

## **Friends of Berlin Performing Arts (FBPA) Meeting**

### **Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

#### **Attendance:**

Jennifer Porter, Becky Whitney, Anne Pistone, Kyle Bogan, Meg Decker, Jeromie Leonard, Heather Leonard, Shelly Thobe, Rachel Zimmerman, Tiffany Tobin, Thai Sribanditmongkol, Jillian Henning-Toops, Mark Rocco

Call to Order 7:03

#### **Presidents Report (Rachel Zimmerman)**

- Board member change - Joe Misner replaced John Larger as VP IT
- Band Ice Cream Social - went well, concession tours/signups/leads found. There is ice cream left over for other programs to use.
- Bricks for wall in auditorium entry are at school, waiting for installation
- Budgets - approved
- Website - contract signed for the new website. The site will house online forms, all performing arts calendars, and more! Expecting about 6 weeks for completion.  
<berlinperformingarts.org>
- Scholarship - called attorney to discuss how to handle overage in accounts and funding for needs-based students - Orchestra and Band, add to Choir and theater.
- No trips this year
- Rewriting documents to cover scholarships in each performing arts area for an annual scholarship up to \$1000 each
- Spiritwear - a vendor has been identified to use. We need to determine our list of items, send over logo, and find a parent to help with this.

#### **Treasurer Report - (Tiffany Tobin)**

- Bank balance \$140,109.63
- Pending in paypal \$973
- Square - It's difficult to determine which payments are concessions vs band. Tiffany is reconciling between 50-60K in deposits.
- All current bills are totaled and paid except cello and tuner. The pizza bill is not out yet.
- Tiffany is tracking expenses differently (including in/out expenses) to allocate budgets more efficiently
- Quickbooks reconciled

#### **Concessions**

Molly Farrell is tracking participation in concessions through signupgenius. (If there are any data points that directors would like to have in the future, let Molly know.)

- Spring 2024 breakdown (numbers are skewed due to tornado):
  - 331 students listed
    - 11% total of all students participated
    - 3% completed 2 shifts

- 59% crossovers
- 27% freshman / 27% sophomore / 27% juniors / 19% seniors class coverage
- 95 choir students 20% all but 2 in other areas
- 33 theater students 55%, all crossover
- 125 band students, 18% volunteered, half crossover
- 141 orchestra students, 4% volunteered, all but 1 crossover
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- Discussion regarding concessions volunteers: Incentives for participation could include giving away tickets for performances. Friendly competitions between programs seems to gain signups. Continued sharing of performing arts budgets and the value of a volunteer shift (Friday night value = \$498) is important for parents to know. The FBPA cost per student is \$205 (based on 340 students and a budget of \$70,000). Training new volunteers is key to the success of concessions. It's hard to jump into a role on a busy Friday night. Suggest to new performing arts parents that they volunteer for a non-Friday night first. Important meetings that concessions should be discussed at include: Performing Arts parent night, Curriculum night, Freshman parent meeting; spring Band parent meeting. Continue to work with Mr. Rocco to increase communication with middle schools (Berkshire, Hyatts, Berlin).

### **Concessions: Shelly**

- Volunteer report:
- 290 volunteer shifts filled out of 340
- 140 email addresses available; 89 emails have signed up for 2+ shifts
- Prall/Shumaker families have taken 8 shifts each
- Overall:
  - 2 shift commitment completed by:
 

57% band	57% choir	24% orchestra,
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- Directors direct communication to families is working to gain volunteers!
- For future growth, we need to look for 1 parent per program to help on a committee to encourage program-by-program participation. Ideally, this will be a sophomore or junior parent. We are excited to have had 3 middle school families volunteer so far. Our program kids are generally pretty excited to help out, especially with their friends. When asking always say "please."
- Shelly is working with other concessions leaders/schools to standardize costs across district concessions
- Major electric issues are occurring in the concession stand. We are blowing fuses daily and power is in the wrong places. Shelly is talking with maintenance to hopefully correct the problem over winter.
- Feeding the band students is getting more difficult. Due to the size of the band we are finding that they are not all getting through the line during 3rd quarter (21 last week). Additionally, we are wasting unwanted hotdogs after halftime performances (@ 50). We need to consider other options for feeding the band:
  - going to a token system where students can pick between a hotdog or pretzel,

- take google form preorder on Thursday to get numbers for “delivery” to band
- Student section only/band concessions tent
- Equipment:
  - Thank you to Kelly Bull for getting the popcorn machine fixed. The return on investment is approximately 7 years. We need a plan to start replacing key pieces of equipment (grills, etc.). We have purchased 2 additional card readers this year to keep up with demand.

**Costs:**

- 39% beverage cost
- 40-50% food cost is goal
- 41% average food cost (not paper)

**Service Hours**

NHS service hours - get clarification on what counts

**Directors** - appreciate the positivity of our approach to get volunteers to participate  
Orchestra #s trend lower throughout the district

**Orchestra** - Jillian Henning Toups

- Fall concert October 23
- First trip last year, next trip is tba
- Largest ever! 158 strong, 60 new members-57 freshmen. We are using the band room!  
Orchestra social media person will be in place next week
- Andrew S. - all state

**Theater** - Erin Gibbons

- Auditions for Peter and Starcatcher
- Throwback to year 2 - 140 audience tickets will be sold and seated on stage.
- Tickets are on sale for cast & crew first, then public
- Booktix site has been overhauled and is easier to use on a computer. Considering domain name change - [TheaterOBHS.booktix.com](http://TheaterOBHS.booktix.com) currently.
- October 10 opening, no Friday night to support the football team
  - Shows are Thursday 7pm, Saturday 7pm, Sunday 2pm
  - Swim Team is selling flowers
- Anastasia - November tryouts

**Choir** - Thai Sribanditmongkol

- Shea M. - OMEA all-state choir
- High school invitational October 9 St Mary's Cathedral German Village
- October 16 - concert
- October 5 - National anthem at Delaware Walk to End Alzheimer's (this counts for service hours)
- Caroling in December

- Food fight - challenge another school?

**Band** - Mark Rocco

- HS - OU band day went smoothly
- Drum purchase for \$4000 allows for growth/alumni night/8th grade nights. We will get specialized wraps for drums so they all look the same.
- Post-show with Orange HS band after the Octoberober game
- Jackson show - thanks for dinner ahead of the performance
- 1st 2 shows - cleanest debuts yet
- 4 seed in the region for football - guaranteed playoff game! Look for more concessions shifts!

**Middle School** -

- no updates from strings
- 6th grade choir performed at a veterans assembly program
- Band - 50% growth this year. We have 110 students in 6th grade band!
  - Fundraiser - Butterbraids to be sold in Octoberober
  - About \$8500 profit last year; goal is \$10K this year
  - 8th grade night at football is 10/4 - Berlin MS(60) & Berkshire MS (40)
  - Performing at Under the Lights in November
  - Band concerts have been moved to the middle school gym due to size of band.
  - Better sound systems in rooms

This is Rachel's last year as FBPA President. If anyone is interested, please talk to Rachel.

Adj 817pm