

MUSIC BOOSTER MEETING MINUTES

March 04, 2021, 6pm

In attendance: Emily LeBorgne, Joanne Lee, Beth Austin, Robyn Clay, Megan McConagha, Rob Wheeler, Caitlin Ramsey, Aaron Scifres, Melanie Tennyson and Jana Zimmerman (briefly due to tech troubles)

VOTE TO APPROVE DECEMBER MINUTES

Robyn made a motion to approve the December 13, 2020 minutes and Megan seconded it. All members present approved the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

February Summary (not much activity)

- Starting cash balance was \$12,196
- Total expenses were \$35
- Total income (cash) was \$167
- Ending cash balance is \$12,328, an increase of \$3,755 since previous report

YTD Summary

- Total income is \$4,692
- Total expenses are \$1,353
- Net income is \$3,339
- January gear sale proceeds exceeded projections by \$186 (for total of \$377)
- Second quarter Amazon proceeds were lower than projected, indicating a year-end shortfall of about \$125

Fundraising/Budget Summary

- Total donations are \$4,225 (90.5% of target)
Alumni and follow up mailings yielded 6 additional donations
- 41 donors as of 2/28 (compared to 55 in last year)
22 of the donors are new
- Average donation is \$103.04, just slightly higher than last year's \$101.66 average
- Fundraising YTD is down about 20% from last year

TEACHER UPDATES

Joanne Lee, HS Chorus

Joanne is thrilled that the Maine Department of Education is now allowing students to sing indoors with triple layer masks and social distancing. Thus, chorus is singing together within the hybrid model (with those students on zoom muted, but signing along with their classmates). To work around the 30-minute singing limitation, Joanne is holding the first half of class in the chorus room and the second half of class in the auditorium.

Rob Wheeler, HS Instrumental Music

Rob has PPE ready to go, but right now it is not possible to play together indoors because there is not enough physical space in the band room to safely accommodate the students. He is looking forward to warmer temperatures when they can rehearse together outside. Jazz groups have recorded music together, and are working toward a collection of songs. Rob is bringing diversity discussions to his classes after attending conferences on Jazz & Gender and History of Jazz. The students will be learning about the connection between Jazz and Hip Hop.

Caitlin Ramsey, MS Bands

Caitlin reports that the students are doing well despite the zoom situation. The 5th graders exceeded expectations; even though they started six weeks late, they are already at the same level as last year's 5th graders. They are playing fewer pieces, but have achieved the same skill base. Caitlin has just started to hold indoor band sectional rehearsals on Wednesdays with students (utilizing PPE, 10 feet social distancing, and bell covers). She met with groups of 6th and 7th graders this week (percussion and winds & brass), and will meet with others next Wednesday. It has taken lots of logistics, but she is hoping she can maintain a two-week rotation throughout the remainder of the school year. Next week she will start meeting with Jazz groups on Monday and Tuesday afternoons in the school cafeteria. She is also starting to prepare for instrument fittings with the 4th graders. Working with Becky Bean in Pond Cove, Caitlin will zoom with each 4th grade class, and then zoom with each student individually to do a mouthpiece test. She has received a grant from the MSPA to purchase mouthpiece kits (that can be cleaned in the dishwasher) that the students can use for these assessments.

Emily LeBorgne, MS Music + Chorus

Emily is home on maternity leave, but reports that the students are doing well. They had just started to do some recordings before her sweet baby decided to come early. Because of her unexpected departure, the students did not have classes for two weeks. But Emily was able to give them projects to work on. They now have a substitute, and Emily thinks it is great for them to have a different experience. She is hoping they can do some music together outdoors in May.

Jason St. Pierre, HS Jazz

Jason could not attend the meeting, but Robyn reported that his two Jazz groups were doing well and have recorded three songs. He has been able to meet with the rhythm sections indoors. It was mentioned that AG Guilles has been a huge help in setting up and breaking down equipment for the high school musicians.

UPCOMING GRANTS

Caitlin would like our help purchasing plastic containers for the 4th grade mouthpiece kits. She will submit a formal grant request. Though the kits were purchased this year for safety reasons, they will be a long-term benefit to the program.

UPCOMING BOOSTER NEEDS

Two music booster members are "graduating" and we are looking to fill their roles for the 2021-22 school year. It was decided to put a blurb in the newsletters to let the community know we are seeking a publicity chair, programs designer, treasurer, and secretary. Robyn will stay on as president, but is hoping for a shadow to take over the following year. Caitlin mentioned that a middle school mom would likely be interested, and Robyn will follow up with her personally. The plan is to spread the word about the openings and gather more music parents for our April meeting.

Meeting adjourned just before 7pm. Next meeting TBD.