

Washington High School Patrons of the Performing Arts Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2016

Heidi Becker called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm on Jan 5, 2016 in Room 128.

MINUTES: Dawn Stastny motioned to approve the minutes. Kate Hogg seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT & BUDGET: Teresa Wake presented the treasurers report. Current balance is \$44,719.32. Repair work on trailer is complete and it is ready to go for Show Choir season (\$2,575.53). Not much to report with the holidays. Peter Westphalen gave us good news. Paul Salamon made cd's and dvd's (new this year) of Madrigals Christmas again this year. Paul does this as a donation to WHS (no cost to WHS) and gives all the profits back to the program. He gave Peter a check for \$875 from the cd/dvd sales! Thank you Paul for your talents and generosity!!!

MEMBERSHIP: Gwen Engen said PPA has 112 member families and \$19,220 in paid memberships.

PROGRAM: Carrie Tinkham and Kyle Woollums came to talk about Speech and Drama.

SPEECH: Carrie Tinkham presented the speech program. Kyle Woollums, Kevin Wake, Bill Krebs help coach, as well as a number of student coaches for both Large Group and Individual.

There are currently 112 students involved in speech. She was particularly excited about the numbers and diversity of the kids who auditioned in November.

Large group runs from November to late February. There are 10 categories and WHS has all groups represented. Competitions are Jan 23, Feb 6 (State) and Feb 20 (All State).

Individual Speech runs February – April. Competitions are Feb 27, March 12 (State) and April 4 (All State).

Thank you to PPA for support. Speech is one of the few activities that is free to the kids involved! With the large numbers, Carrie would like to see more parents get involved. She will be looking for volunteers (e.g. chaperones/drivers) on the upcoming competition dates. For more information please see the drama/speech website (accessible from crwash.org).

Carrie opened a discussion regarding whether WHS should host another speech competition. (Last year WHS hosted Large Group State and brought in approx. \$15,000.) If you have any documents from last year – please get them to her! To decide - need to consider \$\$ it brings in, timing (nearness to MoShow), parent volunteers, team up with Cedar Valley? Will need to decide soon for State Speech 2017.

DRAMA: Kyle Woollums presented the drama program. Every year WHS has 4 shows (fall play, musical, Playtime Poppy and MuDaCo). Have decided to keep fall show (Sept) a straight play and not a musical. Kyle told us that Dr Plagman is a big supporter of having the musical in the fall. Not only is he very proud of the show - he thinks it is a great way to kick off the year and attracts diversity, collaboration and involvement. Kyle discussed the complexities of picking a show touching on talent considerations, costs, technical needs, etc. He supports the idea of rotating between more modern shows and older, traditional shows to give kids more exposure.

22 kids were involved in Rumors (Sept. play) – and over 400 people attended.

Legally Blonde (Nov. musical) had over 80 kids involved (cast 48, crew, & orchestra). He worked closely with Amy Farley and Peter Westphalen, and Bill Lammers. They brought in two choreographers from TCR. Over 1250 people attended the shows. The Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards adjudicated the musical again this year. The initial feedback is very positive including praise for energy, student involvement, parental support, etc. More information coming.

Post construction - the understage area (dressing rooms, costume closet, props, etc) looks great! Better lighting, fresh paint and “fresher” overall. The auditorium hallway also has been greatly improved.

Kyle is very thankful for PPA support – in providing financial help as well as parent volunteers, etc.

Going forward – Kyle would like to have a group attend the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE. This takes place during the summer – both Carrie and Kyle think it is a fantastic opportunity for the kids. Jefferson has a group go every year. Other plans include continuing participation with Iowa HS Musical Theatre, upgrade the ticketing system and ultimately have an online system, have drama officers fundraise, get theatre students to volunteer front of house, and investigate ticket pricing to cover cost.

Mo-Show: Dawn Stastny gave a brief report on MoShow which will be Feb 12 – 13. Historically, MoShow was held mid March – but changed this year because of the school calendar. This is the 20th Anniversary. Currently there are 26 choirs signed up, and 13 jazz groups. Last year, 24 choirs participated. The Jazz Venue, includes vocal and band, is new this year. It looks like it will be much more competitive this year than in the past. Dawn feels everything is going well! They will start getting volunteers (parents and students) signed up to help.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Angie Meyer won the drawing for the Outback Steak House gift card.

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.