

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for February 19, 2019

Attendance: Becca Spjute, Wendy Richhart, Nancy Buist, Haley Oliphant, Kat Martinez,
Christy Anderson, Peter Klinge, Jeff Evans, Clark Bullen
Staff: Lori Edmunds, Katie Lindquist
Guests: Whitney Wilson, Missy Hamilton

1. Minutes for January 15 were approved as written.
2. Guests Whitney Wilson and Melissa Hamilton joined the meeting. Whitney is the instructional coach at Grant Elementary. She has a double major in elementary and music education. Missy Hamilton is the Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning for Murray School District. Together they presented their grant to the board to fund music specialists intended for the 7 elementary schools in Murray City. Her application request was for \$47,342.50, half of the salary cost (\$39342.50 for wages) for the 7-music specialist, during the 2019-20 school year. This will also include \$2500 for professional development 4 times a year (attend ORF or Kodaly conference), \$2000 for a spring music festival with a guest conductor, and \$3500 for supplies (\$500 per school). The grant stipulated that each student would receive 40 minutes of music instruction each week. A planning guide with 12 lessons and an assessment system for both students and instructors have been written. Peter Klinger wanted to know when this program will start, and Whitney replied that some things are already in place. The question was asked if the district would be hiring new teachers for this program. Melissa said they would be keeping the same paraprofessionals, as hiring certified teachers would be at a cost of \$500,000. Jeff wanted to know the objective of this program. He was concerned that not all children want music careers. Missy explained that early exposure to music is crucial. Students will learn basic music instruction, setting and reaching goals and for some of these kids, it is the only introduction to music exposure. Lori said that at the inception of this program, the board wanted to expand the opportunities for elementary age students as there was little or no art exposure and because of this, our secondary school's art programs are suffering. She added, years ago, the board decided that creating a place for music specialists would start fostering the desire for art and music to progress to secondary students to help them find their niche. Wendy asked if the program is 30 or 40 minutes for every class and wanted to know how Whitney is being paid. Missy explained that each child will get 40 minutes each week and that Whitney is on the payroll of Grant Elementary but is helping her to get the program started. Missy explained that this would be the beginning steps to getting a DAC (District Art Coordinator) through BTS (Beverly Taylor Sorenson) and it would be a certified teacher. Peter asked if Missy would be the person to spearhead this plan and she explained her need for Whitney's expertise in arts education and reiterated her hope of securing a DAC. Clark asked why the broad exposure and not just provide students with a choir or band experience. Becca commented that kids really need a broad range of music experiences at an early age. Missy again stated the guarantee of 16 hrs. of professional development per year and told us the instructors would have access to 50 -70 lesson plans. She said she would have data in a year on how the students are progressing and wanted us to partner at 50% of \$75,620. Lori reminded all, that our Cultural Arts budget would not support the amount asked for

(\$47,342.50) and thanked Whitney and Missy for their presentation. She reminded the board that a discussion would take place further down on the agenda.

3. Past Month Events

- a. Resident on Display for February was not able to display their artwork, so Jennifer displayed early photos of Arlington Elementary along with inception architectural drawings of a “new” City Hall, in that display case. Glenna Peterson will be our featured artist in March.
- b. Lori reported that the Mural Showcase at the Martin Luther King Jr. concert at Murray High School went very well and many came to see it at the concert in January even though it had been the worst snowstorm in 10 years that night.
- c. Katie reported that the Liberty Storytelling residency has finished. There were 17 participants and 6 winners were chosen to present at the City Showcase on April 20.
- d. The Murray Concert Band had a performance on Feb. 2 with about 200 in attendance.

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Murray Symphony – February 23 MHS 7:00 pm
- b. “Shakespeare In Love” was advertised to be at CHS on March 5-8, 11th. Haley told us it is actually the “Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime”. The dates for this production are March 4-8 and this is problematic because we have sent all our season pass holders the previous original information. The board wondered what we could do to solve these kinds of changes in the future. Katie will send letters to our season holders alerting them of the change of production and dates.
- c. Fairytale Ballet – Thumbelina will be at the Ballet Center on March 14-16.
- d. Musical auditions are as follows:
 - i. Beauty and the Beast – May 1& 2 Viewmont Elementary 6:00-9:00pm
 - ii. Little Women – May 28 & 29 Viewmont Elementary 7:30-09:30pm
- e. Blithe Spirit – MHS March 7-9, 11
Clark suggested that we encourage the directors to audition a bit earlier as most of the other communities producing musicals will have already been cast and we want to get the best people to perform in our productions.
- f. Katie reported on the new display case exhibits in City Hall. They are fashioned around prominent founding families of Murray and Katie has reproduced aerial maps starting in 1937, 1977, 2005.

5. Business

- a. Ordinance Review – Katie prepared a review in the form of “Jeopardy” for the board to play. Much fun and information were had by all. Team “B” won because they received the “Dailey Double”!
- b. Bylaws
 - i. Clark asked for clarification on absences. The board discussed it and decided that we should define it as that the board will review the absences and should be written as “be reviewed by the Board”
- c. Local grant applications
 - i. Murray Concert Band requested \$2500. The board voted in favor of this grant.

ii. Murray Symphony requested \$3500. Lori was told to ask about their reserve account and why they would want us to fund polo shirts.

iii. Murray School District grant discussion

– the board was concerned that 40 minutes per student for each week was being reported, but is not happening according to some members of the board. The discussion on this application was tabled and Lori will research the concerns of the board for both the school district and the symphony application.

Lori is planning to reach out to UDAM and ZAP to figure out how to appropriately ask for extra funding to support some of the additional funds asked for from the school district. She said that Murray City School District is one of the few school districts without a DAC, so Murray City Cultural Arts filled that void. Several months ago, Katie and Lori met with BTS and Missy to discuss the options of getting a DAC through BTS. Lori would like the school district and BTS to figure out the coordination between them and have Murray City Cultural Arts partly fund it until each school is a BTS school. This would help the City step away from trying to convince the schools that they need to take the time and effort to support the programs we provide and desires to place that responsibility on the district and BTS. Murray City Cultural Arts, Murray School District and Beverly Taylor Sorenson would work closely together to make sure all are working on the same goal which is to provide different and diverse art experiences for the students. There was concern about the raising costs each year. Lori suggested that we table this issue until she can provide more guidance to the board from Utah Department of Arts and Museums, Zoo Arts and Parks and a group of District Arts Coordinators. Becca pointed out that they have made improvements from last year and Clark was glad that they had put together a plan. Clark reminded us that we need to try and help them improve the program by continuing to fund them. Clark appreciated their enthusiasm. Peter suggested that we need to mention to the Mayor that we are trying to help kickstart this program and that is tied to our mission. Haley reminded us that in our ordinance, we are to “advocate for the arts as a significant element of school curriculum”. She said that she thought that a very small portion of the tax increase that the residents will now pay will go for the arts and we are showing we think the programs are worthwhile. Lori will provide the district our 5-year plan. Lori reminded the board that our eyes in the school are Nancy and Becca and they can help us monitor the program.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be March 19, 2019.