



Programme and Focus Groups

Notes and Minutes of meeting held at DBCS on 18 June 2019

Present: Mr JM Zwane
Mr J Yewi
Mr NA Ndlovu
Ms Thembile Mazibuko
Ms MM Dube
Mr B Kruger
Mr G Brooks
Mr D Cato
Mr WJ Carter
Mrs F Kinghorn

Apologies: Mrs J Hawthorne
Mrs C Bower

1. Overview of Choral Singing
Project to Date

- 1.1. The Programme with 6 choirs in 5 schools being run over 3 years by Mrs J Hawthorne has been a great success.
This year however Mrs Hawthorne has had to curtail her own programme to one day a week and Mrs Bouwer has stepped in to help very successfully. (This has however increased costs considerably)
- 1.2. Much has been achieved:
The Choiristers have developed discipline, concentration, listening skills, accuracy, musical knowledge and skills, affirmation, English ability with marks increasing by as much as 50%. In many cases their leadership within the schools has set an example to others.
One choir is entering the ABRSM International Exam (Celimfundo)
- 1.3. Concerts and Travelling
The Annual Siyakulu Concert has developed into an outstanding event enjoyed by all at DBCS. This year we hope to hold the event at Khetani Community Centre. The choirs were last year represented at the annual prestigious event, "Festival in the Hills" by Sifisesothu School who sang with distinction. The weekend included a visit to the beach. The children behaved beautifully and enjoyed the interaction and friendship between all choirs.
The travelling costs were carried by the Department. Special thanks to Mr Nati Ndlovu for all arrangements.

Sustainability

Despite the wonderful successes we remain concerned about the sustainability and expansion of the project which needs addressing.

Finances

In order to address the challenges of sustainability and expansion a minimum of R25000,00 per month is required together with the full support of the DBCS and the Department. We can however by re-thinking the programme save considerably on this figure.

2. Adaptation to Existing Programme

The following proposals, after extensive discussion, were accepted:

2.1 To introduce a training programme for selected teachers who will be taught and mentored by the DBCS to become Choir Conductors. This could be broadened to include church choir and community choir conductors by invitation. Teachers who have a passion for music need to be identified by each school and subject advisors. Senior choristers who show exceptional talent could possibly be included in this group.

2.2 The choirs to play a central role in school life and the communities.

2.3 Selected schools to be integrated into the choral life of DBCS where appropriate and relevant.

2.4 A special project to be launched to provide each school with a keyboard and possibly other relevant musical instruments.

2.5 Various ideas mentioned in discussion

2.5.1 Item 2.1

- Teachers attending the course will be credited with CPTD points
- Community volunteers will be paid travelling costs
- Senior choristers could get "Colours for Music" as recognition
- Consider possibility of using Interns

Item 2.2

- Choirs could lead singing at assembly with Western and Cultural songs. Also at important school/community events including sports events and choir competitions, weddings etc
- Choirs could also sing at local churches
- If willing the Music Teachers could gather the choirs for extra-mural practices

Item 2.3

- Schools could take turns in visiting the Wednesday afternoon concerts at DBCS, if transport could be arranged. If they reach a set standard they could even present a song with a DBCS choir
- Suitable talent to be sought after to find a young boy to benefit from a bursary. (We may even find support from Global Giving)
- DBCS to give publicity to the Legacy Project in local and provincial media, notices on overhead slides at concerts, collection of donations at all concerts. Build a brand of DBCS
- Build a pillar of the DBCS heritage
- Arrange suitable choirs to perform at local corporate functions
- Target the raising of money for keyboards as part of the Heritage Pillar without damaging the fund raising for the DBCS
- The Christmas Carol Function to donate all its money to the keyboard fund ie approx. R5000 p/a

STEERING COMMITTEE: G Brooks (DBCS), M Mazibuko (KZN DoE), M Mokoena (KZN DoE), B Carter (Convenor)

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3. General

- A special effort to be made to persuade the DOE to appoint one full time Music Teacher per district to establish choirs. One such teacher could each year establish at least 10 choirs with a local teacher. As we have seen this will have huge benefits in a short time and could be expanded.
- Subject advisors to be closely integrated into all music activities
- Focus Groups together with school teachers to gather and strategize on a programme and timetable for the year

4. Way Forward

- A meeting to be held with Bernard, music staff and Judith Hawthorn and Mrs Dube with Nathi Ndlove and Mrs Thembile Mazibuko to formulate a programme and timetable.
- David Cato to meet with representatives to discuss details on way forward for Focus Groups.
- Bill will help setting up meetings with Fiona

As we change tactics to re-focus on our key objectives we hope and pray that Isiphetho Sothukela will blossom and fulfill its full potential.

Distribution list:

All attendees
Mrs M Mokoena
Mr M Mazibuko
Mrs B Johnsen
Mrs J Hawthorne