



**Ontario Band Association Meeting
Thursday January 12, 2011
7pm – Upper Canada College Principals Office**

Voting Board Members Present: Sarah Arcand – Past-President; Mark Caswell – Concert Band Festival; Chris Dickson – Development; Donna Dupuy – Treasurer (7:15pm); Tony Gomes – President; Allan Gaumont – Jazz Symposium; Dave Gueulette – Ottawa Symposium (Skype 7:20pm); Scott Harrison – Honour Band; Andria Kilbride – Beginning Band/President-Elect; Mark Kissel – Secretary (7:10pm); Chris Reesor – Industry; Colleen Richardson – University Liaison (Skype 7:20pm)

Non-Voting Ex-officio Board Members Present: Heather Aitken – Membership (7:20pm); Pratik Gandhi – Web Maestro

Regrets: Kaylee Burnett Longman – Concert Band Festival Assistant; Lynn Tucker – Chamber Music Festival

1. Call to Order

Gomes called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Kissel was not present at the Call to Order. Arcand volunteered to write minutes until Kissel arrived. Gomes would run the meeting until Kissel arrived.

The agenda was previously circulated by Kissel.

Gomes wished to move reports around by those visitors joining us by Skype (Ottawa, University Liaison) as the need arises. There was consensus on this issue.

Motion to accept the January 12, 2012 Ontario Band Association Board of Directors meeting agenda as amended.

Moved by Reesor, Seconded by Caswell

Carried

3. Ratification of Minutes

Motion to approve Board of Director meeting minutes of October 6, 2012

Moved by Dickson, seconded by Harrison

Carried

4. Announcements

No announcements were made.

5. Executive Reports

a) President – Gomes

No written report was circulated prior to the meeting. Gomes made an oral report.

Gomes attended the Canadian Band Association (CBA) meeting during the last weekend in November in Toronto. It was the OBA's turn to host this meeting. Dupuy attended on Friday, and Kissel was in attendance on Saturday.

Gomes briefly summarized what each association in Canada is currently achieving, and some of the issues that each are individually and collectively facing. The overall feeling was that each CBA affiliate were facing similar pressures through their Ministries of Education concerning changes to their provincial music curriculum.

Gomes was pleased to report that New Brunswick had revived their provincial organization and sent a representative.

A great deal of time was spent on discussions surrounding the National Youth Band and the new Dennis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra that is affiliated with MusicFest Canada. A CBA member wished to write an article in the CBA publication the Canadian Winds, however, with the affiliation issues and past controversies, this has created a catch-22 situation.

Kissel took over writing the minutes and chairing the meeting (7:12pm).

Kissel brought up liability insurance issues when he was at CBA and provided examples. Caswell presented the historical perspective and Arcand discussed a quote for directors' insurance. The consensus was to hold off on purchasing directors' insurance at approximately \$1000 per year until after the March meeting to cover the festival debt.

Gomes continued that the Manitoba Band Association (MBA) does an awards ceremony at their Annual General Meeting that we should copy. Aitken mentioned that we have a dearth in our records, and that access to data is sporadic from before she came on board in 2005. Caswell suggested that we have a different culture here in Ontario and cited various examples when compared to Manitoba. Reesor stated that we have many different organizations to join out here where there is only essentially one in Manitoba, and that we have a much more diverse population.

Richardson mentioned that she had been to many MBA meetings and suggested to personalize things that we change the composition of the board to include regional representatives. By personalizing invitations and awards, we would therefore try to invite people personally and provide awards; a handshake, maybe a certificate or letter would be great.

Dupuy stated that these suggestions by Richardson are low-cost but would be a great addition to a portfolio. She went on to suggest that we mail out letters to principals based on service. A favourable response was received by the Harrison regarding this initiative made by him on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Honour Band this year.

Richardson wanted us to branch out from the AGM.

6 i. Ottawa Wind Conductors' Symposium – Gueulette

Gomes mentioned that as per Item 2 of the approved Agenda, we move item 6 i. to now in order to accommodate Gueulette.

Please see submitted report for more information.

Gueulette began by stating that he has only received two confirmed registrants at this time, and if everyone who has verbally promised to show up to the symposium, there will be around 10-12 people in attendance. We will be looking at a loss of around \$1000 to \$1600 due to the significant financial commitments regardless of sponsorship.

Right now Gueulette is out \$570 for brochures. Nothing else has been purchased or made at this point. Kilbride stated that the OBA will cover the cost of the brochures.

Aitken asked if it was timing or the season or interest? Gueulette said that he thought it was the region and a lack of interest. This opinion is based on previous ventures he has attempted while representing the Ontario Music Educators Association.

