

GRMPA
Thursday, December 3, 2015
Executive Committee Ad Hoc Meeting – Chorus Room

This meeting was called for the Executive Committee and the Band Director to discuss options regarding the spring trip for the students participating in music programs at the high school.

Dr. Gage indicated that he has received three different tour options from the tour company, which he shared with the Executive Committee. The cheapest of these options -- Washington D.C. - immediately appeared to have the most educational value, so Dr. Gage further refined this option. It turns out that the Baltimore Symphony will be performing Holst's Planets during the time of this trip. Dr. Gage has also learned that the symphony would be able to do a meet-and-greet with the students after the performance. Our band may also be able to get access to a performance space right in front of the Lincoln Memorial -- where Martin Luther King presented his "I Have a Dream" speech -- where they would be able to perform for up to two hours. Dr. Gage is suggesting that they perform the Lincoln Portrait there. (A backup location for the performance would be the grounds of the WWII Memorial.) Dr. Gage has further modified the trip to provide for a nighttime tour of the monuments (referred to as the "Illuminations tour" in the schedule). The third day would consist of visits to the different museums on the National Mall. The first day of the trip would include visits with faculty of a university in the area and a clinic. There would be no competition performance, unless we opt to do that instead of the current schedule for Day 2, but Dr. Gage thinks the clinic and performance at an inspiring public site would be more interesting and educational.

The dates have been finalized as May 21-23, because we cannot commit to a schedule that begins before the last day of PARCC testing (Friday May 20).

The Virginia Beach trip is expensive and would not include a clinic -- it would be more like the Dorney Park competition that the kids have done as middle schoolers. It's also the farthest away. Dr. Gage's preference would be to do a Williamsburg trip at some point in the future.

The Cleveland trip may be something Dr. Gage would like to explore in the future, but the Washington D.C. trip seems more educational and significantly closer.

One additional item we will need to explore is instruments. We will need to either rent instruments at the site or bring our own -- if there is a way that we can safely transport the equipment in a rented truck and have one of the chaperones drive it. Dr. Gage will do some investigation into the possibilities for renting equipment in DC and how much it would cost.

Gary Provost stated that in the past, GRMPA contributed about \$16,000 towards the spring trip. That covered the larger portion of the cost of the trip, so that each student only had to contribute approx. \$200. The Executive Committee acknowledged that this trip is a big incentive for the students to volunteer for the Citrus Sale and Pancake Breakfast. However, we

are very short of that amount in the GRMPA coffers. The Chipotle fundraiser does not appear to be happening -- we have still not heard back. We will be receiving the proceeds from the Citrus Sale, which appears to be going quite well, as well as the Pancake Breakfast. We made slightly less from the Concession Stand (\$2600) than we budgeted (\$3000), primarily because we had one fewer game than usual. We also may be receiving proceeds from a jazz performance being given by Jerry Weir, Steve DeLuca and Paul Byrne at the train station. Dr. Gage suggested that we look into Anthony's Cheesecakes as a new fundraiser. We discussed running this in the winter after the Citrus Sale ends. We will look into this and how it could be done. We will also consider running a magazine sale later in the year, and will think about how we could integrate fundraising into the winter concert. Mr. Smeets mentioned that many local businesses seem very willing to donate items for a raffle event.

The deposit date set by the tour company is December 15. They are asking for \$100 per person going on the trip. Dr. Gage will look into presenting the Washington trip to the School Board at the meeting on Monday. Kris Ramanathan suggested that we call a parent meeting next Wednesday (12/9) at the train station (in place of the usual GRMPA meeting) to present the details of the trip (assuming we get Board approval) and ask for deposits by 12/15 (or perhaps a bit later, if Dr. Gage is able to get an extension of the 12/15 deposit date).

All of the members of the Executive Committee and Dr. Gage agreed with this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Anke Kramer Dombrowski
GRMPA Secretary