



VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL
MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Music Parent Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2021

- Directors Present: Mark Iwinski, Chris Moan, Mary McCarthy
- Board: Deb Jennings, Nancy Evens, Deb Jennings, Lauren Garrett, Melody Taboada, Tracy Procajlo, John Miller
- Open and Welcome Deb welcomed everyone and introduced the board members. Attendees were asked to sign in. Deb informed all present that everyone here is a Music Parent and that if you attend three meetings you can run for a board position and vote on board positions. We will need two new board members next year.
- Secretary's Report: The last meeting minutes were from the April 21, 2021 meeting and can be found on the VJAMusic.com website.
- Correspondence: Three thank you letters from the 2020-2021 Music Parent Scholarship award winners were read. Also read was a letter regarding the Chris Smajlo Music Art Scholarship Foundation. They are making a donation to the VJA Music Department since they weren't able to award a scholarship this year due to COVID 19. They have been providing a scholarship to one recipient every year since.
- President's Report: Deb said that band camp was the 1st week of August and went well. It was great to see the kids perform again. Our first football game is tomorrow night. We are supporting the choir program's goal of raising money for a new piano.
- Treasurer's Report: Nancy referenced the budget report that was distributed and mentioned that only Marching Band costs have been reflected so far. She reminded parents that the fees collected do not cover the costs. We need fundraising to cover the remaining costs. The Invitational is our biggest fundraiser and hopefully will cover the remaining Marching Band costs. The goal is that all the other fundraising efforts can go directly to each kid's account to help cover other costs including Disney.
- Deb stated that the Invitational is Sept 18 and we need everyone to volunteer and signup! Currently we have 14 bands participating in the Invitational. The Fall Craft Fair will be Nov 6 & 7 and is our second largest

fundraising event. There is a possibility of another Craft Fair in the spring. Again, we will need volunteers for all these events. Covid has brought the numbers down for the music program. We are trying to build up the numbers again and bring energy to the music program. We are going to work more with our feeder schools.

Director's Report:

Mary McCarthy introduced herself and described her role at VJA and the music program. She welcomed back the Music Parents and said she was glad to be back in person. She spoke about the remodeling of the band room, choir room and the addition of the new band lockers in the hall. The practice room are in the process of being demolished and remodeled. This will continue into next summer. There is a Covid Dashboard which will indicate the community and building Covid Metrix. We are entering into a new Metrix next week. We will continue to stay safe to make the numbers go back down. Our goal is to have 4 concerts on this stage this school year.

Mr. Moan said he is happy to be back and it has been a great start! The energy has been great and he hopes to keep it going. The renovations are happening to the choir room and will be a big upgrade. The Choir Handbook was sent out to choir parents. He asked for parents to read it and make notes of the key dates. They are having musicals this year and auditions will happen later. There will be a Freshmen Show, done solely by Freshmen. This will be on Sept 23 & 24 at 7pm.

Mr. Iwinski said it is great to be back. They took a hit in the numbers but our program is resilient and strong. There are two bands this year – Symphonic and Wind Symphony. The Symphonic band is broken up between the woodwinds and the brass sections. Once T-Bolt times start up they will begin to mix them together and have full rehearsals. The top band is Wind Symphony. This year they are including percussion in the class. This is going great having the full band together. In the second semester the top bands from Andrew, Stagg and Sandburg will perform at Wentz Concert Hall. The Wind Symphony will also be performing in April in a shared concert with Hindsley Symphonic Band at U of I at the Krannert Center. Mr. I then said we had a successful band camp. The community show will be on September 4 with the band in full uniform. Our marching competitions will be kept local this year except for ISU at the end of the season. Our first competition will be at Stagg on Sept 11 at 6:30pm. The ILMEA audition info is already available and auditions will be virtually submitted, however the festival will be in person at Elmhurst University in November.

