



**LOS ANGELES SECONDARY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (LASMTA)**  
P.O. BOX 34666 Los Angeles, CA 90034-9998

**LASMTA MEETING**

**Date:** October 13, 2011

**Official Meeting Time: 6:00 pm**

Cortines School for the Visual and Performing Arts

- I. Call to Order** by Mark Johnsen at 6:16.
- II. Attendance:** Desiree Fowler, Mark Johnson, Julie West, Diana McConnell, Solomon Katz, Christopher Rodriguez, Jennifer Elliott, Yolanda Gardea, Suzanne Jones, Dan McNamara, Maththias Rykert, Margaret Asato, Brian Blanchard, Miguel Mireles, Marisa Crabtree, Jonathan Kenion, Steve Burch, David Yakerson, Jeremy Zuang-Weissman, Jose Medina and Yosuke Miyoshi
- III. Reports**
  - A. Approval of the Minutes from May
    1. Motion to accept May's minutes from Margaret Asato, seconded by Christopher Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.
  - B. Treasurer's Report
    1. Michael Tramm could not be present due to Open House. Mark Johnson reviewed the report. LASMTA supported the Honors Ensemble video production, money is sitting in a 12 month CD and is earning very little money.
    2. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made by Jonathan Kenion, seconded by Jeremy Zuang-Weismann. Motion carried unanimously.
  - C. Secretary's Report
    1. Website is being updated and we are looking into a cheaper alternative. A non-interactive type website was suggested.
    2. There is a need to increase membership so that the organization has more clout. This idea was expressed by David Sears at a previous meeting. Encourage all music teachers to be a member at a minimum. Encourage collegiate membership as well.
    3. Motion to accept Secretary's report made by Jeremy Zuang-Weismann, Seconded by Julie West. Motion carried unanimously.
  - D. Vice President's Report
    1. Julie West will be updating the brochure. They will be blue. ☺
    2. Motion to accept Vice President's report made by Chris Rodriguez, Seconded by Jose Medina. Motion carried unanimously.
  - E. President's Report
    1. Thanks Cortines HS hosts.
    2. Meetings get moved around to try to encourage attendance. The next meeting is on November 9 at Palms MS.
    3. Fundraising for trips, do it as a club in order to keep all funds raised. Otherwise a portion of the funds go to Student Body. However, Student Body cannot write checks for air travel, festival fees or for amounts over a certain limit.
    4. Getting approval for trips to the beach and amusement parks like Sea World. A few years ago more restrictions were put on going to amusement parks in LAUSD.
    5. Discussion of instrument needs.
- IV. Best Practices:**
  - A. Best Handouts



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- B. Mark Johnson has a lesson plan for advanced students to teach beginners how to teach “Mary Had a Little Lamb” in 1 lesson.
- C. Desiree Fowler shared George Carganella’s practice log that he uses that includes standards and how to practice at home. For her own handout, she shared a way to do a portfolio using their daily writing assignments. It’s a handout to study composers.
- D. Julie West shared a written assignment to give students while she tunes the instruments. She uses String Explorer for these assignments.
- E. Suzanne Jones shared a check list for portfolios.
- F. Steve Burch shared some ideas on teaching Mary Had a Little Lamb, using Addams Family to teach high 3<sup>rd</sup> finger and finger placement markers.

**V. Old Business:**

**VI. New Business**

- A. Mentoring, Desiree Fowler will be connecting people who want to be a mentor or mentee.
- B. January meeting tentatively set for January 10 at Sherman Oaks CES.
- C. Annual activities include: Solo and Ensemble Festival and Scholarships for private lessons are awarded.

**Status of Arts Branch**

- Julie Corallo spoke on current status and teacher positions.
- In order to save instrumental music programs, the district instilled the special skills clause. Many choral programs were closed down as were some of the instrumental. Almost all of the elementary teachers that wanted to come back were able to come back.
- No Honors Ensembles this year. Instructional festivals will still take place.
- Last spring, Julie worked on course descriptions. New courses have been added in guitar, modern band and music technology.
- Wallace Grant – A plan was made for the next 10 years and it was submitted. If it gets accepted the district receives funding to help grow the arts. In order to get the grant the district has to commit to supporting the arts. We won’t know the answer until February.
- Arts Education Branch does not have funding to give to schools. Suggestion was made to look into DonorsChoose.org.
- LAUSD Repair Shop is under staffed and repairs are slow due to a hiring freeze. An outside company was hired to help.
- Elementary teachers are doing professional learning communities. Instructional strategies are discussed and can be used to advocate what the arts do for our students.
- Some work has been done on gathering data on graduation rates for students in the arts.

**VII. Adjournment** Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Elliott