

Nashua High School South  
Music Boosters Minutes  
October 7, 2014

Attendance: Sharon Kilduff, Lori Vigeant, Andrea Reynolds, Joanne Lake, Deb Dufresne, Robin DePaolo, Gary DePaolo, Adam Boroskas, Tony Courounis, Wendy Stough, June Lehman, Phil Kasten, Carolyn Kasten, Barbara Burns, Ann Peters, Donna Demanche

The October meeting of the 2014-2015 school year was kicked off with snacks and conversation. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by President Sharon Kilduff.

Approval of September 2014 Booster Minutes: The September minutes were presented for approval. Donna Demanche made a motion to approve the September minutes and Deb Dufresne provided a second. All present were in favor of approving the minutes and there were one abstention (Robin DePaolo).

Reports of Officers and Committees:

- Director's Report--Mr. Courounis' and Mr. Boroskas—
  - Mr. Courounis:
    - The Evening of Swing has been rescheduled due to the prom schedule. We will now have it on Saturday, June 6.
    - Salem Band Show is on Saturday.
    - Next Friday is home game against Keene and it is middle school step up night. We usually do a clinic, serve pizza and then march down to the stadium. Mr. Courounis will get notice on numbers so we can order pizza.
    - Select Band is being piloted. This has been 14 years in the making and Mr. Courounis is pleased to finally be able to offer it. There are plans in the works to expand it in future years. Those chosen auditioned. They will be performing at several special events, including an evening event for the Nashua Educational Foundation.

- Jazz all-state auditions are coming up and we have a large number of students auditioning. This is exciting news and we wish them luck!
- The seating at the most recent football game was arranged a little differently with a student fan section set up next to the band. It worked out well. It's a nice new development that was popular and will continue.
- Nashua Plays is directed by Dr. Boyson and will bring his wind ensemble to perform afterwards.
- Mr. Boroskas
  - The directors have coordinated their class contracts for students. There is more consistency and all the dates are spelled out clearly and thoroughly. Even music booster events are included on the calendar! 😊 Cantate Choral Festival is coming up.
  - The choirs are all in full swing.
  - The music department has a total of 19 auditioning for Jazz All State and 42 auditioning for regular All State. In the past the boosters have financially helped those who made All State.
  - Other excitement includes Godspell which will be performed December 5 and 6. This group this year is just spectacular and it promises to be a great event. Drama club now has a director. She is new and is getting her bearings. All is going well and there is a new energy to the program.
  - Nashua Sings is at South this year. Boosters will coordinate the food and t-shirts. The community always enjoys having this event at South. 😊 The jazz all state conductor will direct this event.
  - Carmina Burana is in April. A few staff members will be joining this performance. Mr. Boroskas will conduct and the Brandeis wind symphony will join in. We will see a few South alum in the Brandeis group.
  - Trip questions were posed by those present as were questions about the choral uniform.
  - Uniforms—The estimated total cost of new tuxedos for the men would be \$4,424. This would include 30 jackets, 30 vests, ties, and 30 pairs of slacks that are unhemmed but close to

proper length. They are warranted and we are guaranteed the company will always make this style. Students will reimburse us \$14 for their shirts. Only one new gown was needed. Currently there is \$3,802 in the uniform account. That leaves an overage of \$621.63. We will be reimbursed for the shirts which would bring the overage down once that money is received. Lori Vigeant made a motion to approve the overage of \$621.63 Deb Dufresne provided a second. All present were in favor of approving the overage and there were no abstentions.

