

Music Parent Meeting Minutes - August 30, 2023

Directors Present: Kristy Baker, Mark Iwinski, Chris Moan

Board Members Present: Melody Taboada, Jen Cunico, Theresa Aron, Tracy Procajlo, Nancy Evens

Open and Welcome: Melody Taboada started the meeting by welcoming everyone and the Board Members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Evens – "The meeting minutes from last year's meetings can be found on the vjamusic.com website. Please feel free to take a look and let us know if you have any questions."

Correspondence: Thank you messages from the Class of 2022 Music Parent Scholarship Award Recipients: Rayne Grabowski, Nora Miner, Dana Samuelson, Alex Procajlo, Karoline Corning, Billy Beranek

President's Report: Melody Taboada – "Band Camp went really well, we had no major hiccups, but we are considering changing the movie night event next year to accommodate an earlier release time for that day. We thank you for your patience when picking up your students. We know band doesn't always get out on time but staff does do their best and the field has to be cleaned up and all instruments have to be put away at the end of every rehearsal. We do have a very large senior class this year, so we will have a lot of open parent positions to fill next year. Our Craft Show Coordinator is one of our most important positions to fill as the two Craft Shows bring in a large majority of our income. Due to the nature of this position we would love for this to be a two person position since it is quite a bit for one person to take on alone. We also have the position of Fundraising Chairperson open now for this school year. We will be sending an email out with all the available positions. If you are interested in any of these positions please let us know, we

would love for you to shadow the current position holders so they can help prepare you for next year. Invitational parent volunteer sign ups went out today so please take a look and sign up for the slot you'd like to work before they fill up. As a reminder it is mandatory for one adult from each Marching Band family to work one shift at both the Invitational and the Fall Craft Show. We do have 23 bands (including our own band) so we do need as much help as possible.

Treasurer's Report: Tracy Procajlo – "So far we've spent about half of our Marching Band budget. We're coming in under budget on some line items such as meals thanks to Jen Cunico. Most of our income this year are from Marching Band fees we've collected."

Director's Report:

Kristy Baker – "Good evening, it's very nice to see everyone here tonight and I'm looking forward to learning how all these programs run throughout the year."

Mr. Iwinski – "Marching Band season is in full swing, there are some very good things going on this season with this year's show. Prior to my time here the previous director, Mr. Romano, built this amazing program with a great culture that we continue to carry on today. The Stagg competition is next weekend. We will rehearse in the morning and afternoon, load up, have some dinner, change, depart, perform, wait for awards, load up, snack, then travel home. The following weekend is Homecoming, so we have our football game Friday night but there is no rehearsal Saturday. The following weekend is our own Invitational here at VJA. I'm very proud of the students as they are doing a great job. Symphonic bands are currently working on chair placements. Wind Symphony chair placements are already set, but we do have a chair challenge procedure if students wish to do so. Our first concert of the year is on October 26th at 7:30pm. IMEA video submission/audition sign ups have begun, info went

out to students via email. Music lesson sign ups will begin soon as well and info will come out about that soon.”

Mr. Moan – “As you can see we are in the midst of renovations as we wait for practice rooms to be installed, but we’re still working very energetically towards our first concert of the year on October 5th at 7:30pm. Our Central Middle School students will be joining us on stage for this concert. KSD 140 unfortunately had a conflict so we plan to get them out here during the second semester. IMEA audition sign ups have begun for choir students as well. Students that are interested in taking voice lessons can also sign up for that now. The Winter Musical will be Chorus Line and more information regarding auditions will come out later this semester.”

Fundraising – Melody Taboada – “We just held a popcorn pop up fundraiser through Double Good. Funds earned through this event will be deposited in student accounts soon. We will hold another Double Good event during the 2nd semester. Our Savers donation fundraiser is up next on September 16th. We will have a truck parked here at the school collecting donations from 8-11am. Clean out your closet and help the music programs at the same time. We do have a couple restaurant fundraisers coming up. Rainbow Cone is on September 21st and will run all day and Noodles and Company (Harlem location) is on October 19th from 4-8pm. Our 5 Guys fundraiser brought in \$523, so thank you to everyone that attended that event. These restaurant fundraisers are a fun and easy way to help raise money for the music programs and you get to take a night off from cooking dinner so it’s a win-win for everyone.”

Open Discussion –

Mrs. Wilson inquired about if we could promote some of these dining fundraisers as more of a social event where us parents can get together and hang out. “We will definitely be looking into doing that, thanks for the idea.”

It was also asked if we could give a longer heads up about upcoming fundraisers as there wasn't a lot of notification time leading up to the last Double Good event. "Yes, we apologize as we did set that event up last minute to try and help our Marching Band families earn some funds towards their remaining fees but we will definitely have more lead time for the next event so you will get the info much earlier."

Sara Serratore asked if we have looked into the Tinley Park Ampitheatre fundraising program where parents volunteer in the concessions and drink stands to earn money for their fees. "Yes, we had looked into that program a couple years back and we found that due to the fact that alcohol is served at these events that it was necessary for us to hold an insurance policy to cover our parent volunteers and that policy was going to be much too expensive to make it worth it for our parents."

It was also asked where they should be looking for info from the Music Parents. "Music Parents emails will come from Charms Office Systems and School Info will come from D230 and ParentSquare. You can also look for info on our website at vjamusic.com."

Next Meeting – September 26th, 2023

Motion to Adjourn – Camille Vopelak and John Stachon