

Traverse City Music Boosters Meeting January 12, 2021

In Attendance

Kevin Smiley
Wendee Wolf-Schlarf
Jill Jenkins
Linda Blakkan
Eileen Mikulski
Andy Richards
Thomas Hoxsie
Nikki Stahl
Peter Deneen
Alline Beutler

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm

President's Remarks

As the pandemic continues, we should continue thinking and discussing ways to change the way we do things in order to maintain interest.

Jill motioned to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Andy seconded. The motion passed.

Music Director's Report

Classes in the district are back to face-to-face instruction. Dawson Peek completed student teaching with Chad Mielens at WSH and WMS. He has been hired to teach the 5,6,7 grade band classes at TCAPS Montessori and general music at Immaculate Conception. Jamie Moreland will be returning to teach general music at Trinity Lutheran. Megan Grezeszak will be taking over teaching the general music sections at Montessori. She also teaches general music at Cherry Knoll.

Students are adapting to the necessary changes this school year. TCAPS music staff is creatively finding new ways of instruction and performances to ensure a quality music experience. Both High Schools are planning adapted musicals for the spring. At WHS a musical called 'Working' will be performed in March. This musical is made up of small vignette's that can safely be performed with few students on stage at one time, but many opportunities for multiple students to participate. CHS will announce their musical soon, which will be set up in a similar way, and performed in April.

Vice President's Report

The website host and domain have been renewed until 2023. A 20% discount was secured for renewing by phone call instead of online.

Treasurer's Report

Some scholarships and the website fees were reflected in the financial statements, but nothing else has changed since the November meeting. A family recently contacted the music office about a possible memorial gift to the Music Boosters, no further information is available at this time. Eileen moved to accept the treasurer report. Linda seconded. The motion passed.

TCC and TCW Organization updates

West Choir Parents- The January parent meeting was well attended. They are working to reinstate their non-profit status. The ad book will be wrapped up soon.

Central Band Parents- Meeting this evening.

Central Choir Parents- There are several restaurant take out nights planned through the winter as a fundraiser. Ad book sales push starts next week.

Old Business

2021 Secondary Student Leadership Workshop- The workshop is still planned for June 17 and 18. Later in the spring a final decision about whether the workshop will be virtual or in person will be made in light of the pandemic situation at that time. Matthew Arau from Lawrence University is confirmed to be the headliner.

2021 Scholarships- Currently there is a survey out to staff about plans for the scholarship auditions. It's possible that the date for auditions will be moved to March 24 and hopefully will have modifications so they can safely be done in person.

Music Booster Donation Letter- The letter that was planned for December didn't come together in time. Peter Deneen will provide a story related to a classroom mini grant to open the letter. The new plan is to mail the letter in Late March or April. Alline and Kevin will work together on a draft of the letter to share with the Music Booster board for feedback.

Parent Music Organization Meeting Attendance by Music Boosters- Kevin will provide the dates for the upcoming parent organization meetings. Hopefully different Music Booster board members will attend the meetings in order to provide support and talk about the Boosters. This is especially important for the parent organizations that do not typically have representation at the Music Booster board meetings.

New Business

2021 Music Booster Concert- Different potential options were discussed including holding an outdoor concert or pre-recording a video. Eileen will explore with the TCAPS maintenance department to see if holding a concert at Thirlby Field is a viable option. Consideration will need to be given about the technology needs and sound equipment for an outdoor venue. As a possible alternative, the idea of creating a core video that would include an introduction about Boosters, celebrate the scholarship winners, possibly a statement by the superintendent and solicitation of donations could be created. Then links to several pre-recorded ensemble performances could be connected to the core video and this can be shared with the community. Further discussion will happen as information becomes available. A final decision will be made at a future Music Booster board meeting.

Development of Annual Music Olympics for Students- Kevin had the idea of providing more opportunities for students to be musically creative. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Fundraising ideas- The need to think of alternative fundraising options has become clear this year with the challenges of the pandemic. The idea was shared to reach out to non-profits with

similar missions to see what they are doing. Also discussed was cultivating individual donors to offset traditional fundraisers. No finalized decisions were made. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Open Forum

Jill shared an update about the 2020 scholarships. A deadline of 1/15 was set in November as the date for families to respond about their intentions for the use of the scholarships. Some of the pending scholarship winners have already connected with Jill. Others have been difficult to reach. Jill will continue to work with families and try to find solutions during this difficult year.

Andy moved to close the meeting. Jill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted by Alline Beutler