

Unit 5 Music Parents Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2023

Normal Community High School – IMC

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Present: Josh Jensen, President

Present: Emily Miller, Vice President

Present: Angela DeJaynes, Secretary

Present: Logan Geigner, Treasurer

GENERAL ATTENDANCE:

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by the U5MP President Josh Jensen.

TREASURER REPORTS:

- Overall bank has \$16,000
 - \$6000 is for audit, remaining is for other earmarked purposes
- Treasurer Updates for April
 - Total for Musical Extravaganza is \$171 less than originally shared after final numbers and costs were calculated
 - U5MP had \$100 less in insurance
 - \$250 was spent for filings/taxes
 - \$250 under budget for administrative
- Will know if audit is required when fiscal year hits on June 1
- Reminder to all that any time PayPal is used for any purposes, a note should be left with the transaction so money can be aligned to correct program
- Printout of budget/report is always available, just contact Logan
- Next month will include a voting of budget for financials for 2023-2024 and will also give an idea of where we are in regards to audit needs
 - The budget will be emailed to all interested families to be voted on in May
- Reminder/call out that Robin Wenzel is rolling off as assistant treasurer at end of school year
 - Previous offers to have Logan's wife fill in as co-treasurer will not pan out after all
 - Logan has offered to take on full responsibility for the coming year if an assistant is not able to be acquired
 - Logan will connect with Laura Reddington who has expressed some interest.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

*****CHIDDIX JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL*****

Chiddix Junior High Band:

Tricia Ogdon (Director)

- We had a busy month in the Chiddix Band Program.
- Last Saturday, we had 7 students participate in the Intercity Honor Band Festival at Bloomington Junior High School. Tuesday was our final concert for the school year. All students did a fantastic job, especially with our combined 5th-8th piece.

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- 8th-grade students have one more performance during the Trills and Thrills festival in May. We are also having our Chiddix Music Grady's Night.

Chiddix Junior High Orchestra:

Jillian Meszar (Director) **NO REPORT**

Chiddix Junior High Choir:

Julia Beer (Director)

Solo & Ensemble Contest

- 16 Chiddix Choir students in 7th & 8th grades, participated in the Unit 5 Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest last Friday, at Chiddix. 8 out of 10 events received a Division I rating.

Intercity Music Festival

- 9 students participated in the Intercity Festival Choir on Saturday, April 15th. Students participating ranged from 6th - 8th grades.

Elementary Tour

- 6th Grade Choir students, along with 7th & 8th grade boys choir members, traveled to all of our feeder elementary schools this past Monday, April 17th, to show them "what choir looks like." They sang well, were well behaved and had a great time!

Spring Concert

- The Spring Concert will be held on **May 16th**, in the auditorium of Normal Community High School. The concert begins at 7:30 PM. Students should report to the concert at 6:30 PM.

Unit 5 Summer Sing

- The U5 Summer Sing will take place June 5-9 at NCHS. The event will take place from 9:00-11:30 AM each day, with a pool party at Fairview Aquatic Center on Thursday, from 8:30-10:30 PM. Registration information has been shared with music teachers at each elementary school in Unit 5, who are communicating to families. Registration is online, and the deadline is May 1st.

*******EVANS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *******

Evans Junior High Band:

Krista Beddigs (Director) **NO REPORT**

Evans Junior High Orchestra:

Elizabeth Fontana (Director)

- 5th-8th grade are having their spring performance on May 15. 5th/7th is at 5:45pm and 6th/8th is at 6:45 at EJHS.
- 8th grade is performing at Trills and Thrills on May 12
- 7 EJHS orchestra students performed at BJHS for intercity orchestra on April 15! They had a fantastic time!
- Thank you to Music Parents for all of your help and support this year!!! I appreciate you!!!

Evans Junior High Choir:

Julia Beer (Director)

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Solo & Ensemble Contest:

- 17 Chiddix Choir students in 7th & 8th grades, participated in the Unit 5 Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest last Friday, at Chiddix. 13 out of 14 events received a Division I rating.
- **Violet Kopsell** received the Best of Day award in **Room A**.
- **Hamsini Ganti, Mahi Ganta and Madhu Prabha** received the Best of Day award in **Room B**.

Intercity Music Festival

- 26 students participated in the Intercity Festival Choir, held at Bloomington Junior High, on Saturday, April 15th. Students participating ranged from 6th - 8th grades.

Elementary Tour

- 6th Grade Choir students, along with 7th & 8th grade boys choir members, and the Evans Honors Choir traveled to all of our feeder elementary schools today, to show them "what choir looks like." They sang well, were well behaved and had a great time!