Gueulette felt that everything has been done to advertise this venture, but there doesn't seem to be the interest.

Aitken and Arcand asked about holding it on Professional Development (PD) days with the public and catholic boards? Gueulette said that he knows Ottawa catholic has an extensive PD day taking place on February 17th.

He suggested that the jazz side of things might be the way to go at this point. Gomes expressed continued support for this outreach in the future on behalf of the OBA.

Aitken asked if we might use our Survey Monkey to solicit opinions from our eastern Ontario members. The Board thought this would be an excellent idea.

Caswell asked if we might be able to strike an affiliation with the Capital Region Music Fest organization? Gueulette responded that he would try to bring it forward at their next meeting.

Arcand asked if the Ottawa festival participants get a "swag bag" similar to what we provide at our festival? She mentioned that perhaps we may offer a reduced membership offer for people to become members?

Caswell asked if we may be able to do a sales pitch at the post-concert meeting in Ottawa? Gueulette stated that he would bring it forward to the chair Neil Yorke-Slater. Gomes stated that we have to go out and beat the bushes ourselves. Basically we need to get connected, starting with Ottawa and moving systematically across the province.

Aitken suggested throwing out a Beginning Band symposium for Ottawa for September 2012. Gueulette discussed that he might see if a Jazz festival would be able to go by the end of this school year.

Gueulette departed the meeting at 8pm

b) President – elect - Kilbride

Please see submitted report for more information.

The President – elect offered additional information at this time.

c) Treasurer – Kilbride/Dupuy

Please see submitted report for more information.

Kilbride stated that everything is in her report. She will be turning over signing authority to Dupuy in the coming days. It was agreed that she would finish out the fiscal year and that she will be finishing out the events that were started when she was still Treasurer in order to provide continuity.

Paypal has been set up and tied to our account. It costs \$.17 a transaction. Gandhi is will be placing this online in the near future.

Kilbride mentioned a correction to her report: we are not owed \$3000 from CMIEC as per the report. It has been paid in full.

Canadian Band Association dues are due in February. Our on-hand cash is a little low right now but this will be corrected once Aitken provides the Treasurer with Concert Band Festival Registrations.

d) Past-President – Arcand

Please see submitted report for more information.

Arcand has decided to create and concentrate on attaining donations and sponsorship for the OBA.

Arcand mentioned that it has been challenging finding donations from corporations and from foundations. Things are a little stretched right now. We have been denied a lot of times, but is optimistic that as foundations and companies fiscal years commence in the near future that a number of groups may decide to provide funds in the near future.

She suggested that perhaps we need to start lobbying our provincial MPP's/MP's. Some companies are looking to use their excess charitable funds as their fiscal years conclude.

6. Director Reports

a) Beginning Band Symposium – Kilbride

Please see submitted report for more information.

Quincy Hilliard will be this year's clinician. He will arrive on Thursday and depart Sunday. St. John's and Harknett in for sponsorship, and FJH will sponsor the travel of Mr. Hilliard. A York region band has been asked to provide the demonstration ensemble.

b) Chamber Music Festival – Tucker

Nothing additional was forthcoming. No report was submitted.

c) Concert Band Festival – Caswell

Caswell began that he has decided to go with one less adjudicator, which means there will be two instead of three for each ensemble and that the conductor-specific comments will be sacrificed for this year. It will save a few thousand dollars. Caswell asked if we should have two different recordings far away from each other instead of having written comments.

Richardson said that Manitoba provides conductors comments every other year. As well, we might be able to give the conductors choice of which one, and still record the conductor without comments.

Dupuy mentioned that it is professional development recording for the conductor and that is how she is able to attain money to attend the festival. Arcand echoed Dupuy's interest in the professional development aspect for the director.

Caswell asked about video tapes and if they still relevant? It was agreed that many people do not have VHS players anymore, so that will not continue.

Everyone who has been on board in the past is still on board for the festival with the exception of Steve's Music who has not yet committed.

Caswell commented that the next board meeting and setup of the Banquet Hall will begin at 9:30am, not 9am as previously mentioned. Sunday night is his birthday night and they have changed the hotel lobby to host the pre-festival reception in the bar instead of renting a hotel room.

We have some extra volunteers to help out from the Atlantic Band Festival and Ellison Travel and Tours. Caswell wondered what to do with them. Some suggestions from the board included supervision in the lunch room as well as the warm-up room.

Caswell stated that the OBA needs more sponsorship. Items are being purchased on the corporate credit card.

