

WACMA MEETING August 2, 2005

Attendance: Sue Stalewski, Dawn Adams, David Jagodzinski, Scott Dekok, Diane Wene, Melody Schmidt, Darlene Schmidt

Secretary's Report: David motioned to approve, Dawn seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Figures are accurate except for a check printing charge of \$52.00 and some student account balancing \$12,348.81 Scholarship Account is in really good shape, \$4,604.75. Dawn motioned to approve, Scott seconded.

Orchestra Report: None given at this time.

Band Report: None given at this time.

Choir Report: None given at this time.

Old Business:

Advocacy for Music:

We developed a plan to start "advocating for music". Sue sent letters and brochures showing the important and benefits of music education in our schools to the District and School Board Members. Letters will also be sent to Principals, Music Teachers and Guidance Counselors. Friends of Music and all other groups should be made aware of what we are trying to do to support music.

Freshman are being asked to take "Target" classes, SOS (Secrets of Success) and a Study Hall. This makes it impossible for them to have room for electives such as music classes. Most students don't need a study hall or these target classes. Here is a lot of pressure on schools and students to get good test scores. Some students are "double dipping" in math and other classes because of this pressure. Early graduation, early release and AP classes also conflict and hurt the music programs. Schools need to be more flexible in their scheduling. They shouldn't be forced on all freshman students. Students want and need music classes.

WACMA wants to get involved in the Elementary Schools and reach parents and let them know the importance and advantages of music education. We would like to pass out letters, brochures and speak to parents and students at Open Houses and Registration Days in January. We would also like to get students and graduates involved in talking to parents and letting them know what the music program meant and means to them. We feel it will be more

effective coming from students. We don't feel parents understand how important it is and that they don't have to sign their children up for classes they don't really need. We need to go to Middle Schools in January and encourage students to stick with their music classes and not drop them which is so often the case.

Teachers really need to "advocate" for their music classes. With fewer teachers, they are spread pretty thin and are not available as much as they once were. Mrs. Mary Guthrie and Susan Stachelski (Music Teachers) both retired this year. It is hoped that the District will replace these people. Scott Dekok will be teaching at West Allis Central this school year and will also serve as District Liaison for Choral and General Music. He will be visiting all the schools in the District. Scott will coordinate our visits to the schools. Students involved in this must be serious and committed to representing the music program appropriately.

SupportMusic.com and amc-music.org have a lot of good information available for help with our Advocacy Plan.

Sue also found an article by John Benham, "CounterPoint" which gives 5 Strategic Errors in Music Advocacy. This is useful information for us to use. We need to gather information and have it on hand, statistics, cost per student, etc. John Benham plans to have more information on this topic available in his next article.

Sue also developed an ad "Making Music Makes you Smarter" that schools can include in their Newsletter.

The AMC Music Advocacy site has many interesting things on it. This and many other sites are listed on our Website. We need to educate parents and students about these issues. WACMA will continue to do this as much as possible.

Newsletter:

Sue will continue to put together our WACMA Newsletter. The President and Liaisons (and anyone else) should get information to her in time to include in the Newsletter, which we want added to the Bulldog Newsletter. The next one will probably go out in October.

Central Open House: WACMA will have a table at the Open House. We will also sell our blue bracelets at this time, we have about 100-150 left.

Central Musical: Central will be doing “A Wonderful Life”. First two weekends in December. We need to get someone involved in Publicity so we can advertise the musical and other events taking place at Central. We need someone to be responsible for contacting the West Allis Starr. The musical would be of special interest to the senior citizens in our community—we need to get more community involvement.

Music Honor Society: Scott would like to begin a Music Honor Society. Students would need community service hours for this also. Perhaps some of our students could get involved in the 100th Anniversary Celebration for West Allis next June.

District Web Site: Sue will look into getting WACMA highlighted on the District Website. They are in the process of redoing the website.

Fundraising: We also need someone to handle Fundraising. Students need to get money into their accounts so they can plan for Solo & Ensemble expenses. (Solo & Ensemble will be on March 25, 2006) Since the Scholarship Account is in good shape, we will sell Poinsettia Plants and Nuts this December and let the profit go to the student accounts. We will also have a Kringle Sale in spring and profit from that will also go into the student accounts.

Other ideas were selling Window Clings and Magnet, Peeler Cards. Dawn will check to see if she still has the Peeler Card info.

We also need to advocate for the Pick ‘N’ Save program to continue supporting our Scholarship Account.

**Meeting Times
And Days:**

WACMA will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:02 p.m.

District Calendar:

Sue did get our WACMA meetings listed on the District Calendar. Did not get an ad placed in the calendar.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be on September 6th at 6:02 p.m.

David motioned to adjourn meeting, Dawn seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.