of rehearsals for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, playing the end March/beginning April. The Spring Concert is in May. Don't forget that course selection night is coming up soon for next year.

Sherry Weaver, East/West/STEM Orchestras: we had our concert on Nov. 20, a related-arts program. Districts are happening this week. I will be taking seven string students in a van.

Wed, Jan. 27 is the District Showcase for recruitment of the elementary students. It will be here at East.

For the Disney trip, only about half of the kids are going. The All-Schools Orchestra Concert is April 15th. Midterms are scales to be done on Schoology.

Brian Lloyd, STEM choir: We had a great time performing the Messiah on the 20th with the Orchestra. Our Spring concert will be at the end of April. Water-filled wine glasses will be used as accompaniment.

Donna Beard stated that the MPA Board really needs volunteers for the soon-to-be-open positions, so please send an e-mails if interested.

A parent asked if the job descriptions were posted on the website.

Donna Beard stated that they are not, but they can be put up there. The description's hours—30/week for President-- are not going to necessarily be what they actually are; it depends on how far you want to take it. It is important for the President to communicate with the District Administration-- Dr. Mussoline & the principals. You cannot be intimidated because of their titles. It's a good thing, but some people are intimidated by that. Also know that the School Board is your friend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.