

**MMEA - WD Meeting****April 4, 2006****Peck Middle School****Holyoke, MA**

**Present:** Scott Thomson, Ken Michna, Carol Toth, Andy Villamino, Steve Damon, Rebecca Phelps, Claire Williams, Denise Gendron, Dan Albert

**Call to order:** 4:05PM

**Correspondence:** No news to report.

**Secretary's Report:** Rebecca - M/S/P as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Scott - M/S/P to accept report. Scott pointed out that there was a \$2.00 addition mistake in the last treasurer's report, which he fixed in this one.

**Jr. High Business**

**Festival Report:** Carol - Managers **must** get tech sheets to Ben on time (before the festival). Problems with chaperones were noted - either they weren't there, or were there but not very helpful. Heather Bell contacted Carol stating that outside vendors must pay 15% of any proceeds made from their sales in the FAC. She also suggested that we pay for 3 additional FAC ushers to monitor the doors (esp. the handicap entrance) during the performances since many people seem to be getting in without paying. They would charge us \$50.00 per usher. This was discussed but not decided on.

**Orchestra '07:** Steve - Steve proposed Christopher Menoli as conductor. M/S/P to accept Mr. Menoli as director of '07 orchestra.

**Band:** Andy - report given. Everything went well. Next year Dan Albert will manage and Andy will assist.

**Male Chorus:** Holly Joy and Liz - absent. See attached report. They are willing to manage again next year.

**Treble Chorus:** Mike and Staci - absent. See attached report. Mike and Staci are willing to manage again next year.

**Orchestra:** Grace - absent. See attached report.

**Senior High Business**

**Band:** Joanne Nelson - absent. Bill Carr will assist Joanne.

**Chorus:** Terry Larsen - absent. Jessica Guzzo will assist Terry. He has asked Mike Levi from St. Thomas to conduct, haven't heard back yet. **Jazz:** Laura Kapulka - absent. No report, no assistant.

**Orchestra:** Carl Jenkins - absent. No report, no assistant.

### **Coordinator Reports**

**Vocal:** Kayla - absent. No report.

**Jazz:** Brian - absent. We still have \$2000.00 on account at Blodgett's for replacement music. Carol contacted Pat Kennedy and Brian regarding this. Brian suggested one thought would be to commission a piece.

**Website:** Beth - absent. Suggestion made to post manager reports on the website. Some of the reports would need to have minor changes such as deleting names before they were made public, but they would be helpful to future managers.

**Strings:** Denise - Denise strongly advocates that all students and teachers be required to wear name badges at festivals. Rebecca seconded that sentiment.

**B/WW/Perc:** Claire - A lengthy discussion was held regarding percussion auditions based on the feeling that some members have expressed that the Jr. audition is too involved and has discouraged directors from sending students. Jill Mongeau was contacted by phone and contributed her thoughts to the discussion. A separate report is attached delineating the proposed changes to be made to the percussion auditions. These changes have not yet been made formal and more input will be solicited from band directors and interested parties before a final decision is made.

**Elementary:** Carol and Diane are planning another sharing session for next year.

**Scholarship:** There have been no applications this year> Carol suggested that we take the money allocated for this purpose and re-direct it toward a campaign to raise awareness about budget cuts in western district schools and how they are affecting the music programs. Perhaps a paid ad in area newspapers highlighting the issue. Much discussion around how to present the issue.

**Calendar:** Denise raised the concern that the proposed Jr. Festival rehearsal, Saturday March 10, conflicts with All Eastern, which is being held in Hartford next year. Carol will solicit input from members to get a reading on what the membership feels regarding this and see whether or not it is feasible to change the date.

Spring dinner meeting next month @ Westwood Pub. We will be serenaded by a sax quartet from the CMSS.

Adjourn: 5:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Phelps, secretary