

Music Parent Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2023

Directors Present: Chris Moan, Mary McCarthy, Mark Iwinski

Board: Melody Taboada, Jen Cunico, Nancy Evens, Theresa Aron, Tracy Procajlo, John Miller

Open and Welcome: Melody Taboada started the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Secretary's Report: Theresa Aron – "The last meeting minutes from last November's meeting can be found on the vjamusic.com website. I also sent an email with a link to the website to everyone."

Correspondence: No correspondence.

President's Report: Melody Taboada – "Welcome to Tony Serratore, thank you so much for coming out tonight. We have been discussing how we can fund our "in need" student assistance program and hopefully will be able to get that started soon. Gail Meyer has done a wonderful job on the website so thank you Gail and please check out the newly updated site for all important music program information and calendars. Our Winter Guard competition is coming up very soon and we could still use more help so please look for the signup and consider coming out for a shift or two. We have four food vendors lined up to help alleviate the stress on our concessions at HillGrove Tap, Smash Burger, Culver's and Pop's so please share those events out on your socials. We did earn \$150 from our last dining night at HillGrove Tap so these events do help our program and are easy to participate in as well. These fundraisers cut \$500-\$600 from our marching band fees which is why they are so important to have full participation. KSD140 has graciously offered to cover half of the custodial fees so we can use the middle school gyms for guard rehearsal rentals which is awesome. Nominations for John's fundraising coordinator position will open at the conclusion of tonight's meeting. Camille Vopelak will be taking nominations so please reach out to her if you would like to nominate someone. Thank you Camille for coordinating."

Treasurer's Report: Tracy Procajlo – "The fundraising totals on the report are a little deceiving due to the fact that many of the events are split between students and the Music Parents so we just thought we should clarify this. Our Spring Craft Show brought in \$25,097.07 and the expenses came in low at \$1,885.37 so the actual profit from that event was \$23,211.70."

Director's Report:

Mary McCarthy – "It's been a phenomenal winter with all these groups being so successful. It was wonderful to have our KSD140 folks back in house again as well. Such great kids doing amazing things all across our programs. In school news Spring Break is next week and will kick off this Friday with a 1pm early dismissal. SAT/PSAT/ISAT test information was emailed out recently as well so check your inboxes for all that important information."

Mr. Iwinski – "Our wind symphony ensemble was able to work with composer Alex Smith which was awesome. The band director from Western complimented our students on their professionalism and demeanor and was very appreciative. Our jazz band wrapped up the season at the Spring Concert and they recently opened up for the Moraine Valley Jazz Band. Our Symphonic group recently traveled out to Wentz Hall in Naperville for the D230 combined band showcase with our sister schools and represented our district very well. The itinerary for the Music For All festival went out earlier today. I'm excited for the return of this festival after a 3 year hiatus. We should also be finding out if we were accepted to SuperState very soon as well. Winter Guard is doing great, Kassie is working hard to build a strong culture within the group. Winter Percussion has a great show which is going to go far this season as well."

Mr. Moan – "Our Spring Choir concert last week closed with "Fire" literally and figuratively. We spent some time discussing song selections for the May concert with the choral groups to find some different and interesting pieces. The Spring Musical "Chicago Teen

Edition” is off and running with performances scheduled for 4/13, 4/14, and 4/15. Our cast leads and ensemble are absolutely phenomenal. Please come out and support these talented students. Best of luck to our Winter Guard and Percussion groups in their seasons.”

Fundraising – John Miller – “We’re pretty much done with fundraising for the year besides the remaining dining events. Ted’s Greenhouse was our last big one and we hope to do Saver’s near the end of Band Camp week. Invitational Sponsor emails will also go out soon for that event.”

Open Discussion –

Tony Serratore – “I sat here 20 years ago as a band parent as well and I still feel very connected to this program. I still come out to as many performances as I can and I like to come out and hear what’s going on at each school and school group. Some district news, Phase 2 of the band room reconfiguration will be included in the next building project plan for VJA. One main topic that we’re hearing about across every group is the lack of parent volunteers. We’ve had some great discussions about how to get more help because as great as all these programs are they just don’t run without parent support. Parents should want to be here and be involved with their student as one day they will feel that they missed out. I want to thank Mary for helping to keep these programs going through some of the darkest times. She’s done a lot of behind the scenes and we’re going to miss her dearly. If anyone needs anything please feel free to reach out to me, I want to help support these programs in any way that I can.”

Kassie Pierson – “Winter Guard has just a little over a month left with the Indy Regional coming up next. We are hosting the Midwest Color Guard Circuit competition here at VJA on 4/1 and 4/2. Thank you to Mary, Mark, Chris, and all the parents for all your work in helping to bring this event back to VJA. We have our community show on 4/8 with percussion then we head off to Dayton Ohio for Championships.”

Melody Taboada – “Winter Percussion just traveled to Dayton and placed 2nd in prelims and finals. This Saturday we are off to St Louis then we are off to Dayton the week after Guard.”

Next Meeting – @ 7:30pm in the Choir Room

Motion to Adjourn – John Miller and Beth Soderlund