Spring Concert

- The Spring Concert will be held on **May 16th**, in the auditorium of Normal Community High School. The concert begins at 6:00 PM. Students should report to the concert at 5:00 PM. (Yes....it's on the same day as the Chiddix concert.)

Unit 5 Summer Sing

- The U5 Summer Sing will take place June 5-9 at NCHS. The event will take place from 9:00-11:30 AM each day, with a pool party at Fairview Aquatic Center on Thursday, from 8:30-10:30 PM

*******KINGSLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *******

Kingsley Junior High Band:

Tyler Harr (Director) **NO REPORT**

Kingsley Junior High Orchestra: NO REPORT

Daria VanDeLoo (Director)

Kingsley Junior High Choir:

Katie Winchester (Director) **NO REPORT**

*******PARKSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *******

Parkside Junior High Band

Jennifer Bolton (Director)

- Congrats to all students that participated in the Solo/Ensemble contest, everyone did a fantastic job! Special Congratulations to Gabe Pabst who earned best of the day in his performance room!
- The Jazz Band ended their season with the elementary school tour and a trip to Carls Ice Cream. They have had a great season and terrific year - Evan Herbst earned the Louie Armstrong Jazz Award - Congrats!

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- The 7th and 8th grades have their Spring Concert tomorrow. Both bands' awards will be announced and given that night. The 8th graders will be recognized for all of their efforts, work and dedication and participate in a graduation presentation.
- The 5th and 6th grades have their final Concert on Monday, May 8th. It will be at PJHS!
- Thursday, May 18th is the PJHS Grady's Night. All Band students are invited to attend Grady's Family Fun Park from 4:45 -7:00 PM!
- Current 4th graders are in the process of signing up to try instruments (Instrument Exploration) for 5th grade Band/Strings!
- All 6th, 7th & 8th grade awards will be distributed at their concert. Congrats to everyone for making this a great year!
- I would like to thank everyone for their work and efforts this year. The support shown by all to help pass the referendum was outstanding and very much appreciated. Thank you all for your continued help and support - we really appreciate it.

Parkside Junior High Orchestra:

Angie Stalter (Director) **NO REPORT.**

Parkside Junior High Choir:

Katie Winchester (Director) **NO REPORT**

*******NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL *******

Normal Community High School Band:

Paul Carter (Director) **NO REPORT**

Normal Community High School Orchestra:

Melissa Siebenthal (Director) **NO REPORT**

Normal Community High School Choir: **NO REPORT**

Ben Luginbuhl (Director)

*******NORMAL COMMUNITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL *******

Normal West High School Band:

Ryan Budzinski (Director)

Earlier this month, the Normal West Bands hosted the IHSA Music Organization Contest on the campus of Heartland Community College. The Symphonic Winds and Wind Symphony gave excellent performances and earned Division I Superior Ratings. The Wind Ensemble shared a wonderful concert with the Illinois State University Wind Ensemble. All groups continue their preparations for the Senior Recognition Concert, which will be held on Tuesday,

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May 9. The Concert Winds, Symphonic Band, and Symphonic Winds will also attend the Trills and Thrills Music Festival at Six Flags on May 12. The bands had thirteen students participate in the IWU honor band last week. Fourteen are participating in the Bradley University honor bands this week, and two more will participate in an honor band at the University of Illinois - Springfield, later this month. Be sure to check out the Normal West Bands on Instagram as we roll out senior profiles. In addition to having bright futures in a diverse array of disciplines, a number of students plan to continue making music, and a handful are receiving scholarships and financial aid based on their musical talents. Preparations continue for the Wind Ensemble's Carnegie Hall performance in June.

Normal West High School Orchestra: NO REPORT

Kim Boehm (Director)

Normal West High School Choir:

Sara Williams (Director) **NO REPORT**

*******NORMAL MARCHING BAND*******

Normal Marching Band (NMB)

Multiple Directors (Ryan Budzinski, Paul Carter)

The Normal Marching Band's 2023 registration is this week. The band recently announced its student leadership team. Percussion clinics are ongoing, and the color guard clinics are this week. Show props and design elements are starting to arrive, and we are looking forward to a great season!

