

Music Department
Minutes of Staff Meeting on January 31, 1956.

Present: John Kelly, Marianne Fleece, Eleanor Ho, Zeneta Richards, Homer Keller, Setsuko Nozoe.

Spring Concert The date was set tentatively for Saturday, June 2nd with an hour and a half program. Program ideas suggested were: Honolulu Community Chorus performing; (possibly sharing proceeds with them because they are planning on a money making concert) Phyllis Shield's Children's Theatre; the Palama Children's Chorus; the Palama-Kiwanis Band; Mrs. Pukui's troupe; the Kamehameha Alumni group (John and staff agreed that they would like to hear them first) talent possibly from Farrington School; Portuguese dances; Armad Blanco and Balinese dances. Everyone agreed that they would like to think the matter over and felt that they had had a good start with all these program ideas. Farrington Auditorium was suggested as the site for the concert.

Faculty Concert It was agreed that it would be held at Palama for the students and their parents. The date was set tentatively for July 21st. Possible program suggested: ensemble work of violin; 5-6 minutes of music that children may have been taught but possibly would like to hear it played by their teachers; Schumann's A Minor in the first movement by Eleanor Ho; Mrs. Fleece playing the Bartok on the violin; 6 minutes of Mr. Keller's preludes played by Miss Richards. Since the possibility of such a big crowd attending, it was decided that it might prove to be beneficial if the music school issued some sort of complimentary tickets or passes. There will be no charge for the Concert.

Teacher's Conferences Mr. Kelly reported that he had had fruitful conferences with all the staff members and had these collective points as evaluation:

1. Teachers felt that they were appreciative of the creative opportunity that they have in teaching the students. They felt that they were "working with people, not just piano students". They felt that they were not only helping people in finding some satisfaction in learning a particular instrument but also that they together with parents and school teachers had a hand in the intellectual and moral development of human beings.
2. The group plan is valid only as long as it is beneficial to the students and any indication that the group is not working out should lead to a separation of the individuals involved.
3. Techniques of methodology: Students should have a music staff book in which the teacher should give them homework or drills; valuable from time to time to go over pieces that child had learned to give him the feeling of progress but that teacher should not pick a piece that the child may have forgotten (child may get discouraged instead of being inspired by his progress); some students need more than half an hour of lesson time. (More and more educators are recognizing the need for additional attention for the exceptional child and the same applies to the slow child.) Piano students should be made to realize the group and social aspects of their skill and that teachers should try to see that their students make use of the skill in school or home situations. Parents need to be educated in terms of practice periods; not to be overconcerned to the point of making the child nervous and not so passive that the child feels that nobody cares; lessons shouldn't be dull routines - try to make it as interesting as possible and it would be nice to have duets with other students once a while.

Children's Chorus Outing on the 28th was fun for both teachers and participants. Recommended that this be an annual affair. Mr. Kelly announced that he will conduct the chorus with the help of Miss Ho. First rehearsal begins on February 4th.

Scholarship Fund Recommended that the school re-evaluate the program and instigate the criteria of child's interest and willingness to learn plus the economic status (that we now base it on). Teachers felt that the children should learn and be made to understand that altho Palama is helping them out that they in turn must also do their share by coming to lessons regularly and must show some sign of willingness to learn. (Criteria is not on basis of talent.)

Bazaar at Palama To be held on April 7th and sponsored by the Friends of Palama. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Dick Tom were appointed co-chairman of the entire affair. Mr. Kelly announced that the Music Department and the Band Parents were asked to be in charge of the Country Store. Mr. Yonamine will be asked to work with the Band Parents and Miss Richards and Miss Ho will be in charge of organizing the Music Parents Organization not only for the coming Bazaar but also as an organization who has the interest of the children who take music lessons at Palama.

Mr. John M. Kelly, Director
Palama Music Department