

Wellesley POPS - Parents of Performing Students, Inc.
General Board Meeting
September 8, 2011
Wellesley Middle School Library

Attendance: Beth Perry (Director of Performing Arts), Ursula King, Marietta Boon, Cindy Buser, Susan Logue, Lucia Lovison-Golob, Neus Codina, Chung Hsieh, Fei Hsieh, Jean Metishu, Shuang Ying Liu, Amanda Derderian, Kim Hornung, Sharon Lowe, Kevin McDonald, Stephen Wroblewski, Katherine Greene, Lauren Connors, Sara Preston, Elizabeth Scholl, Kathleen Kelly, Ruthie Klinck, Maria Wardwell, Amy Zhang.
President's Welcome – Ursula King - Meeting was called to order by President Ursula King at 7:00pm. Ursula invited each member of the meeting to introduce himself or herself to the audience and explain which relation or interest they had with the Wellesley POPS.

Director of Performing Arts Update – Beth Perry

- ◆ Elizabeth Perry started by thanking Wellesley POPS for all their volunteer activities that allows teachers to teach performing arts to about 1,600 students. She proceeded reviewing the activities and the main and numerous achievements which happened during the school year 2010-2011 in the Performing Arts department. Wellesley School district sent over 50 students to Districts; 17 to All State and 4 to All Eastern; won a place in both the Ellington and Mingus Festivals; won awards at district and state levels for jazz (HS/MS), strings, band and chorus; were invited to perform at the Hatch Shell, Symphony Hall and Mechanics Hall; participated and won awards in: *The Emerson College High School Theatre Festival*, *The Massachusetts Drama Guild Festival* and the *48 Hour Film Festival*. Last year's very successful musical was Chicago. She pointed out that in K-12 grades, there are a total of 18 teachers, one full-time department assistant, two accompanists and 20 stipend positions. The After school Lesson Program has over 600 students and 51 teachers as well as one program assistant. She talked about the planned activities for the school year 2011-2012. There will be 16 Instrumental and Choral Concerts at the elementary level, 33 Shows and Concerts at the Middle School level, including performances at the State House, the Providence Bruins ice hockey game, and Town Meeting; 40 shows and concerts at the High School level and community performances at Pine Street Inn and others locations. Masterworks will focus on American Music this year. Many teachers will be using SmartBoard lessons. This year WHS musical is Hairspray. She also informed the audience that there will be a dance room and drama room for students in the new WHS building.
- ◆ During 2011-2012, there will be collaboration between WHS performing arts and TCAN (The Center for the Arts in Natick, <http://www.natickart.org/index.php>). All jazz concerts will take place at TCAN. Moreover, this year participation to competitions will change somewhat because conflicting with the WHS opening of the new building.
- ◆ The Business Office (Wellesley Public Schools) will hopefully sign a contract with Ticketstage over the next few days that will allow online ticketing for the musical at the high school.

- ◆ Afterwards, the following teachers briefly spoke welcoming Wellesley POPS and highlighting their school activities. They were: Katherine Greene (Elementary Orchestra, SmartBoard user, Bates Elementary School), Lauren Connors (Choral, preparing in May a fundraiser “Concert of Hope”, WMS), Dr. Kevin McDonald (Choral, WHS), Stephen Wroblewski (Drama, WHS), Donna Chaff (Upham School and Sprague Elementary School).
- ◆ Ursula informed the several school representatives present that in the Wellesley POPS web site each representative could find a brief job description and a schedule of the activities program:
<http://www.wellesley.k12.ma.us/programs/pages/PA/POPS/POPSjobs.html>
- ◆ Ursula, and later on Susan Logue, emphasized that the main goal of a representative is to coordinate activities and increase participation of parents to support different performance needs. Ursula suggested each representative to contact formally by mid-September each of the teachers that a rep is supporting, in order to plan ahead the support needs that each teachers may need for the school year 2011-2012. The list of all Wellesley POPS Rep is located at <http://www.wellesley.k12.ma.us/programs/pages/PA/POPS/popsvolunteers.htm>
- ◆ Ursula pointed out that we need still to identify a Vice President of Wellesley POPS and she briefly indicated the characteristics that this person should have (ex: be prepared to serve as President for next school year).
- ◆ Wellesley High School: Masterworks will be part of the Turn On the Lights events in May celebrating the opening of the new WHS building; the Masterworks concert is on Friday, May 18 and the dedication ceremonies are Saturday, May 19. Tours of the new building, open to the public, are also scheduled for that weekend.