- Future plans will be to buy gowns. The exact price is not clear but the ballpark cost estimate is \$75 to \$100 per gown with a total of 70 gowns. These are ballpark numbers and Mr. Boroskas would hope to have them by March or so. Carolyn Kasten voiced a recommendation for getting a fundraising schedule and goals in place on this. With the band uniforms which were purchased several years ago minimums were set and the uniforms were not ordered until a certain amount had been earned and a fundraising threshold had been met. With band uniforms it was 50%. Using that same percentage, with the choral gowns that threshold would be \$3,500. Donna Demanche made a motion to 50% of funds be earned before an order is made and Lori Vigeant provided a second. All present were in favor of approving the motion and there were no abstentions.
- A sign-up sheet for the choral uniform committee was passed around. Discussion was had regarding options for fundraising and best approach to take. Publicizing the gown fund during Santa Fund concert but it will need to be carefully balanced.
- Future of the biannual trip.
  - Mr. Courounis shared that they are trying to keep things fresh. As teachers they know that moving beyond the status quo and capturing interest is a vital component of growing a program. There is a need to include all students. Just under 2/3 of kids can afford or attend these big biannual trips. That leaves over 1/3 of students unable to participate. Many years ago one or

two shorter 24 hour trips were held. This was more accessible, less expensive and also able to tap in to local talent and performing groups in our area. Yes, a few kids join the music program because of a trip but is that what we are aiming for? We are striving to increase quality of program. As it is we lose lots of students junior year for some reason. This is a dynamic program as evidenced by the calendar. In addition to all of this, the 90 minute block classes have been shaved down to 79 minutes so there is less class time each day.

- The expectation of a trip was set in the past and it loses effectiveness over the years. It is easy to become pigeonholed. Philosophies differ from department to department. Is it wiser to pursue opportunities that service the whole department? Mr. Boroskas spoke of how wonderful the trip was last year. It took about one hour of class time each week to handle all the fundraising. With the shorter class time, there is even less time available to talk about fundraising. In light of the fact that 60% of the class doesn't go on the trip this presents an imbalance. It's a big expectation. We might even be able to plan for a much bigger trip.
- If this was a trip year Mr. Boroskas would be forced to ax 4 of the current calendar events because the fundraising takes up a significant amount of class time.
- The importance of building a prestigious program was discussed. Meeting the need and expectations of our community is crucial. Concerns were raised. The directors have been segueing into supporting the organization more than fundraising for trips. They see the importance of looking into aligning our activities with curriculum and being accessible to more kids. Enrollment in music classes does not correlate with trips historically. Aligning to curriculum and competencies is going to be crucial to developing a dynamic and enduring program. It was asked of the directors if we should be reaching out to the families of students in the new keyboard classes and theory classes and offer them membership in Music Boosters?

- President's Report – Sharon Kilduff
  - Sharon thanked all those who have been volunteering to help with Stellos concessions and chaperoning the Marching Band. Sharon also thanked JoAnne Lake and Ann Peters for volunteering their time at the Booster table for the Open House. Lastly, All the concert choir students were fitted for their gowns & tuxes. Thank you to Wendy Stough, Heather Minch, Barbara Hawkins & Renee Gardiner for their support.
- Treasurer's Report – Robin DePaolo & Donna Demanche
  - For the September P & L, it was a quiet month. Amazon.com brought in \$79.50 of income. The music department apparel was basically and in/out amount. The band camp line item shows a difference in payment. There was one bounced check and the fee is included. Office supplies included the \$20/month Constant Contact expense and \$49.95 USENDIT renewal (for the dropbox for photos for the yearbook). Donna Demanche made a motion to approve the P&L for September and Ann Peters made a second motion. All were in favor and there were no objections or abstentions
  - The 2014-2015 budget was presented to the members. The marching band expense includes actuals and we went over budget by \$149.35. There were no music department expenses listed in the budget and after a discussion, the suggested amount to add to the budget was \$300. The Yankee Candle fundraisers are nowhere near where it should be even on a non-trip year. Robin will ask Mr. Boroskas for a roster of seniors who left or students who left the program and do not have younger siblings to transfer the funds to. This money would then get moved to the general fund. Barbara Burns made a motion to accept the budget as amended and Donna Demanche seconded the motion. All present were in favor of approval of the budget. There were no objections or abstentions.
- Vice President's (Fundraising) Report – Deb Dufresne
  - Only \$1300 was sold for the Yankee Candle fundraiser this year. This is the lowest amount of sales in five years. The Middle Schools sold Yankee Candle this year too, along with other area schools/organizations which may have contributed to the lower sales. Deb will postpone her meeting with Great American

