



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	September 16, 2026
Meeting Time	7:30pm
Location	Victor J. Andrew High School Tinley Park, IL
Directors Present	Mark Iwinski
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 September VJA Music Parent Meeting of the 2025-26 school year.

Secretary's Minutes

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

Correspondence

None.

However, Ellen took a moment to acknowledge that the Andrew Music Parents Association received a \$500 donation from Jon Stachon, which included funds donated from his colleagues. John also donates hamburger and hot dog buns for the Invitational which are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jon.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Stein: Business as usual. The Board also received another anonymous donation from an alumni member in the amount of \$2500.

Fall craft fair reservations and registration fees are coming in steadily and we hope to close registration very soon. Regarding the VJA MB Invitational, we have ads and sponsorship being processed and Well Wishes. All our food trucks for the Invitational are on board as well. Marching Bands fees continue to be collected, and all fees paid out are noted on the Financials. Our MB banquet is arranged, and fees will be determined soon.

President's Report

Ellen Peterson:

The **VJA Invitational** is almost here; we have about a week and a half to go. Thank you to all that have volunteered so far. We do have some open volunteer opportunities available in pit warm up and some spots for the practice field. We will have our volunteer meeting next Wednesday, at 7pm. During that



meeting there will be a brief overview of how the day will go, parking, and volunteer expectations. We do have loaner volunteer shirts available, as ordering at this point, may not guarantee the shirts arrive in time.

Our **Marching Band banquet** is on the calendar for Sunday Nov 1st at Silver Lake. The venue has recently undergone some renovations. The banquet will take place from 1:00 – 4:00pm. No Bears game that day! We just need to adjust to the time change, when Daylight Saving Time Ends. More information to come as far as sign-ups. We are determining per person costs for family members – musicians and staff do not need to pay for the banquet.

The 2026 **Fall Craft Fair** already has a lot of vendors registered who are ready for the day. If you have not been to the Craft Fair before it is fantastic. There are creative handmade gifts and so many things available for purchase just in time for the holidays. Please come out and support.

The **ISMBC Pre-Order Store** There is a pre-order store for the ISMBC merch. You can order between now and October 5th and they will deliver your spirit wear to our buses at ISU. We will also send out a pre-Order link for our VJA MB Invitational merch as well via cuttime and/or our VJA Bands Facebook Page.

Fundraising Updates

Lisa Kelly: - Lou Malnati's Dining Fundraiser did very well. Oberweis, we are hoping goes very well also, this weekend. Culver's is coming up on October 9th. Mums pick up this Saturday, September 19th. S&T Pizza Setups are happening today through the 28th and once we have orders in, and the vendor confirms when vouchers will be ready, we will let families know. Holiday wreath order forms for Melka will also be coming out soon. Lastly, the Butter Braids Fundraiser we will be selling throughout November can be picked up on 12/5. More information to come.

Director's Report

Mr. Iwinski provided updates on behalf of Mr. Moan: Choir is building on our Fall show. All choirs are doing fantastic work on their literature. The Fall Choral Concert is on Oct 28th at 7:00pm – call time is 6:00pm. The Freshman show "Select Start" is now underway. Tickets will be available on GoFan starting on Monday, September 21st. Email Mr. Moan with any questions.

Mr. Iwinski: - Lake Park was a tough competition and we competed very well. We received 2nd overall and in Class AAA, in addition to Best Percussion. We have Plainfield South this weekend, our Invitational, Lincoln Way, and ISU. This group has done a fantastic job, so far, and were one of the only bands out there last weekend with a complete show.

ILMEA auditions were submitted as of today. Videos are due on 9/29. Any questions, see [Mr. Iwinski] and students can use Tbolt times. Once videos are submitted, it takes a little bit of time to determine who will be in the group in Nov.

Our Student Teacher continues to work well with the kids and is doing a fantastic job so far, this season.



It has been a long time since our band placed top 5 in ISU and it's a possibility this year. We have had a lot of high attendance, which is a part of being successful. We just have to keep going, we are almost there.

Open Discussion

Invitational and Fall Craft Fair Student Volunteer Hours: For the Craft Fair, Ellen confirmed that Students will sign up for service hours through the school service coordinator, and they will submit service hours the same way they do currently. Service hours for the VJA Invitational are handled in a slightly different way. The invitational has a signup genius link for Student sign-ups, but they will also get service hours for that time; the process will differ slightly.

Craft Fair Parent Volunteers: Sandy will also be working on communications and sign placements with volunteers who expressed interest in helping with that part of the Craft Fair preparation. The Fall Craft fair is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Parent Board. There is an event page on Facebook. Please share that page as much as possible and interact with the posts – that would be great.

Recognition: We thank Chip Brauer for securing a pick-up truck, through his employer, for us to use for the marching band season.

Parent Concerns: On October 10th there is a competition at Lincoln Way (West). There was expressed concern with participating at Lincoln Way schools, after recent events, and the question was asked as to what precautions are being put in place to ensure students' safety? Ellen will follow up with Mr. Iwinski to confirm what has been discussed with the students. A suggestion was made that Staff, and the Board ensure all our kids know who the Parent volunteers are that day so that they can escalate any concerns to Parent volunteers or a Staff member.

Additional Information:

The ILMEA District 1 Festival is in Oak Park on November 9th. The ILMEA Jazz Festival will be at Joliet West.

We have 20 Seniors this year. For the MB banquet, Leah creates a photo collage for all Seniors. Ellen will send out a communication to collect photos of students including their first year of band. Families can go to the banquet as well. Pricing will be communicated once the Board has finalized the costs.

Next Music Parent Meeting

Date/Time: October 21, 2026 / 7:30pm **Location:** VJA Choir Room

Motion to Adjourn

Adjournment Time: 8:03

Motion By: Chip Brauer

Seconded By: Jen Balediata