

WALT WHITMAN MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING MINUTES 9-19-11
Francesca Slesinger and Amy Golen, Co-Chairs
Terry Alvey, Music Director

The first meeting of 2011-12 for the Music Boosters of Walt Whitman High School took place on Monday, Sept. 19, at 7PM in the Band Room.

Ms. Alvey began the meeting by welcoming the 30 or so parents in attendance. She said that seating auditions are underway. The other groups had formed a massive W, consisting of about 150 musicians, at halftime of the Sept. 16 football game against Kennedy. A smaller W is likely moving forward with the percussionists standing in a block. The classes are now delving deeper into the concert literature.

Ms. Golen and Ms. Slesinger thanked Ms. Alvey and introduced several other volunteers: secretary David Elfin; Music Trip coordinator/Garden Party coordinator Laurie Wolff; Jazz Ensemble, Lisa Hemmer (in absentia); tuxedo fittings on Tuesday, Oct. 18, during periods 2-4, Jim Lystad and Jodie Rasch (the latter in absentia); dress fittings on Tuesday, Oct. 11 during periods 2-4, Robin Frankel and Kathy Staudaher (in absentia); webmaster Devra Glowinski (in absentia); website (Andra Armstrong) and Awards Night Shirley Brandman and Jessie Weintraub.

The improved website is www.waltwhitmanmusic.org. Ms. Slesinger said that the calendar of events and details on the spring trip to Nashville are already on the site. Ms. Golen said that she expects to add much more information to the site soon.

Ms. Slesinger said that the families of 170 of about 200 students have paid the \$10 fee required by MCPS to receive a class grade (delete this? They get a grade; just won't get report card until hold is lifted; not sure if it's worth mentioning here). That's a major increase in payments as of this time compared to last September.

Suggested donations of \$50 from families of students in Concert Band and Concert Orchestra and \$75 for families of students in all other ensembles are used to pay for such items as trip expenses, scholarship funds for students to go on the trip, lyres for the marching band, instrument tuning, instrument repair and replacement and fees for professional musicians to visit classes.

Ms. Slesinger hopes that donations will be made, hopefully as soon as the annual garden party which she will host on Sunday, Nov. 6. The \$10 fee must be paid to MCPS by check. The donations to Walt Whitman Music Boosters can be paid by check or online. Yuriko Gandolfo is the financial coordinator.

One way the program is saving money is by going paperless. Newsletters and garden party invitations will now be delivered electronically to save the environment and money. Amy Hancock, who runs the listserv at YahooGroups, is the parent to contact if an email address needs to be updated. If you ever wish to unsubscribe from the listserv, you can do so yourself by clicking on the

"unsubscribe" button at the bottom of any listserv email. Students gave parent emails to Ms. Alvey. These will be the addresses used to send the Garden Party electronic invitations.

Ms. Golen noted that the Music Boosters are still looking for a chair for the Shop For Music gift cards from Giant Food, a program that is run jointly with the Choral Boosters with each in charge in alternating months.

We're also still in need of volunteers to help with four events: 1) setting up, cleaning up and donating food at the Garden Party; 2) setting up, cleaning up, serving punch and donating food for the Winter Concert on Thursday Dec. 22 at Whitman; 3) checking in the trip luggage on April 17, the day before the students leave for Nashville; 4) setting up, serving and cleaning up at the Awards Night dinner in the Whitman cafeteria on May 14. Students of all grades attend the latter event for which Chinese food is ordered. Only the five freshmen in Symphonic Orchestra are going to Nashville. Upperclassmen are encouraged, but not required to go on the trip, which costs \$720. The next payment is due on Oct. 28. Fifteen students are currently not planning to attend. More scholarship funds are available than usual as well as some leftover money from last spring's trip to Orlando. Ms. Alvey acknowledged that \$1,500 is a major expense for families with two students in the program.

The Marching Band will play at three more football games: Thursday, Oct. 6; Friday, Oct. 28; and Friday, Nov. 4, which is Homecoming. Students are allowed to miss one of the five home games each year. Some of the boys have requested accessories such as Vikings helmets and beards. Ms. Alvey might upgrade to tailored jackets from T-shirts and jeans, and Boosters may purchase Carolina blue caps for the band members. The new T-shirts have arrived.

The Jazz Ensemble will perform at Brookmont on Tuesday, Oct. 25. The Winter Concert (Dec. 22) will be a day after Pyle's Winter Concert, and a week after the Choral Concert (Dec. 15) which is two days after Pyle's Choral Concert. On the morning of Dec. 23, the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra will perform for their classmates. Ms. Alvey hopes that the members will not leave for winter break until after that performance.

Concert dresses cost \$110, but used ones can be purchased from graduates. Availability is often posted on Whitnet. Ms. Alvey has two donated dresses as well as one of each size so girls can try them on during the Oct. 11 fittings which precede the ordering of the dresses. Parents have to get them hemmed. Cellists' dresses include an extra panel. Freshmen can wear the same white blouses, black skirts or slacks and black shoes they wore at Pyle. Ms. Alvey will collect the money once the dresses are ordered.

Boys with tuxedos should make sure they still fit. They can be exchanged during the Oct. 18 fittings. The black studs, ties and a white tuxedo shirt can be

purchased for roughly \$20 at such stores as Syms. Freshmen can wear the same white shirts, black pants and black shoes they wore at Pyle. Boys can add color with their ties. Tuxedos are turned in after a boy completes his senior year in the program. Parents are responsible for dry-cleaning them in the interim.

The Classical Me chamber concerts at Whitman will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, April 28. Ms. Alvey started these several year ago so that all students who want to would have the opportunity to play solos or in small groups with their friends. The recitals will also include a cappella groups, duets, trumpet performances et al. Only honors students are required to participate. Honors students, most of whom are junior and seniors, also have to write a paper about music. There are no freshmen in honors.

Ms. Alvey explained that original sheet music stays in the classroom – for which she would like a new cabinet -- and doesn't go home. Purchasing a song can cost upwards of \$100. She makes copies for students who want to take them home. However, students auditioning for All-County and All-State groups receive copies of the required sheet music to take home. Students take a digital recorder into a side room at school and record their performance which Ms. Alvey downloads and listen to on her computer when she has time.

Respectfully submitted,

David Elfin, Secretary