Secretary – Lucia Lovison-Golob

- ◆ The Minutes of May 3, 2011 General Board Meeting were submitted for approval by Ursula and moved by Susan Logue and Marietta Boon.

Treasurer’s Report – Marietta Boon

- ◆ Marietta briefly discussed the 2011-2012 budget that was approved by the Executive Committee. The expected items of income and expense are similar to prior years. This year a placeholder for the “Turn off the Lights Gala” was included because Wellesley POPS is sponsoring the gala and we are not sure if this event will make money. Bank account balance as of 6/30/2011 stands at \$28,977.36.
- ◆ In response to a question of why we have not budgeted for instrument purchases this year, Marietta and Ursula pointed out that they have yet to receive from Elizabeth Perry request for funding of performing art faculty for projects. The deadline for the submission to Wellesley POPS is November 1, 2011 and February 1, 2012 respectively.
- ◆ Kim Hornung, Jazz Band Representative of WMS, delivered a check to Marietta for Wellesley POPS. Parents had collected money for an end of the year gift for Mr. Platt but the total collected exceeded the amount allowed. The parents were told that any excess donations would go to POPS. POPS does not have restricted accounts but Beth Perry assured her that Mr. Pratt will be given the opportunity to invite a guest artist or similar event that will benefit the Jazz Band at the WMS.

- ◆ Beth Perry explained that WHS has revolving accounts, with different accounts for different teachers.

Publicity – Cindy Buser

- ◆ Cindy will do the Profiles of Seniors and will try to coordinate the work that her former representative Carol Lash suggested. Specifically, Cindy mentioned, that she'll ask Wellesley POPS representatives to write articles and send material to her for submission to Townsman.
- ◆ Based on last General Board Meeting, Kim Hornung volunteered to write a 200-words article plus photo regarding the middle school jazz band and Susan Logue suggested using an interview-format in writing some of the articles.

Web Site – Ann Rappaport was excused.

- ◆ Ursula presented the “POPS Website Report” prepared by Ann Rappaport and encouraged people to use the Wellesley POPS web site for calendar events and to submit photos of events to Ann.
- ◆ Ursula also indicated that the Wellesley POPS web site will not post YouTube videos of the performances.
- ◆ Ann can post articles written by Wellesley POPS but only after their publication in the Townsman, otherwise the Townsman won't publish them.

President's Discussion – Ursula King

- ◆ Wellesley POPS roster will be sent.
- ◆ Vice President Position is open.
- ◆ Wellesley POPS is looking for Volunteers for Music Lesson and Instrument registration scheduled September 20, 2011 at the WMS Cafeteria.
- ◆ Wellesley POPS will send out rules for Drama production within a couple of days from the meeting and will make clear that Wellesley POPS will not reimburse parents for expenses they incur in the Drama production.
- ◆ A form titled “High Stakes & Attention Detention” – audition form and contract was circulated.
- ◆ Wellesley POPS will pay all the up front expenses for the WHS Performing Arts Showcase on Saturday evening, November 26, 2011. POPS will be reimbursed from ticket sales, and has received a guarantee from the Celebrations Committee that we will not take a loss on this event. Tickets will cost \$10 with no discounts plus Ticketstage service charge costs. There will be a meeting of relevant members of the Wellesley Celebrates Education Committee and POPS on September 23, 2011 to discuss the budget. Ann Rappaport is the Wellesley POPS Rep to the WCE Committee.
- ◆ Wellesley POPS is actively pursuing through an ad-hoc Committee the funding and buying of a WHS grand piano that will be a specific donation partially funded by the proceeds of the Performing Arts Showcase.
- ◆ The General Meetings times will be in February 2012 and May 2012, both in the evening in order to increase participation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lucia Lovison-Golob

Next meeting is to be announced.