

D R A F T RMHS Music Boosters Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2017

The monthly meeting of the RMHS Music Boosters was called to order at 7:10 PM by Mat Krawczyk. Co-Vice Presidents Tracy McMahon and Tom Toussaint, Treasurer Mary Fava, and Recording Secretary Jane Ure were present and the meeting was attended by Amy Carroll, Meg Sioui, Karen Fitzsimmons, Sharon Hernandez, Monika Hemm, Kevin Carroll, and Christopher Buti.

➤ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Mat Krawczyk welcomed Boosters to the meeting and led the group through the agenda.

Secretary Jane Ure distributed draft minutes from the March 7 meeting; minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer Mary Fava presented the March operating and year-to-date financial reports as well as a spreadsheet detailing the past five years' earnings and spending figures from Jazz in the Meadows (see JITM in New Business for discussion). The reports were approved and filed.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Jazz in the Meadows: Boosters discussed successes and opportunities for improvement at last month's meeting (detailed notes attached to those March 7 minutes). Additional notes: Profits on food sales increased by 25 percent after price increases, however, some people left the premises to eat. Although this is discouraged, some directors use it as bonding time with their groups. An important area in which to boost earnings would be ad sales/sponsorships. Think big—start now!

The group also discussed what brings people to the festival. For some schools it is the excellent competitive venue. For others it is the opportunity for kids to hear excellent jazz performed by top peer middle school and high school bands and the noontime and finale guest artists. Does a big name finale band correlate to higher festival earnings? There is no significant increase in number of performance room bookings (the festival is usually at or close to capacity) or separate finale performance ticket sales and students respond positively to local, smaller name groups. However, a national or well-known artist may help keep the festival relevant by appealing to school directors who make the decision whether or not to attend and can make the festival the more attractive option when it conflicts with alternative jazz festivals.

After laying the groundwork for a budget this year, the Boosters would like to continue to evaluate yearly how best to support the students and Directors; some years there may be more money slotted for higher priced guest artists; other years spending priorities may be elsewhere, for example, trip stipends or equipment.

Executive Board nominations: The floor was opened for nominations to the 2017-2018 Executive Board. The following nominations were heard: for President, Mat Krawczyk; for Vice

President, Tom Toussaint; for Treasurer, Mary Fava; for Secretary, Evelyn Wills. Nominations be open until the May meeting, at which time voting will take place.

Hospitality: Tracy McMahon has Hospitality in hand for the spring concerts; Andrea Pike and Sandy Heck will cover for her for the band concert as she a conflict that evening.

Spirit Scholarships: Approximately \$450 is available for Spirit Scholarships. Mr. Buti will bring applications to the May meeting (application deadline is April 30) so the group can determine how many scholarships to give out and if the amount given will be supplemented by the Boosters general fund.

Incoming freshman orientation will be held May 8. This year, **polo and shoe fittings** will take place before and after the event (time slot based on alphabetization of last name).

Uniforms: Meg Sioui and uniform volunteers need access to service the old uniforms and will need to see new uniforms to be prepared for fittings. New uniforms will be complete as soon as gloves and plume box arrive.

Sign Up Genius: The group discussed the switch this year from VolunteerSpot to Sign Up Genius and were unanimous that Sign Up Genius is easier to use, can display information in a more organized fashion, and has the added benefit of being familiar to parents transitioning from middle school since it is used in the feeder schools. Well worth the fees.

Directory: Mary Fava volunteered to help with the directory next year. It would be helpful to have a paper form included in the sign-up packets for band, color guard, and orchestra; electronic signup/editing did not provide much information the last time it was tried.

Transportation: Mat Krawczyk is reviewing schedule for marching season truck rentals.

Tailgate: Last fall's band/color guard tailgate was a social success. Tailgate for 2017 will be during the June 29 band camp prep for the Fourth of July parade.

Summer band camp picnic: Karen Fitzsimmons will check on Costco card for supplies for the picnic that will take place at the end of July 31-August 4 band camp session. The group agreed that water (no pop) will be provided with the meal.

Fundraising: It would be helpful for parents to receive a written sheet with information about fundraising in general and a rough schedule of fundraising opportunities planned for the year. Students do not always carry the information home and parents would then at least know when to ask for information.

Volunteer recruiting: Ways to recruit committee coordinators include networking at social functions (meet and greets, tailgate, etc.) and having Directors post descriptions of committee coordinator positions.

Fundraising reports:

- **Butter Braid/Cheesecake:** Cindy Bieda is working on the spring Butter Braid sale and will take over Butter Braid and cheesecake for 2017-2018.
- **Manna:** Mary DeMaria will be taking over Manna sales and is creating a new order form.
- **Yankee Candle:** Monika Hemm will keep this online sale going until she finds a replacement.

➤ **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Orchestra Director/Assistant Director of Bands Kevin Carroll thanked Boosters for the hospitality at the March Orchestra concert and reported

- Chamber Orchestra will travel to University of Illinois later this month; the group will tour Krannert Hall and attend the U of I symphonic concert. They will also have a workshop with the graduate faculty conducting class.
- Next year's musical will be "Cats" and will be performed in the fall to cut back on conflicts that arise in the spring for choir students.
- Junior high string night will be held in November.
- See also, New Business notes.

Director of Bands & Color Guard and Fine Arts Coordinator Christopher Buti reported

- RMHS hosted the D214 Honors Music Festival. It was helpful for the event to take place in a setting with band/orchestra facilities and the concert will take place here in the future.
- Hersey's Concert Band Festival is March 15. The Symphonic Band will perform all new literature; students provide their own transportation to the event and should plan to stay to listen to other performances for concert credit.
- Seniors have been asked to write their bios for the spring concert programs; seniors' parents will be notified to send in baby and senior pictures.
- Return of junior high desert night next fall. Jazz bands will play and junior high students will learn a piece with them. Gives parents a chance to talk and students a chance to see high school opportunities.
- See also, New Business notes.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM. The next general meeting of the Music Boosters will be the Wednesday, May 3.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Ure