Fundraising Report:

John Miller introduced himself and thanked the directors, board members and the music parents. He stated that the goal of the fundraisers was to cover the cost of all the parts of the music program. For the Invitational he

has \$2,400 so far from sponsors and friends of the program. August 31 is the deadline to get an ad in the Invitational program. We are also doing “shout outs” for the kids in the programs to raise money. Our next fundraiser is Century. This fundraiser will give 40% of sales to the student’s account. Each child will benefit from their own sales. Next will be the Holiday Greens and Butter Braids fundraisers. We need help with more volunteers to help run these fundraisers. We also want to hear your ideas! John stated that he is forming a fundraising committee and wants more interested people. A Century fundraising packet will go home with the kids soon and will be due in a few weeks.

Coordinators Report:

Deb introduced our coordinators for the Craft Fair – Jill Warszalek and Elizabeth Soderlund. Jill stated that we have many new and returning vendors this year and we will have a great variety. This is a big fundraiser for Andrew. We will have approximately 140 vendors and crafters. We will keep it safe by following masking mandates, social distancing, etc. The Craft Fair will be held on Nov 6 & 7. We will need help from many parents and students. Friday Nov 5 will be set up and we will make it fun. The vendors and crafters will setup on Saturday Nov 6 morning. Beth is involved in the advertising and is doing more this year than before. She is posting flyer at various stores and grocery stores. She is posting info on social media. She is also making yard signs to promote the Craft Fair. Her family is donating the expense to make the yard signs and posting them from Frankfort to Worth.

Amy Leistra is our SCRIPT coordinator. She explained what SCRIPT was and that 100% of proceeds goes to your student’s account. You need to create a SCRIPT account and can also have other people create their own SCRIPT account and name your student on their account. There are many ways to save. You can buy physical gift card that can be “reloaded”, or order instant gift cards, or can also get hard gift cards. The percentage earned can be 2%-20%. Watch for bonus days. You will need to link a checking account when you set it up and there will be a small fee. You can email her and more info will be sent through Charms. There is also an app “Raise Right” to link to the SCRIPT program. You can also purchase Visa gift cards.

Kristen Randall is our Dining Night coordinator and Gail Meyer is in-charge of our website.

Disney:

Stacy Kilroy from Bob Rodgers Travel gave an overview and slideshow of the Disney trip. The trip will be March 18-22, 2022. They will depart early on March 18 and spend the day at Animal Kingdom. On March 19 the choir will perform at Disney Springs. The kids will spend the day at Hollywood. On the 20th they will march in a parade at Magic Kingdom. On the 21st they will go to Universal and hopefully perform a concert. On the

22nd they will go back to Universal and then depart and fly back home. They will be staying in the Disney All Star hotel. Kids will be provided dining cards each day to help pay for the cost of meals. Stacy explained the cost as of now is \$1849, however they still need to finalize airfare. There will be a “land only” option that does not include airfare. Chaperones will be needed and will be determined by the directors. Stacy explained the options for payment and travel insurance. The first deposit is due Sept 30. If the trip is canceled 91 days prior to the trip, 100% will be refunded (there may be a nonrefundable airfare deposit). If the trip is canceled 90 days or less, they will refund as much as possible. She highly recommends travel insurance.

Disney Questions:

Deb stated that if your child is in both band and choir, they will make it work. We also can let you know how much money you have in your child’s account to help pay for Disney. They need everyone to commit by Sept 30 so they can book airfare. You may still be able to sign up later but you may be put on a wait list. They need to know the numbers early on so they can start making decisions. If you have done a large amount of fundraising and have earned more money than is needed for Disney, these extra funds will stay in your student’s account. You can use these funds for private lessons too. BRT can use your fundraising funds except for the first payment. There will be discounted tickets for families. BRT will need to price this out once airfare pricing becomes available. Everyone will need to fill out a Disney waiver. There are no longer Disney Fast Passes. There is a new Genie program similar to the old Fass Pass.

The next parent board meeting will be Sept 21, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn:

Deb Jennings

2nd:

Melody Taboada