

**LHS ORCHESTRA BOOSTERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
LEWISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NORTH**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Present:

Connie Schmitt, President, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Shona Larsen, Vice President, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Peggy Brown, Treasurer, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Reta Denton, Secretary, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Scott Deering, Sponsor, LHS Orchestra Conductor  
R. Neil Ferguson, Member, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Jean Ferguson, Member, LHS Orchestra Boosters  
Leisa Vacanti, Parent (non-member)

**Regular Meeting**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Connie Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

**II. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Reta Denton gave everyone a copy of the minutes from the last meeting. Motion by Shona Larsen to approve the minutes. 2nd by Peggy Brown. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Financial Statement for the period 1/1/08-1/31/08:

Our checking and savings accounts are maintained at Texans Credit Union at 1081 W. Main Street in Lewisville. Peggy Brown provided checking account and savings account financial statements for the period 1/1/08-1/31/08. The beginning balance on January 1 was \$1,832.61 in our checking account. Revenue of \$849.00 was added in January. The ending balance on January 31 was \$2,681.61 in the checking account. The beginning balance on January 1 was \$49.90 in the savings account. Dividends of \$.02 were added in January. The ending balance on January 31 was \$49.92 in the savings account. Motion by Connie Schmitt to approve the treasurer's report. 2nd by Reta Denton. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

**IV. SONIC FUNDRAISER INFORMATION - remaining fundraisers on Saturdays, February 23, March 8, and April 12.**

A. We made \$492.00 on Friday, November 30, \$424.00 on Friday, December 14, and \$815.00 on Saturday, January 26.

B. Reta Denton has the lock box (coin wrappers, name tags, cards which advertise our group, tape) and the banner to take to Sonic on Saturday morning. Scott Deering gave Shona Larsen the list of the few students and parents that are scheduled to work on Saturday. Shona will call everyone on the list to remind them that they are scheduled to work a four-hour shift (10 AM to 2 PM; 2 to 6 PM; 6 to 10 PM) at Sonic on Saturday, February 23, 2008. We need more workers, so Shona and Connie will be calling to recruit more parents and students to work.

**V. OTHER FUNDRAISER IDEAS FROM JANUARY 23, 2008 MEETING**

A. Connie proposed that we charge admission of \$2 per person for our next orchestra concert. Many thought that this amount was affordable. So, we will consider charging a \$2 admission fee for the LHS Orchestra spring concert.

B. Shona personally knows the owners of Bahama Bucks. We could consider a fundraiser there in the spring.

- C. Peggy proposed that we sell flowers before a concert. Peggy and Connie know booster clubs that have done this. The flowers sold out quickly before the concerts began. Peggy will find out if these flower fundraisers were profitable.

## VI. OTHER FUNDRAISER IDEAS FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2008 MEETING

- A. Karen Slayton suggested (via email) a bake sale. No one attending the meeting thought that this would bring in much money. District policy does not allow any event to use homemade food. All food items must be store-bought goods.
- B. Karen Slayton suggested (via email) a car wash in the Wal-Mart neighborhood store parking lot and ask Wal-Mart to match the funds we raise. Peggy thought this was a good idea, especially if Wal-Mart will match the funds we raise. The students would probably be willing to help out with a car wash. Reta thought the car wash would be a good idea later when the weather is warmer.
- C. The Fergusons suggested a spaghetti dinner. Shona and Reta do not want to cook a spaghetti dinner.
- D. Connie told us about a fundraiser that was done at the Applebee's restaurant on 407. The Applebee's doesn't usually open until 11 AM, but Applebee's opened from 8 to 11 AM for a pancake breakfast. The group sold tickets for this pancake breakfast for \$7 per person. Applebee's kept \$2 and the group made \$5 on each ticket/breakfast sold. The group made \$1,200.00 in 3 hours on a Saturday morning. Connie is going to check with Landmark Grill to see if a similar fundraiser (pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner) can be arranged.

## VII. DISCUSSION OF HOW BOOSTER CLUB MONEY IS TO BE SPENT

- A. There was much discussion about the relationship between working at Sonic fundraiser(s) and having your trip payments lowered.

It is the policy of the District that funds received from booster clubs' fund raising activities must be used to benefit the students and schools in appropriate ways. Go to [www.uil.utexas.edu/admin/booster.html](http://www.uil.utexas.edu/admin/booster.html) for UIL guidelines for appropriate expenditures. The use of individual accounts for members of District groups or clubs is not allowed.

The IRS indicates that individual accounts cannot be used by a tax exempt organization. In not using individual accounts, the general account for a group or club would be credited for all donations and amounts from fundraisers.

These amounts could then be used to pay all or a portion of the costs associated with the group. For example, a group may plan to attend a competition that would cost \$500 per person. The group may be able to pay \$400 of the cost per person with the difference of \$100 being paid by the individual members. All of the members attending the competition would receive an equal benefit from the funds that had been raised.