fundraising until more word is given on future fundraising needed for the student accounts. Because we will need to be careful how we raise money for the student accounts, we may need to focus the fundraising for specific field trips/activities as we go. Calendar raffles would be a great fundraiser to do for individual event fundraisers. Also, tagging is a great fundraiser and we discussed possibly doing this for the Choral Uniform Fund, but these requests must be submitted to the companies well ahead of time. It was suggested that we contact Market Basket, gas stations and Walmart to see if we can schedule any tagging for the coming school year.

- Secretary's/Membership Committee Report – Wendy Stough
  - Wendy had to excuse herself from the meeting to pick up her daughter. The information was passed on to Sharon Kilduff for reporting. Wendy has entered the volunteer form data into the Google subscription account and we currently have 59 members and 65 volunteers for the current school year. Additional forms were given to Wendy this evening by Mr. Boroskas and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Stellos Concessions – Sharon Kilduff
  - The concessions are going well. Sharon thanked the volunteers who have been helping support this fundraiser. We receive 18% of the sales and all tips for the home games. The first game earned the Boosters \$271.75 including tips. The September 20th game and North/South game on September 26th were both very busy, but Mark Dudley did not provide the totals at the time of our meeting. Checks will be mailed to the Boosters within the next week.
- Craft Fair – Ann Peters
  - Ann reported that we have received checks for 20 craft tables so far. 11 checks are in the mail. Emails have been sent out to the wait list crafters. Ann shares her list of crafters with coordinators of other local craft fairs and they reciprocate to us in order for us to get more participation. The Penny Sale is the biggest concern. Ann will email the membership to request donations (anything from new regifted items to gift cards or gift certificates) and encourage the membership to help solicit donations from local businesses. Mr. Courounis has offered to get students to help on the Friday before the fair during band to take out the chairs and setup the tables in the cafeteria. This

was a huge help last year. This will cut down on the volunteers needed for setup Friday night.

- Nashua Plays/Nashua Sings – Lori Vigeant
  - Lori met with Carolyn Kasten and other members to choose colors for the shirts and discuss ordering and planning. After the new year, orders will be placed.
- Spirit Committee – Robin DePaolo & Barbara Burns
  - In September, the committee sold \$214 worth of merchandise between the band camp show, open house and home football games. The drill shirts are in! They look fabulous. These will be given out at the band show or the following week. The on-line store received 16 orders. The order was delayed since a few additional orders were placed after the store officially closed. Flyers were provided to both directors, but it is unclear if they were distributed to all the students..
- Restaurant Fundraisers – Andrea Reynolds
  - The September fundraiser was held at Margaritas. Andrea will be following up with Margaritas since they said they would provide a gift certificate for our craft fair. The UNOs fund raiser is being held on Thursday, October 9th anytime during the day and flyers are available to take tonight. Andrea will work to plan a Pizza Hut fundraiser on the early release day in December and Texas Roadhouse fundraiser in November (in conjunction with the rolls fundraiser). There was a suggestion that a fundraiser be planned after Godspell since many of the kids like to go out after the performance on Friday or Saturday night.
  - Since we were talking food, Joanne Lake remembered that Chick-filet has donated sandwiches to the schools in the past for events and perhaps would donate for the day of the Craft Fair and this would be pure profit for the Boosters!
- Yearbook Committee – Donna Demanche & Sharon Kilduff
  - Sharon encouraged anyone who has taken photos at band camp and other music events to submit these through the link on our web page or let her know and she can lend out the portable hard drive for people to copy their photos on for consideration for the yearbook.

Unfinished Business:

NHSS Music Boosters  
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- none

New Business:

- none

The next meeting will be November 4 @ 6:30 in the Career Center.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:26pm by Gary DePaolo and seconded by Donna Demanche.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Wendy Stough, Secretary  
Sharon Kilduff, President  
Nashua High School South Music Boosters