

Choral Boosters Executive Meeting
Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Present: Liz Grannis, Susan Wyler, Theresa Seddon, Angie White, Susan Duff, Suzy Morgan, Debi Reed, Pamela Lam and Tammy Barr; Choral President, Jake Forrester, outgoing Choral President, Katie Campbell and Choral Director, Brian Kelly.

The meeting was called to order by Eliz Grannis at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

The Treasurer's Report, presented by Angie White, was approved and is attached.
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Old Business:

Eliz Grannis reported that all Spring Choral events were well organized, the performances outstanding and well received by all audiences. Appreciation was extended to those who volunteered for these events. Congratulations to Senior Choral Students, Tom Donegan, who received the National Choral Award and Caitlin Morton, recipient of the Director's Award.

Discussion ensued regarding the Blue Light Café. The money collected will cover all expenses and it is not considered a money making event.

New Business:

Conversation was generated among all members present regarding future fundraiser activities. These events include, but are not limited to, the Annual Apple Pie/Dumpling Sales, the Spaghetti dinner which will be chaired by Teasha Burrow, the Frederick County Fair Booth, a Golf Tournament, a Shooting Event, possibly a booth at the Apple Harvest Festival and the sale of baked goods at the Bluemont Music Festival & Bake Sale outside of a retail store.

It was agreed that the application for the use of the school for the Spaghetti Dinner will be presented to Mr. Stewart via Mr. Kelly as soon as possible.

Tammy Barr had several ideas and questions which were addressed concerning the Ways and Means Committee. Paul Morgan will serve as the Publicity Chairman which includes keeping the performing arts website for MHS updated.

Sign-up sheets for all upcoming events have been placed in the Choir room and parents will be encouraged to sign-up this evening at the General Meeting. Parent participation is key in the success of all programs with money being generated to the students' individual accounts for the Spring Trip to Chicago, Illinois. Money generated is relative to the amount of time and sales put into the event by students and parents. For example, by chairing the Spaghetti Dinner, Teasha Burrow will generate money into her son's account.

Exchanges were made between the outgoing and incoming board members regarding Choral events and the budget. Emphasis was placed on the need to present all plans with dates to Mr. Stewart as soon as possible. Mr. Kelly will be available to the board via the MHS school office over the summer holiday.

Angie White recommended the need to establish a budget for the next school year. The incoming board will meet in June to draw up the budget based on the needs presented by Mr.

Kelly. The needs presented in this budget will determine the amount of fundraising needed to meet the budget.

Katie Campbell served as Choral President for the 2005-2006 year and did a wonderful job as liaison between Mr. Kelly, the Boosters and the Choral Students. Jake Forrester has been appointed as Choral President for the next school year.

Eliz Grannis reported that all materials from the outgoing officers will be given to the new board members at the General Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight.

The Director's report will be given during the General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Board members will be notified by Suzy Morgan, President, regarding the date for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Duff

Choral Boosters
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 31, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Eliz Grannis at 7:05 p.m. in the Choir Room. There were many parents and students in attendance.

The reading of the previous meeting's minutes was waived to allow more time for new Choral Business. A brief Treasurer's Report was given by Eliz Grannis and Pamela Lam.

Eliz Grannis reported that our students have done an excellent job this past year and emphasized that our program is now noted as a "Blue Ribbon School" which is an important distinction.

Old Business:

All spring choral events were hugely successful as well as our end of the year picnic. At the picnic many students were recognized with awards. Four Choral Scholarship Awards were presented. The recipients were Kirby Curtis and Caitlyn Morton in the amount of \$225.00 each; Kymberly Beeler in the amount of \$450.00 and \$600.00 to Emily Grannis. Tom Donegan received the National Choral Award and Caitlin Morton the Director's Award.

New Business:

Eliz campaigned for the fundraising events and explained the necessity of raising funds for the students' trip in the Spring. Events include the Apple Pie & Dumpling sale and the Spaghetti Dinner on Back to School night with Teasha Burrow serving as Chairperson. Sign-up sheets are available to all parents and participation is encouraged. Tammy Barr was announced as the Ways and Means Chair. Tammy will be open to any input regarding fundraising event ideas. Kelly Laconia has agreed to chair the committee for the Frederick County Fair Booth. She will be working closely with Jake Forrester, the incoming Choral Student President.

