

**Traverse City Music Boosters Annual Meeting  
October 27, 2020**

**In Attendance**

Kevin Smiley  
Wendee Wolf-Schlarf  
Jill Jenkins  
Linda Blakkan  
Eileen Mikulski  
Andy Richards  
Lisa Wodcox  
Thomas Hoxsie  
Heather Hoxsie  
Andrew Phillips  
Andrew Schafer  
Chad Mielens  
Cindy Stevens  
Douglas Downer  
Emerick Dee  
Holly Olszewski  
John VanWagoner  
Laurie Coulter  
Mariah Orton  
Megan Grezezak  
Mike Foley  
Nancy Will  
Peter Deneen  
Shaina Biller  
Stephanie Schall-Brazee  
Tami Williams  
Thomas Viera  
Austin Shepherd  
Kelly Forsyth  
Carrie Bui  
Victoria Boals  
Nikki Stahl  
Aline Beutler

## **Meeting was called to order at 6:32**

### **Welcome**

Kevin Smiley greeted everyone and gave opening remarks about the Traverse City Music Boosters.

### **Music Presentations**

Videos of the CHS and WHS marching bands from the fall marching band expo were shown during the meeting.

### **TCAPS Superintendent Remarks**

John VanWagoner, TCAPS superintendent, thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He talked about his love of music education and his family's history in band. As a brand-new superintendent, Dr. VanWagoner shared his first impressions of TCAPS music program and how he appreciates the quality of the music staff and the participation by students. Also shared was the fact that TCAPS receives the lowest level of funding of any district in the state and the significant challenges that result. Even with these challenges, Dr. VonWagoner stated his support of the arts and his belief that music education is a crucial part of our district.

Associate Superintendent Shaina Biller was also in attendance and took a few minutes to talk about how happy she is to be in this new role in TCAPS and that she strongly believes in the importance of music education.

### **2019 Music Booster Annual Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from last years meeting were discussed with no changes made. Jill Jenkins motioned to approve the minutes and Andy Richards seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **2020-2021 Budget**

The proposed budget was shared. The holes in the budget due to lack of fundraising opportunities during the pandemic will be filled using funds from the endowment. Jill motioned to approve the budget. Eileen seconded. The budget was approved.

### **Music Director's Report**

The music staff in attendance were introduced, especially welcoming the new staff members. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> week of instruction and everyone seems to be happy to be back to in person learning. Staff spent the summer re-working the curriculum, making plans for safety protocols and creatively finding ways to teach students in these challenging times. This year's performances will be held virtually, at least for the fall and winter. The music department benefitted from \$54,000 worth of bond funds for visual and performing arts that can be used for capital expenses. In June of 2021 there are plans to sell additional bonds which should allow more funds to be available for music education next school year.

### **2020-2021 TC Music Booster activities and ideas**

No ideas were given during the meeting, but people were encouraged to stay in communication with the Music Booster board and share their thoughts about how to offer the most meaningful support during this difficult year.

### **Scholarships and Mini-Grants**

24 scholarships were planned for the 2019-2020 school year. 22 were given as not everyone was able to participate in private lessons or summer music camps due to the difficult circumstances from the pandemic. At this point 10 have been paid out and the other 12 will likely be paid out soon. We are on track to offer scholarships in 2021.

Right now, the music teachers are applying for mini-grants of up to \$300 to cover the cost of music materials, equipment, and experiences not able to be covered under the school or district budget. During the November meeting the grant applications will be reviewed by the Music Booster board and the grants awarded.

### **Used Instrument Sale**

This year's sale was cancelled due to safety concerns because of Covid-19. Next year's sale is planned for Saturday, September 11, 2021. There will likely need to be modifications made to ensure everyone's safety and those decisions will be made closer to the time of the sale.

### **Flower Sales**

Each year for both the CHS and WHS musicals, Music Boosters sells flowers for patrons to buy as gifts for the cast, pit, and crew. It is a smaller fundraiser but does tend to bring in enough to cover a few scholarships. This year's flower sales are yet to be determined depending on what is decided about musicals for this school year.

### **Benefit Concert**

This year's concert is planned for May 27, 2021. The hope is that a concert will be pulled together, but the decision about the specific plans will wait until closer to time. It will be a collage of music throughout the district, as traditionally showcased, but will likely look very different this year. If at all possible, it will be held in person.

### **Vice President's Report**

There was a request for representatives of the different music parent organizations at each school to participate in the Music Booster board meetings. Also promoted was the Amazon Smile program to help raise money for the Music Boosters.

### **TCC and TCW Organization updates**

CHS Band- This was actually a director's report. The marching season is going well, and everyone is ready for the concert season to begin. Parents have stayed on the band parent organization, even though their students have graduated, in order to support the new director during the staff transition.

CHS Choir- Thanks was given for the attention to detail with the safety protocols this year. Also, appreciation for Tami Williams coming back to teaching this fall after a maternity leave. There is great excitement for the new director, Andrew Schafer.

WHS Band- The band parent org is thankful for the support of Music Boosters. Everyone is excited about the new uniforms and new percussion instruments. They are working on some fundraisers to bring in money to cover the cost of safety equipment.

WHS Choir- The focus is on parent recruitment to grow their parent org, especially with parents of younger high school students and middle school students. Creative fundraising ideas are being explored.

### **Fundraising**

Last year a fundraising letter appeal was sent to past donors with some success. Especially due to the lack of traditional fundraising opportunities this year, another appeal letter this fall with the hope that past donors will be motivated to financially support Music Booster's work this year.

### **Open Forum**

Eileen expressed her gratitude to Wendee for the work she has put into facilitating all the needed changes this school year. Sarah Shotwell expressed her gratitude to Michelle Zebell, recently retired East Middle School choir director, for everything she has offered music students in TCAPS over the last 30+ years.

**Eileen moved to end the meeting. Andy seconded.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35**

**Next meeting is Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30**