



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	August 19, 2026
Meeting Time	7:30pm
Location	Victor J. Andrew High School Tinley Park, IL
Directors Present	Mark Iwinski, Chris Moan, Kristin Baker
Board Members Present	Ellen Peterson, Maryanne Kladis, Norma Barakat, Lisa Stein, Lisa Kelly, Naomi Robinson

Open and Welcome

Ellen Peterson welcomed all parents and Directors to the first VJA Music Parent Meeting of the 2025-26 school year. All Music Parent Board members were introduced as well.

Secretary's Minutes

The minutes from this meeting and previous meetings can be found on vjamusic.com.

Correspondence

Thank you notes from our class of 2026 Andrew Music Parents Association Scholarship recipients.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Stein covered how we closed last year and our current financial report. Copies of the financials from June 2026 and current financials were provided for reference. Purchased supplies and instruments can be found on the page 2 breakdown of the current financials.

So far this year most of the money we have received has been from the Fall Craft Fair and VJA Invitational fees. Money that has gone out mostly includes band camp competition fees, staff payments, color guard fees, food, etc. We also made some uniform purchases that were needed. What is listed under uniforms is mostly related to shoes and the guard uniforms.

President's Report

Ellen Peterson: Friday night is our first home football game and Senior Night. Norma is gathering volunteer information and assigning roles. If you are interested in coming out and volunteering for that please email Norma Brakat at vjamusicvp2@gmail.com.

For Marching band families, we have the Pop & Drop coming up the next two Saturdays. It's a donation per family, organized by section. The water donated is given to students at competitions and other performance events. Some of the supplies and snacks are sold at our invitationals and craft fair and is also distributed to our kids while traveling. The days for the Pop Drop are Saturday August 22nd and 29th. When you drop off your students, drive around to the loading dock and our volunteers will unload your



vehicles. We will be there from 12:30pm to 1:30pm on both dates. If you are unavailable during either of those dates, please send Ellen an email at vjamusicparentboard@gmail.com and we will coordinate a time for drop off with you.

We have 17 bands registered for our invitational. Our schedule will keep a nice flow through the campus and help with concession traffic as well. More information regarding volunteering to come, and a final meeting with all volunteers for the invitational will take place on the Wednesday before the invitational. The invitation will start at 1:00pm, with the earliest bands arriving at 11:00am. We are expected to be concluding our invitational at 6:15pm. There will not be a percussion clinic this year, during the invitational, but there will be judges' critique. We are also looking for someone that would be able to coordinate the flow of traffic and parking. Please contact Ellen if interested and we will be available after the meeting to talk with any interested volunteers.

Fundraising Updates

Lisa Kelly: If anyone knows of companies that would like to be a sponsor for our Invitational, see me or email vjamusicfundraising@gmail.com.

- The Mums pickup time has shifted 30 minutes earlier to 7:30am to 9:30am, due to Fall Fest. Melka prefers we come earlier to pick up mums.
- Dining fundraiser next Monday August 24th at Lou Malnati's
- Dining fundraiser on Sept 18th at Oberweis
- Dining fundraiser on October 9th and April 2nd at Culvers
- Dining fundraiser on Jan 4th at Portillos
- The S&T fundraiser will take place around middle of September and end of September.

Lisa explained the process for S&T fundraising orders. Those looking to participate in the fundraiser, will purchase vouchers for their pizzas. They will go to S&T with their voucher(s) and pick up their pizza kits. They also have gluten free options. In the past you could go to both locations for your pickup. This is a great fundraiser and makes for easy dinner nights or lunch options at home.

Raise Right. Parents are able to sign up for Raise Right on VJAmusic.com. You can raise a lot of money to cover registration fees for music programs. Raise Right also adds new vendors often and you can link your debit card as well rather than using physical cards. Lisa encourages any interested families to contact her for more information as this is a great way to raise funds for expenses.

Director's Report

Mr. Moan: Mr. Moan is excited to be directing our Fall Musical "Be more Chill." This is usually performed in the Spring, but we are performing it earlier in an effort to go to the Illinois High School Music Fest this year. We are in the process of crafting and getting props ready. Oct 22-24 this year.

The Choir is placed, in orientation, and learning new music. With the Fall Choral Concert being close to Halloween (October 28th), be prepared to be entertained. The Choir is excited for a great performance.



We have a student teacher coming from ISU, working on vocals with the students. She was able to program some of the pieces for upper-level women's chorus and is conducting on our concerts. The kids are enjoying her work.

Correspondence will be coming out this week for choir families. It covers the handbooks and calendar updates.

Mr Iwinski: Shared that communication for Band families will also be coming out this Friday, as this is usually sent the first week of school and will include the band handbook and calendar. The calendar will be getting populated with more dates to remember so be on the lookout for those updates. This year's Marching Band is bigger than last year's, and they are doing very well. Shout out to Sandy for getting our MB pictures done during Band Camp this year.

This Friday we will have our banners for Senior Night. We are going to play the first 2 movements of our show at the game without metronome. During this week's football game, we will play at halftime, then during 3rd quarter we will change out of uniform and dismiss. Students that wish to stay can. We have 2 more Saturdays for band camp. We are in a position to finish our show prep by the end of August. That way we can enjoy Labor Day. Mr I stated that he is really excited about this season. We will be competing in different classes this year, mainly at Lake Park. The kids voted for this change last year (returning students). We have our own competition on 9/26, then homecoming, and then Lincoln-Way before we wrap up the season at ISU.

We also have a Student Teacher with u. He is a Trombone player. He will be with us during concerts as well, learning what it takes to run a HS band program. He's doing a good job.

ILMEA – if your kid is interested, please make sure they are registered. Mr Iwinski has the google form. Deadline is Sept 29th to turn those forms in.

Mrs Baker: Division Chair for English, English Learners, Music and Media. She reiterated Back to School night next Tuesday August 24th and encourages everyone to come out. During this time Parents can meet the teachers, get an overview of the classes, see what kids have been working on and will work on for the year. It starts at 6:00pm.

Open Discussion

Friday Night Football Game / Senior Night: call time for students is 5:30pm. Mr. I sent out a communication on 8/18 with details.

Season merch: On our VJA Bands FB page there is a post confirming that the shopify site has opened up and is available for purchasing your season merch. Parents don't need to purchase a short-sleeved season shirt for your student(s) as the band has purchased those for every student. The yellow volunteer shirt is also on the shopify site and costs include shipping fees. All info is on vjamusic.com site. If you are a returning family and have used the shopify site in the past, it may open to last year's season merch. Just look for the current merch once you are on the shopify account.

Competition communications: The week before comps, Mr. I will send out the itinerary. Sandy linked every competition where VJA will participate to the hosting site's web page. More information can be found there. Links will be updated periodically as some sites are not yet updated by the host.



Next Music Parent Meeting

Date/Time: September 16, 2026 / 7:30pm

Location: VJA Choir Room

Motion to Adjourn

Adjournment Time: 8:10

Motion By: Matt Windle

Seconded By: Chip Brauer