

West Delaware Friends of Music (FOM) Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Brenda Crumpton, Duane Philgreen, Carmen Grawe, Mary Chris Schneiders, Tammy Gasper, Julie Engelken, Janine Kane, Cheri Heims, Patty Briggs, Sue Morris

Co-President Patty Briggs and Cheri Heims called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Cheri Heims motions to approve the Secretary's Report, motion seconded by Brenda Crumpton. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking account balance: \$4,705.18

Savings account balance: \$19,030.33

Greater Delaware County Community Foundation (GDCCF): \$31,431.75

Total: \$55,167.26

Patty Briggs motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, motion seconded by Tammy Gasper. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business/Action Points from July Meeting:

- I. Please remember to turn in any volunteer hours to Teresa Griffith at teresagriffith@w-delaware.k12.ia.us; all volunteers planning to drive a school vehicle for any upcoming events for the school year will need to obtain and complete a specific volunteer form from Teresa Griffith. This form needs to be completed and returned to Teresa before the music event date.
- II. Middle School Music Schedule – Letter of Concern/Meeting Overview with Dr. Rickey and Mrs. Wunn: Cheri Heims and Patty Briggs met with Dr. Rickey and Mrs. Wunn to discuss concerns about the schedule changes for the middle school and its effects on the middle school music program (specifically band). The adjustments made to the schedule will affect the high school music program in the future. The meeting was a result of a letter and request sent to Mrs. Wunn before the beginning of the school year. As advocates for the music program it was felt that this needed to be addressed expressing apprehensions and try to offer support to the middle school program.

Within the letter the following concerns were expressed: past and continuing cuts in human resources and curricular changes to the music program, proposed schedule changes that will make student participation difficult which in turn negatively impacts the continuation of a successful music program at the middle school level, and decrease in number of students involved in opportunities at the State level (OPUS Honor Choir, All-State Choir, Jazz Band, etc.).

Dr. Rickey shared information about school budget, declining enrollment, and the district's need to cut spending. The budget situation is understood, however, it was felt to share thoughts on how these changes could further impact the music program. Mrs. Wunn and Dr. Rickey shared data from surrounding schools and the number of students to instructor ratio. They feel they are

not cutting the program and that students are being offered the same amount of time they have always received. Clarification was requested on the need to change from a 6-day cycle to a 5-day cycle and told it was due to mandated time for physical education and that the elementary had changed to a 5-day cycle. With shared staff, the change was necessary.

After discussing all of the above-mentioned concerns, FOM wanted to offer some support to the middle school program. Our organization directly supports the high school programs, much the same as the Athletic Boosters support the athletic teams. So our support can be somewhat limited. Some thoughts were shared about how to look for donations to support the replacement and upkeep of the band instruments and other ideas for assisting with funding. The meeting adjourned with Dr. Rickey urging FOM to contact legislature to provide more funding for our schools.

- III. Membership Postcards/Fundraisers: 321 membership postcards have been sent out by mail.
NOTE: In upcoming years, ensure the permit # and school # match on the membership postcard; the return address needs to match the permit # address on the postcard as well. Still in need of some additional parent addresses in order to send remaining membership postcards. Duane provided parent contact labels (addresses) he had on file; Patty will contact Mark for band student contact labels (addresses). The goal is to have a list of all mixed chorus, concert choir, and band student contact information. All extra membership postcards will be placed at the area businesses. Fundraising (Schwan's and wreath sales) will be discussed during the September meeting.
- IV. Freshman Orientation: Monday night, 8/18, an information table will be set up in the high school commons, a meeting with parents will take place after freshman orientation lasting approximately ½ hour in the auditorium.
- V. Show Choir Needs:
- a) Glassless, lightweight mirrors have been purchased.
 - b) Parent meeting possibly scheduled for 8/25. Duane will confirm, contact all Forte members regarding this meeting.
 - c) WD Forte Clothing Design selected and shared with the group. The short-sleeve shirt will be coral this year, \$10.00 each; long-sleeve, half-zip heather gray top, \$27.00 each.
- VI. Band/Choir Needs:
- a) Colts Drumline equipment purchase was not noted as a FOM purchase in the records with the school.
 - b) Uniforms: Fitting will take place Friday, 8/15 during Band Camp; freshman uniforms – Sue will check to make sure these have been ordered.
 - c) Marching Band Camp: Friday, 8/15 and Saturday, 8/16.
 - d) Reminder will be sent to students regarding Tuesday and Thursday 7 a.m. rehearsals, this will begin Thursday, 8/21.
 - e) Trailer driver, pit movers and chaperones needed for all competitions and games.
 - f) All-State Camp went well; practices and groups will be starting soon.
 - g) Organization of tux and gown fittings for all choir and band students – will need help with this.
- VII. Musical: Auditions will be announced, possibly looking at Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.
- VIII. WD Facebook Page – Reminders and photos have been added to the Facebook page.

IX. Tammy Gasper plans to be FOM VP again this year; secretary will need an assistant or someone to be back-up if unable to attend meetings. Efforts are being made to try to get others' involved in FOM.

New Business:

- I. Music Events Calendar: Duane will have this information at September meeting.
- II. IHSMA State Show Choir: West Delaware will be hosting State Show Choir this year.
- III. Additional Fundraiser Ideas: Homecoming Week – West Delaware versus Crestwood Cadets.
- IV. Catholic Daughters Dinner Show, 9/2/14.

All FOM minutes are available for review on the Friends of Music link at www.wdvocal.com.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, 9/9/14 at 7:00 p.m.

Tammy Gasper motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Mary Chris Schneiders seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action Points for Next Meeting:

- I. Alumni addresses from Teresa Griffith for FOM membership/fundraising flyer.
- II. Show Choir Needs: Sewing machine purchase and additional stantions.
- III. Music Events Calendar
- IV. Fundraising (Schwan's and Wreath Sales) – need to determine start dates and possible freshman parent helping with wreath sales, do we want to have two blitz dates or not?

Sincerely,

Carmen Grawe, FOM Secretary