OLD BUSINESS:

Referendum & School Board Talk

- Thank you to any and everyone who had any part in successfully helping to pass the referendum! Thanks to those who helped attend concerts and events to share messaging and materials

Approval of Minutes

- January & February minutes – Karen Fryer motioned to approve, seconded by Emily Miller, all in agreement

2023 - 2024 Officers

- Current open position: Assistant/Co-Treasurer
 - May need to reach out to director's at Normal West for a "home base" contact at each High School
 - Interest in learning more about the role was shared by Laura Reddington
 - Current Chiddix 6th grade student
 - Logan will do more research to see how many checks were issued/signed and how many transactions were processed per role
 - Potential alternative solution is to have a third signer on the account, who is affiliated with West and can help with NMB/Band needs there as well
 - Emily Miller and Angela DeJaynes both expressed availability to assist with this if this route is pursued
 - Voting will occur at May meeting (date is still tentative pending IMC availability)

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NEW BUSINESS:

May 22 meeting that is scheduled will conflict with Instrument Exploration night

- Will reschedule to Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 pm.
 - Josh will check for IMC availability

Instrument Exploration Nights

- May 22 & 23, 5:15-8:00pm both evenings, at Normal West High School
 - Music Parents will provide dinner both evenings for both directors
 - Need to have food delivered and ready to eat at Normal West by 4:30
 - Biaggi's and Jason's Deli were utilized last year
 - Need to determine point of contact with staff (after meeting was confirmed to be Jenn Bolton)
 - Logan will place/pay for orders
 - Ashley will pickup/set up for both evenings

By-laws and Board Positions

- In reviewing officer roles as are currently listed in by-laws, some updates to VP are needed, including updating "Spaghetti Supper" to "Musical Extravaganza"
- Also proposing a committee to take on "Public Relations"
 - This role would take on Social Media coordination as well as Web Master
 - Looking to have this role/committee be a person/people who are tech savvy, could do on the fly communications/pushes for fundraising, also able to attend all meetings
 - Proposal to integrate this as an additional board position
 - Suggestion was also given to run this as a committee role that works directly with VP
 - Would the board still be "functional" without this role filled?
 - Suggestion to reach out to Holly Johnson (former U5MP Secretary) to see if she would propose a cost to fill this role through her company if this role is not filled by a volunteer. It is very much a need to have this filled at this point
 - Proposal to have a volunteer from each High School to help manage this, be the point of contact for each high school and coordinating junior high
 - Directors could send details on fundraising, concerts and additional events
 - After discussion, it was decided to have this be a committee run through VP role. Emily will work on securing any additional interest in assisting with this. Will review in a year to see what changes might be needed
- U5MP Poster is currently housed with Logan
- Feedback on past year
 - Things that went well, things that could have gone better
 - Focus seemed to rely solely on the Referendum and our support behind this, which makes it difficult to truly assess what was viewed as "what went well" or not
 - Representation/Presence was a great addition to each event/performance district-wide
 - Having a few mins to speak to who we are, what we do, why we need parents to be involved
 - Need to keep momentum going beyond Musical Extravaganza each year
 - Remind parents of benefits of organization
 - Replace stigma of "PTO" organization, help parents understand the involvement looks different than the elementary level, it's more than just representing your program at a meeting

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- Suggestion to create a Google Doc to have directors share with families to collect emails for Music Parents to share communications
 - Have emails sent regularly to directors for them to share with families that also link back to Website/Facebook/Instagram
 - Board will also be looking into possibility of utilizing Band App to help streamline communication as well
- More time should be devoted in each meeting to sharing reports of what is happening at each building/program
 - Suggestion to move this in at the beginning of meetings, BUT keep it timeboxed
 - Because there is a lot of overlap in what the different groups are doing, have parent reps bring “highlights” to celebrate each program
 - Full notes should still be sent by directors to go in to meeting minutes
- More intentionality in sending meeting reminders to director’s with more notice
- Highlight during each meeting to “showcase” or “celebrate” last month’s event, large upcoming events (ie: ILMEA, etc)
- Continuing to think of ways to draw more attendance after Extravaganza/Winter Break
 - Large drop off occurs after Musical Extravaganza is completed
 - Should Music Parents update the attendance policy?
 - This has not been enforced due to changes in the Spaghetti Super to Musical Extravaganza as there is no longer an “overage” to disburse, all programs receive funds equally
 - Previously, attendance requirement only applied to junior high programs in order to get the “overage”

Tanya Waninger motioned to adjourn the meeting; Logan Geigner seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 8:16 PM.
The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 PM at the NCHS IMC.

ATTENDANCE:

- Emily Miller – NWHS Band/NMB/Board Member
- Tanya Waninger – NWHS Orchestra
- Liz Fontana – EJHS Orchestra Director
- Lora Weigman – EJHS Orchestra
- Ashly Muirhead – CJHS Choir/CJHS Orchestra
- Laura Reddington – EJHS Choir
- Karen Fryer – NCHS Choir
- Josh Jensen – KJHS Choir/Board Member
- Logan Geigner – CJHS Band/Board Member
- Angela DeJaynes – PJHS Band/PJHS Choir/Board Member