The new officers for the 2006-2007 school year were recognized. They are as follows: Suzy Morgan, President; Debi Reed, Vice President; Susan Duff, Secretary; and Pamela Lam, Treasurer. Appreciation was expressed to the outgoing board for their hard work and dedication.

Director's Report:

Mr. Kelly welcomed all parents and expressed appreciation for the turnout of parents. The Director's goal for this program is to create a large family of parents and students. Having the distinction of a "Blue Ribbon School" offers greater publicity for the MHS program particularly in the college/university arena. As a result this program should begin receiving more invitations to perform at the state level.

Mr. Kelly shared his musical and educational background. He is beginning a Master's Program at Shenandoah University in Conducting. Mr. Kelly introduced our accompanist, Mrs. Chen and applauded her efforts in working closely with the students.

While students have been placed in several different choirs, there is no distinction between the choirs. Everyone is working at a top level of performance. Mr. Kelly is excited about the emergence of a Men's Choir this year which will meet during the zero period. The choirs include the Jazz Choir, Concert Choir, Men's Choir, Treble Ensemble and Mixed Chorus. It is

hoped that our choirs can perform in the community as much as possible. He welcomes suggestions for possible venues.

Mr. Kelly emphasized the need for the continuity of communication between the students, the Boosters and the Director. He directed all members to the “white” handout sheet for communication information of the board members and added his email and phone numbers.

Preparation is also key to the success of this program. Mr. Kelly directed the members to an internet resource site, www.musictheory.net. Students must learn to read music. Review of this website prior to the beginning of the school year will prepare students in the fundamentals of choral production. Dedication is another key component of the program. Attention was directed to the “goldenrod” calendar of events. The dedication of the students to attend choral productions is excellent. The area in which he would like to see the greatest increase in time and dedication is in fundraising. Emphasis was placed on the Apple Pie/Dumpling weekend in October. This particular weekend provides a wonderful opportunity for students to raise money towards their spring trip.

Recognition is the final component of a successful program. Mr. Kelly’s objectives include local, state and national recognition of the Choral Program. He proceeded to explain the Lettering requirements for choir. He would like for all students to do as much as possible. This might include the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*; auditioning for District choirs, etc.

Mr. Kelly proceeded to go over the forms that were given to each student and stressed the importance of filling out all forms completely, especially the pink medical form. The forms will be due at the end of the Choral Camp which is scheduled for the first part of August. Choral T-shirts will be required of all choral students. Please see the “salmon” form for ordering information.

Please note the calendar of events on the “goldenrod” form and make a note of all performance dates. Mr. Kelly will work closely with students and corresponding coaches and teachers regarding conflicts. The shaded events are required events. A two week notice will be given by Mr. Kelly for any changes in the calendar.

Choir Camp dates are noted on the “mint green” sheet. August 7-9 has been set aside for these events. Mr. Kelly would appreciate notice of possible conflicts for students. A difficult repertoire has been chosen for the fall program and camp is very important to the success of this program. Camp is also a wonderful opportunity for establishing unity for all the choirs. A lunch will be held the last day of camp to further this goal.

The “blue” form will give permission for your child’s photograph, etc. to be published.

Please note that all forms will be published on the website which will be maintained by Mr. Morgan.

The Spring Performing Arts Trip will be in April to Chicago, Illinois. The trip this past year was cancelled due to the unavailability of venues and lack of chaperone support. Mr. Kelly noted that students from his previous schools were able to fund their entire trip through fundraising. All funds must be collected and plans confirmed by January, 2007. The price of the trip is approximately \$800.00 per student. Again, fundraising is key to the process.

The first grade of the school year will be acknowledgement of Mr. Kelly’s expectations at the beginning of the year. A form will be given to all students for their signatures and parent’s signatures.

A reminder was given to all attendees to check the fundraising sign-up sheet forms and commit to helping make this program a success for our students.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next General Choral Booster meeting will be held on August 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Duff