

SMW Presto Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

The March meeting of PRESTO for the 2005-06 school year was called to order by President Reid Hillmer just after 7 p.m.

Minutes from the Feb. 7, 2006 meeting were accepted as written.

The Treasurer's February report was submitted with a current balance of all PRESTO funds as of 2/28/06 as \$6,809.34. The Collage Concert income was announced at nearly \$1,400. A total of all concert expenses will be presented next month.

Chair Announcements

Reid and Jean Hillmer discussed that Curtis Mulvenon had a child performing at the West Area Band concert tonight and that he planned to join the PRESTO meeting in-between his child's performances. Reid announced that information on the 06-07 orchestra trip would be provided to students by the end of March.

Reid recognized the many individuals that played a part in the success of our first Collage Concert. He noted that the music was good and that much excitement was generated by the unique "light show." The overall turnout seemed to be slightly less than at other concerts. The group brainstormed ideas to encourage greater attendance from the feeder grade schools and ways to encourage parents to recognize the importance of bringing young musicians to events that can inspire them. Jean Hillmer noted she noticed a number of students were dropped off at the door and she made the assumption that a parent was not attending the concert and therefore did not have an opportunity to make a donation. Others noted that they saw parents move back and forth between the concert and the sub-state basketball game.

Less than 30 individuals had their photograph taken with their instrument prior to the Collage Concert so on-line ordering will not be available. Next year the photographer said he would be willing to donate \$200 to PRESTO if 90% of the orchestra makes at least a \$10 order (single 5x7). Ralph Norton suggested that if we were just a few students shy of that goal, PRESTO could pay for a few more orders to obtain the \$200 gift and still net out a profit. The group also discussed the advantage of offering this opportunity to any grade school students' parents.

Director's Report

Curtis Mulvenon expressed his thanks to PRESTO for the support of the Collage Concert. He told the group not to be disappointed with the elementary student turn out. His goal is to have increasing attendance each year. There were about 25 students in the West Strings group and approximately 10 Westridge students in attendance.

Curtis announced the upcoming activities/concerts (see below) and reported that he has narrowed down the possible sites for the Spring 07 orchestra trip to Chicago and Boston. Both locations will allow students to hear a "big city" orchestra as well as enjoy some sightseeing. He again explained that he needs 90% participation to go and that he plans

to gauge student involvement by having students sign a commitment form and put down a \$25 deposit on the trip.

Curtis also explained that placement tests for next year's orchestra groups will be conducted in early May. Next year he envisions a smaller Symphonic orchestra and a larger Philharmonic orchestra. He said he will be looking for a point at which there is a large break in the placement test scores to divide the students between these two orchestras. Freshmen will remain as a separate orchestra.

The group discussed the idea of having designated PRESTO representatives for the each grade level as a way to encourage greater parent participation. Curtis said that decision is up to the PRESTO organization and its bylaws.

The group also discussed the need to have enthusiastic and charismatic strings teachers in the elementary schools to develop future orchestra programs as West High School. Curtis noted that parents need to influence change by voicing their opinions on music teachers to building principals as well as the Shawnee Mission School Board. He noted that with strings as a "pull-out" program, it is easier for the elementary schools to manage these programs when the numbers are small. Therefore, there might be an overall disincentive at the elementary level to encourage large amounts of students to participate in strings and/or band.

Standing Committees

Chaperone: Will need chaperones for the April 13 State Large Ensemble Contest.

Communication: Rick and Tammy Karsten are checking on the possibility of releasing a DVD of the Collage Concert.

Membership: No report.

Uniforms: The mysterious box of uniforms that was discovered in the cages downstairs at West has been cataloged. This box contained 26 brand new men's tux coats and appeared to be a lost box from a district order that arrived a couple of years ago.

Ways & Means: Beth Cicha reported about the success of selling advertising for the Collage Concert program and the possibility of selling ads in the fall for both the Winter Concert and the Collage Concert. She seems to think businesses would pay a slightly higher fee for exposure in two programs. She also suggested an additional edit fee if the business wanted to have a different ad in each program.

Hospitality: Kristi Mehrer provided tonight's sweet treats. Thank you.

Banquet: Zios provided the lowest bid for the orchestra banquet and will be booked for the event. An advantage of using Zios is that they provide the tableware and staff to man the buffet line.

Picnic: Chair needed for this event. Date set for August 13 at Shawnee Mission Park Shelter #10.

Old Business

Scholarship: The scholarship application is on the website. Seniors have been told applications are due by April 15.

New Business

Nomination Committee: The slate of current PRESTO officers will serve as this year's nominating committee. Individuals are encouraged to email one of the officers if they are interested in serving on the PRESTO board next year.

Coming Events

- March 28, 7 p.m. @ SMSouth Pre-State Concert
- April 4, 7 p.m. Pre-State Solo and Ensemble Recital, Room 151
- April 12, Large Ensemble State Competition (Daytime)
- April 18, 7 p.m. West Area Orchestra Festival

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next PRESTO meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Monday, April 3 in the West Library (note location change).

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Shelton, Secretary

Note: Meeting minutes for the current school year are posted on the internet at www.prestowest.org.