



Nicolet Performing Arts Committee
Meeting Minutes
03-01-22

Attendees: Katrina Greguska, Sue Richards, Jamin Hoffman, Erik Kakulis, Michael McDowell, Joseph Patek, Trinny Schumann, Natalie Hansen, Jen Friedman

1) Finance Report:

Sue Richards: Bobbi reported that we made \$70.00 from food orders, \$32.00 from donations and an \$18.00 donation from the owner from the Oh My Dog (Kebab Shack) fundraiser. We received payments from Barbara Froh (\$125.00) and North Shore Library (\$250.00). Additional donations from 1/24 to present are at \$375.00. No financial reports yet from January. Our total revenue to date this school year is \$8,034.79. Expenses: We had more sub sandwiches for rehearsals (\$572.31), program inserts printed (\$1,053.00), a banner from FastSigns (\$100.00 - \$25.00 discount = \$75.00). We also voted to underwrite theater tickets for the NYC trip (\$3,100.00). Not sure when that will hit the books. Total expenses to date this school year is \$8,625.93. Our current balance is \$28,452.

Sue received information on our investment firm which is Raymond James, from MaryAnn Newenhouse, the District Accountant. They have been handling the Foundation's investments since 2004. At the direction of the Foundation Board, they have been pursuing a conservative investment strategy. 80% of our cash is invested with them, while the remaining 20% is in a money market and a checking account at Associated Bank. More than 60% of the investments at RJ are Fixed Income securities. Mike Johnson from RJ will be speaking at the May 4th Foundation Meeting to review past performances and discuss possible changes in investment goals and strategies.

2) Combined Concert Update

Michael McDowell: Jen and I have been working on the concession logistics for the 20 minute intermission. It should be about 2 hours of programming. Jen, please share the planning.

Jen Friedman: We'll get cookie trays, canned soda and bottled water for \$1.00. The expense is a wash between pre-packaged and fresh items. I can't find nut-free cookies, so we'll need a sign. I have the instructions and I'll get a few volunteers. We may not need a sign-up genius. I will probably ask Laura Dobrowits to assist.

Michael McDowell: That would be great. The three music staff met today to discuss concert logistics.

Trinny Schumann: The Tri-M students are all performing at the concert, so we do need parents to volunteer so the students can focus on their performances.

Jen Friedman: I'm happy to put a sign-up genius together and will forward to the instructors to send out. We won't need that many to do this.

Trinny Schumann: I will send it out also.

Michael McDowell: We should only need 3 or 4 parents.

Jen Friedman: Then, I'll check with my husband and Laura Dobrowits and her husband and perhaps we won't need a sign-up.

Michael McDowell: Erik, do you think we could borrow your coolers?

Jen Friedman: I have four. I'll take care of it.

Michael McDowell: Back in the day this concert used to be a fund-raiser and we sold tickets for it, but now we just do it for donations. We don't think parents should pay money to see their students perform music that they learned in a school setting. It's a demonstration of knowledge and what they've been working on in class.

Erik Kakuls: That gives us an opportunity to collect donations for supporting the arts.

Michael. McDowell. Jamin, Trinny and I spent time today going over the concert pieces. This concert will be a model for the Solo & Ensemble festival coming up on 3/12. Some chamber ensemble music. All the S&E groups will have a chance to be seen and be heard.

Sue Richards: What should the cutoff for the donor list be? Thursday (Jamin). I will send Jamin a formatted list for the program (after discussion with Erik).

Erik: I will send a google docs location for the advertisements and get a list extracted of the active ads from our sales sheet to Jamin.

3) Solo & Ensemble

Michael. McDowell: Jamin, Trinny and I received a preliminary schedule from John Emmanuelson, who is the acting festival manager at Homestead H.S.. We then check it for conflicts and have John make needed adjustments. We expect the final schedule by Thursday. As soon as we get it, we can send it out to parents. Then the parents can volunteer at times where they won't miss their students' performances. We previously sent out the Sign-Up Genius to parents. Karen Frink, Orchestra Director of Shorewood H.S. is heading up the volunteer effort to make sure there are room monitors and there is a place for donations for the judges and directors lunch. We will hopefully send it out by the end of day Friday. We need a push to get parents to volunteer. If not enough Nicolet parents volunteer, we may be required to host it at Nicolet per John Emmanuelson. All schools should equally provide volunteers.

4) Marketing Update

Erik: The Banner is done. It was left on the wall by the Auditorium. Mr. McDowell, can you take it down?

Michael. McDowell: Yes.

Erik: Thanks for the badges, Sue. The speeches were great, I heard. We had very few people stand up in the audience, but we were distributed between shows. It has the right effect, as we collected \$127.00 donations one night and I heard \$60.00 another night. It should have been taken to the office with the concessions money.