Normally, all members of the group or club would benefit from any activity being paid by the group. However, in some instances, the group may want to have certain criteria met for a benefit to be given to a member of the group. For example, a person may be able to attend a particular competition and have the group pay for a certain amount of the cost if the person had attended 80% of the practices and had participated in at least two service projects. Some groups may base the criteria on service points. For example, a person may receive a point for each practice or special event attended. However, criteria should not be based on participation in fundraisers according to the IRS. Remember, if criteria to attend a particular event are established, exceptions cannot be made because your best performer did not meet the criteria.

According to the IRS, a group or club cannot require that a member participate in a fundraiser nor require that each member raise a certain amount. In addition, the IRS stipulates that a member who does not participate in a fundraiser would be entitled to the same benefits as those members who did not participate.

In some instances, individuals may not be able to afford to pay the amount owed to participate in a particular event. The IRS has indicated that a group/club may establish criteria that could be used to determine if a person is in financial need. If the criteria are met, the group or club could provide the necessary funds to allow the individual to participate. In addition, the criteria should be used consistently for all people, and the criteria should not change every year.

**Scott Deering needs to find out if he can restrict the "scholarship money" to students who worked at our Sonic fundraisers or if he can restrict the "scholarship money" to students whose parents are part of the orchestra booster club. Scott needs to find out from Dr. Courtney how "scholarship money" can or cannot be distributed. No final decisions were made concerning spending booster club money on any of the items we discussed.**

- B. Neil Ferguson opened the discussion concerning LHS Orchestra financial needs for the 2008/2009 school year. Our orchestra will grow because of the large number of students from Huffines and Durham orchestras moving up. Scott is predicting that he will need \$2,500 for sheet music and \$8,000 for uniforms. The dresses cost \$75 and the tuxes cost \$100. Parents of boys also spend another \$20 for the shirt and cummerbund. The booster club cannot cover these expenses, at the rate we are going with our fundraisers. Next year, it is likely that parents will need to pay an orchestra fee of more than \$100 at the beginning of the school year.

#### VIII. OLD BUSINESS FROM JANUARY 23, 2008 MEETING

Music & Arts donated a \$125-\$150 violin case to our booster club. The violin case is at school. (1) Scott could put the violin case on display in class and have a silent auction for it. We would set a minimum bid and the case would go to the highest bidder. (2) We could display the violin case and appropriate advertisement for Music & Arts at the spring concert. We could raffle off the violin case at the spring concert. No decision was made about what to do with our violin case. **WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITH THE VIOLIN CASE THIS SCHOOL YEAR.**

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Peggy Brown opened discussion concerning a website for the LHS Orchestra Boosters. Neil Ferguson has begun some initial work on this and is willing to continue working on this. We agreed that it would be very beneficial for the Boosters to have a webpage. Neil said that it would cost about \$50.00 per year for a website. We decided on LHSOrchestra.com for our website, if available. Motion by Jean Ferguson to give Neil Ferguson approval to spend \$50 to get the website set up. 2nd by Shona Larsen. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- B. The Fergusons suggested that an officer present information to the parents about the Booster Club at our concert in May, so that parents will be prepared to join the booster club next school year in August/September, 2008.
- C. Jean Ferguson suggested that we have a program with quartets or ensembles, invite the parents to come, and promote the booster club, and give the parents another opportunity to join the booster club.

#### X. INFORMATION ABOUT ORCHESTRA EVENTS

- A. Pre-UIL was on Monday, February 11, from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. We did not have enough parents to help transport large instruments (basses and cellos). Scott's father paid for truck rental for this event. Peggy said that we could reimburse Scott's father, if he will provide the booster club with a receipt. Pre-UIL was also held on Tuesday, February 12. We did have enough parents to help transport the instruments on this night. Scott received some constructive criticism on our orchestras' performances, so that they are aware of areas to work on and perfect before the UIL competition.
- B. UIL Festival will be held on Thursday, March 6, at 3:15 PM for the Chamber/Concert orchestras at Newman Smith. UIL Festival will be held on Friday, March 7, at 11 AM for the Honors orchestra at Newman Smith High School.
- C. Branson trip payment # 4 is due March 7.
- D. Sonic workday # 5 on Saturday, March 8.
- E. Sonic workday #6 on Saturday, April 12.
- F. Saturday, April 19 is district solo & ensemble for selected students.

G. Branson trip is May 8 through 10.

H. UIL State Solo & Ensemble is on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday or Monday). Those five students that qualified to go to state do not receive transportation or money from school. The parents are responsible to get them to Austin.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Connie scheduled the next meeting for **Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 7 PM** in order to form a search committee that will nominate officers for the 2008/2009 booster club and we will set the date for officers to begin. Also at this meeting, we will set up the meetings for the rest of this school year.

B. The regular meeting of the LHS Orchestra Boosters adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by LHS Orchestra Boosters Secretary, Reta Denton. (Format edited by Neil Ferguson)