

STRINGS ATTACHED PARENT SUPPORT

Minutes for February Meeting

2/24/2010

50 members in attendance

1. **Treasurer's Report** – Sue Connors, Treasurer

Savings: 15357.70
Checking: 4984.13 Beginning Balance
(8050.00) Budget

4172.13 Ending Balance

Some more funding has come in from the Bova Productions and the Spirit Drive sale at the Arch of Bows.

Gift of \$660.83 given to the Haiti relief charity, World Vision fund. The following thank you letter was received from World Vision:

Dear Partner,

Your partnership is essential as we strive to spread the hope of Christ's love in the world's darkest places.

Your gift of \$660.83, received on 02/04/2010 is already hard at work providing emergency relief in Haiti. I am grateful for your generosity in these uncertain times.

May God bless you for helping us provide both physical necessities and spiritual comfort to children and families in desperate need. Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) says, "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

May your life in the coming year reflect the same joy, hope and happiness you're helping to bring to hurting children and families everywhere.

*In His Name,
Richard E. Stearns
President*

Anyone going to Austria, emails went out from ACS regarding funding that has been applied to accounts.

2. **Fundraising:**

A. Spirit Drive – forms went home; due in this Friday. Form also available on the website. www.wilmingtonstrings.org

B. London Raffle – Mailing handled by Robin Frost. Please return money to her. 100% of the London raffle funds go to the students. Any ticket sales you

make, the money goes to your child's account. You can choose which trip you want to put money towards; Austria for example.

Outdoor sales being handled by Kathy O'Brien. Will take place between 9am & 3pm around town. Parent volunteers are needed. No children can sell the raffle tickets. A ledger will be kept of the sales and funds will go to your child's account. 1st date: March 21st, thru mid April, and then again in the Fall. No selling on Easter, 4/4/10.

C. Strings Store/Concert Raffles – funds from these go to our general fund for group needs, Mr. Dilmore's needs, and children's needs. Tricia O'Donoghue runs the Strings Store and Kathy O'Brien manages the raffles at the concerts.

D. Barnes & Noble - Rosemary Bransfield arranging Barnes & Noble Days for Strings. Good and easy fundraiser. June next date. Tell friends and family to shop on designated days and a portion of the proceeds goes to Strings.

E. Election/Voting Day Bake Sales – Next ones on Town Meeting & voting days. Alicia Johnson, Julie Manos & Pia Romano managing the sales. Let us know if you can bake or provide table coverage.

F. Bova Productions – the 1st show at Christmas time was awesome. They have offered to do another show in the Spring. Probably a 50's Hits theme. To be held at the Knights of Columbus hall or Villanova Hall. Guests can bring their own food. Dinner Theater type show. Mr. Bova generously donated his time and crews' time for last show.

G. Spring Fundraiser – Bulbs & Seeds sale. Another good fundraiser last year. Catalog will go out. Maureen Fruciano volunteered to chair the fundraiser. Thanks Maureen!

3. **Scholarship Committee:**

Chris Blaisdell, not able to be at the meeting, sent us an email. She indicated that the scholarship applications have gone out and are due back 3/25/10. We'll see how many applications come in and then determine how many scholarships to award.

The fundraiser for the scholarship funds will be our former Pasta Dinner, which this year will be an Oktoberfest on 10/22/2010. The seniors will play, then dinner is served and the bar will open when the students leave.

4. **Voting:**

New issue: Mrs. Sadowski, a teacher in Wilmington elementary school had everything in her home damaged due to a boiler explosion. Vote taken to donate \$500 to the family, so voted.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. Website update – Send any emails to Nancy Ennis for postings at nme99@comcast.net. The website address is www.wilmingtonstrings.org. Pictures already up from the Arch of Bows. Also available, past trip photos, meeting minutes, fundraising info, etc.
- b. Trip Contracts – now part of traveling with Strings Attached. Mr. D & SAPS found contracts necessary to enforce rules for students and parents

on trips. Both students and traveling parents/non-students must sign a contract to travel.

- c. Local Heroes – Pia Romano chairing. Notice will be coming home regarding donating.
- d. Violin Recycling Program – Chris Garrard chairing. Instruments can be donated back to Strings. Flyer will go out. Greatest need is for ½ size instruments. If you have one to donate, let us know. Also, if you need one let us know.

6. **New Business:**

- a. Executive Board Membership – any parent can join. We have a few additional meetings per year to discuss things that come up between SAPS meetings. We meet at Rocco's and usually once at Mr. D's. Let us know if you're interested, by phone or email.

7. **Mr. Dilmore's Report:** Thank you everyone for coming and for your support.

This is now one of the largest strings programs in the state. It functions due to the Wilmington school system, Mr. Dilmore, and the family support. The program is a pathway, starting with the Arch of Bows through high school that prepares students for life, and provides cultural experiences. The middle section, Lake George, is preparation for the trip to Europe that students will be eligible for in high school.

- a. Lake George Trip – itinerary provided. 95 students eligible to go, 78 signed up. The hotel has accommodated us for many years. They have indoor and outdoor pools, a restaurant. In the rooms, he would like students rooming with students. If a student prefers to stay with his/her parent, that's OK. 4 to 5 kids per room. The performance will take place on the boat cruise, students will compete, play as a group. No child performs alone or in competition with each other. Will play 2 pieces for the judges. A score of 85 or better qualifies them to go on the European trip. This is Mr D's rule. How students can prepare now: Strings Club after school on Mondays at the Middle School. Also, high school students available for student tutoring.

In Lake George, strict about students staying in their rooms. Really serious about the safety of the children. You've probably heard, Mr. D is really strict! If you want to see your child at night after check-in, call your child and let them know you're coming. There will be a bus for parents. Mid March an invoice will come home with students. Parents should book their own rooms. Hotel info on itinerary. A la carte menu for parents who are coming to choose if they want to go on the bus and the boat cruise. Six Flag tickets available for a reduced price at the Wilmington Recreation Dept which is the best deal for parents/family coming. Strings student expenses covered in child's invoice, including bus, t-shirt, room, boat cruise & dinner, and Six Flags entrance. Doesn't include lunches.

This will be Mr. Dilmore's last trip to Lake George before he retires.

- b. Arch of Bows – 100 4th graders inducted at this year's ceremony.

- c. Austria Trip – 4 spots left open.
- d. Best way to contact Mr. D with questions is by email at Wdilmore@comcast.net.

**NEXT SAPS MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 3/17/10,
MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY, 7:30 PM**

Minutes submitted by Mary Mullens