Arcand asked about sponsorship with Steam Whistle Brewery and any conflict that might entail due to existing policy at the banquet facility. Caswell will look into it.

d) Development – Dickson

Please see submitted report for more information.

His suggestion was that surveys from symposiums and festivals through Survey Monkey should go out to membership the day after the event. Small issues with formatting and capturing info about each teacher has been experienced and need to be rectified.

e) Industry – Reesor

Long & McQuade has purchased Belle Aire Music in Windsor and London. He will investigate a possibility for a partnership for a festival in Windsor in the future. Reesor cautioned Richardson about pursuing sponsorship for future events in London due to the changeover of owners.

f) Jazz – Gaumond

Please see submitted report for more information.

After feedback from participants at the symposium, there are some changes that may make for a better experience for participants.

Gaumond stated that perhaps we wish to move this event to Hamilton and change the clinician jazz band from a university level group to a high school based one. He mentioned a number of different groups in the Hamilton area that may be interested. New clinicians were suggested by board members beyond our current roster of people that have been used.

The feature concert this year was nice but perhaps wasn't necessary as it ate into the time for the clinicians.

The reading session was an issue and has to be looked at for future years.

g) Membership – Aitken

Please see submitted report for more information.

Needs feature articles for March, April, and May.

Total memberships are in the low 300's. Double that amount of people have memberships that are expired.

h) Ontario Provincial Honour Band – Harrison

Please see submitted report for more information.

Has been mailing brochures out to people. Made a new contact at London Kiwanis. Duo Percussion and lots of promotion in the Ottawa area.

Listening committee is at Agincourt CI on June 2, 2012 from 10am onwards. Harrison has two new people on the committee and encouraged as many people as possible to come out and help out.

Aitken suggested having a specific list of duties for members to hopefully get on board. Richardson suggested a personal invitation from members of the OBA would be important.

Harrison went on the sponsorship front that it will go well, including our current format. Alain Caus will perform a workshop at the OMEA conference geared towards newer teachers with members of the OPHB.

Bill Thomas has started the commission for November.

Waiting for OMEA to get back about performance space and hotel information.

i) University Liaison – Richardson

People did not get her report. She will e-mail the report to everyone right now.

Mark Kissel will be going to UWO and UTSC, while Dave Gueulette will be going to Queens. Nipissing and UofT are trying to set stuff up.

j) York/OBA Wind Conductors Symposium – Gomes

Please see submitted report for more information.

5 people are going to conduct. Will be offering something a little different in the morning. Had a bit of a hiccup with the program.

7. New Business

a) Draft Policies:

Kissel went through the six draft policies that were written and briefly explained them all. They include Conflict of Interest, Corporate Logo and Letterhead, Finance, Personnel, Reports, and Travel. Approval and finessing of the wording will take place over the next month and will be represented at the next meeting in February.

b) Reinstitution of Mentorship Director:

Due to the late hour, Kissel respectfully withdrew this business and pledged to reintroduce this at the next meeting in February.

c) Ontario Provincial Honour Band Audition Process & Requirements:

Harrison mentioned that he felt some of the audition requirements need to be changed as they are felt to be hard. Further, the option of having students be able to perform their own solos may provide an unfair advantage to some students.

Caswell seconded this issue, and related the experiences of some of his students mentioning that it is too tough to perform. The excerpts are from the Manitoba Band Association, and he felt that there is a lot more depth in that province. He would like to see the students still have the option to do their own excerpts.

The audition material is currently publicly accessible on our website. Harrison has made a mass mail-out and e-mail campaign and wonders if people have downloaded the material yet. There is no way to find out at this point, and the consensus was that we would look into providing alternate audition material for instruments that have tough auditions currently. The issue of attaining copyright was put forth. Richardson mentioned that the Manitoba Band Association attained the rights in advance, but did not know if those rights would be transferrable to the Ontario Band Association.

d) In Harmony Feature Articles:

Aitken respectfully withdrew this new business as she had addressed it in her oral report.

e) Ottawa Tulip Festival:

Dickson talked about a way to reach out to Ottawa Tulip Festival, over three weeks for outreach. It sees approximately 50-80 bands each year on a first-come, first-served basis. Some use it as an opportunity to play. It also creates an opportunity to play and create a relationship between us and them. It's free for us and them. Dickson will talk to them on an official basis.

8. Other Business

No Other Business was presented

9. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Harrison, seconded by Kilbride

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.

Tony Gomes, President

Mark Kissel, Secretary

Next Meeting: Sunday February 12, 2022 9:30am Le Parc Banquet facility.