The ad brochure needs freshening up. I don't know if Mr. Medved's photographers were there Thursday. I may get some Something Rotten photos. We should have it ready for next year, since this year is almost over.

Jen: I think people are confused because we have the cover photo on both the music program and our program insert. Is there a way to combine that?

Erik: We could coordinate earlier and make one document. It would be only necessary for the two plays. Or for ours we can bring down the photo size and add something else, so it denotes our special brochure. I will look into it. One booklet would require tight coordination from the artists, but Laura's was done earlier than ours.

I did not get a slideshow done yet. Matt Kuhlman did a really nice job on the insert. I think he enjoyed doing it. We should acknowledge him as he didn't do it for himself.

Facebook Recognition: I still plan on checking with advertisers and running a series of Facebook posts on a schedule.

5) Fundraising

Sue Richards: Bobbi is unable to attend tonight. The Oh My Dog fundraiser (reported under Finance) was successful. She talked to a few prospective parent volunteers. I talked to a few parents I already knew, but we didn't gain any volunteers. We're wondering if Mr. McDowell can give us access to the list that the QR code in the flyers goes to?

Erik Kakulis: The shorter form you created this fall.

Michael McDowell: I'm sorry, I thought I had. I will do that.

Sue Richards: Bobbi wants to do the Kebab Shack fundraiser again April 1 or April 8th. Is anyone interested besides her and I? Does anyone have a preference on days? It's about an hour and a half time slots.

Erik Kakulis: I can help out. Either date works for me. The nice part about these fundraisers is that we don't have an obligation to be there, we can thank people, but most of them run on percent of sales.

Sue Richards: Bobbi likes to take that opportunity to get extra donations.

Erik Kakulis: I agree, but the fundraiser can stand on its own. We just make it better if we're there to thank people. We just need to hang the banner.

6) Volunteer Coordinator

Sue Richards: We need another person at the Brick Fundraiser on 3/16. Bobbi can be there early. I will be there at 6 p.m.

Katrina Greguska: I can be there too.

Erik Kakulis: I can be there early, but not later.

Sue Richards: Also, for the Kebab Shack, can we get a couple musicians to play if the weather is nice? [Discussion on having live music].

Sue Richards: Bobbi wants more organization for the donations and volunteers at the Combined Concert, which we already discussed.

Erik Kakulis: I can do the announcement. We'll have more volunteers to stand up. We'll do it at the top of the program so we don't interrupt the concessions.

7) Referendum

Sue Richards: There is a lot of campaigning against the referendum on Nextdoor North.

Erik Kakulis: There is a lot going on there. I don't know about the real polling.

Big referendums are harder. I need to reach out to Dr. Kabara and get some additional facts and get that out there. Getting accurate facts is important. There is a lot of misinformation flying out there.

Joseph Patek: The two things I've found myself correcting people on is the fact that they are conflating the Nicolet referendum with the Fox Point-Bayside referendum (Middle School). And people are saying they wish there wasn't as much money going to non-academic spaces. I've said that the building houses lots of events throughout the day and on weekends and evenings for school-based and community-based activities and the improvements are geared towards those as well.

Erik Kakulis: People are adding those together mistakenly, even if they live in Glendale. I will get more information and we'll get it out on social media.

8) Spring Musical - Something Rotten

All: The play was deemed fantastic and all the actors were great. The band also. The entire production was awesome. Congratulations to Trinny. She worked very hard with the students. Kudos to all.

Trinny Schumann: The students were very hard-working and it was a pleasure working with them. Students, pit band, choreography, Laura, Colleen. I'm lucky to be part of a solid team.

9) Children's Show: Peter Pan

Katrina Greguska: This will be in the community room. Not cast yet.

Sue Richards: We were wondering if we need to do anything for this show.

Trinny Schumann: Check with English teacher Patti Steinmetz. They probably have a rehearsal schedule and may need a sign-up genius for the snacks.

10) Other Updates

Trinny Schumann: Other updates. We are doing a North Shore Vocal Arts Day on 3/17. I don't need any PAC support, but I wanted to let you know. Thoughts and ideas are welcome. We are inviting 7th & 8th graders from our partner schools and other school organizations. St. Eugene's, St. John's, Eastbrook, Milwaukee Jewish Day School are coming for our vocal enrichment day. I've lined up several artistic directors from Milwaukee Children's Choir, Milwaukee Opera Theater, UWM Choral Director, and a vocal Jazz artist. For our students and the middle school students, it's going to be a decade effort for choir because a lot of them did not have choir for two years and a lot of students dropped out of their programs because of Covid. I'm really excited about it. A positive community builder for the choral department and middle school recruitment.

I'm going to reach out for some support for the Royal Tea. Little princes and princesses come for a tea party. The ad has been put out in the Rec department bulletin. No help needed on that currently, but I'll reach out later to PAC and choir parents later.