

Unit 5 Music Parents Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2023
Normal Community High School – IMC

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Present: Josh Jensen, President

Present: Logan Geigner, Treasurer

Present: Robyn Wenzel, Asst. Treasurer

GENERAL ATTENDANCE:

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by the U5MP President Josh Jensen.

TREASURER REPORTS:

Logan will look to monitor where we are at with our funds for the audit

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

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

Chiddix Junior High Band:

Tricia Ogdon (Director)

Chiddix band has had a busy month between contests, concerts, and more concerts. Jazz band earned a Division 1 rating at IGSMA Organizational Contest, the band and orchestra performed our first prism concert together, 11 division 1 ratings and 1 "Best of Room" at Solo and Ensemble on Friday, and to end the month 7th grade is performing a joint concert with Parkside. We are so proud of all of the hard work and dedication these students have shown this semester and cannot wait to see what levels they rise to next.

Chiddix Junior High Orchestra:

Jillian Meszar (Director) **NO REPORT**

Chiddix Junior High Choir:

Julia Beer (Director) **NO REPORT**

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

Evans Junior High Band:

Krista Beddigs (Director) **NO REPORT**

Evans Junior High Orchestra:

Elizabeth Fontana (Director) **NO REPORT**

Evans Junior High Choir:

Julia Beer (Director) **NO REPORT**

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

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Kingsley Junior High Band:

Tyler Harr (Director) **NO REPORT**

Kingsley Junior High Orchestra:

Daria VanDeLoo (Director)

- Kingsley orchestra students participated in the Solo/Ensemble contest last Friday, and everyone did a great job! Eight students performed string solos, two performed piano solos, and two group played duets.
- The 8th grade orchestra also performed at organizations contest at BJHS on Feb. 17, and we received a Division I rating, which is the highest possible rating! The students were very proud to see their hard work pay off.
- The KJHS 5th, 6th, and 7th grade orchestras are gearing up for their spring concert on March 14. All grades will also perform in a final concert in May.

Kingsley Junior High Choir:

Katie Winchester (Director) **NO REPORT**

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

Parkside Junior High Band

Jennifer Bolton (Director) **NO REPORT**

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**

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Normal Community High School Choir:

Ben Luginbuhl (Director)

NCHS Choirs has had a busy semester! Highlights:

- The Chamber Choir had a beautiful performance at the Music Department Showcase on February 16. It was so great to sing at the ISU CPA and share the stage with the Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble!
- A Cappella Night with Key of She, Voice Male, and the ISU Acafellaz was a big success on Feb. 24
- We are hosting IHSA Solo-Ensemble Contest on Saturday, March 4 at NCHS. We have over 70 vocal events scheduled to perform.
- The choir and orchestra programs plan to travel to Europe (Germany & Austria) in June of 2024! We are having a kickoff meeting on March 6 at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium
- Coming up:
 - Unit 5 Choral Festival on March 16 at West (concert at 6:30 pm)
 - IHSA Organization Contest at Heartland CC, April 14
 - Musical *The Lightning Thief* April 20-23
 - Chamber Choir Chapel Concert at IWU Evelyn Chapel, April 27
 - Spring Concert: May

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

Normal West High School Band:

Ryan Budzinski (Director)

The Normal West Jazz Orchestra recently attended jazz festivals at Bradley University and NIU, where three students received outstanding soloist awards and one received a full scholarship to the NIU Jazz Combo Day. The Jazz Orchestra is set to perform at NCWHS Academic Awards Night tonight, and all three jazz bands will wrap up their season at the Normal West Jazz Night in a couple of weeks. The Wind Ensemble had a wonderful performance and clinic with Dr. Wendy Mathews from Kent State at the Northern Illinois University Concert Band Festival on Friday. The group now shifts its preparations for a shared concert with the ISU Wind Symphony later this semester. The other four concert bands are also preparing for festivals and contests later this semester. Recent and future guests of the bands include Professor Logan Campbell (IWU), Dr. Franklin Larey (IWU), Glenn Wilson (U of I and IWU, retired), Dr. Tony Marinello (ISU), Professor Roger Garrett (IWU retired), and the ISU Faculty Brass Quintet. We are also preparing to host Julian Bliss, one of the world's finest clarinetists, later this semester. Students from the bands will perform at the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest at NCHS this weekend, and the bands will host the IHSA Music Organization Contest on the Heartland Community College campus later this semester. Additional recent recognition includes the Jazz Band being selected for the NCWHS Katitude Award and junior Leah Renollet being honored by the Western Illinois University College of Fine Arts and Communication Young Artists Award for outstanding musicianship.

Normal West High School Orchestra:

Kim Boehm (Director)

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- Upcoming Performances. We have a lot of performances coming up in March!
 - Thursday, March 2 -- Chamber Recital at Evelyn Chapel
 - Wednesday, March 8 -- Concert/Sinfonia March Concert at Westbrook Auditorium
 - Thursday, March 22 -- Elementary Tour
 - Friday, March 23 -- Elementary Tour (Part 2)
- Upcoming Fundraisers
 - Oberweis on Veterans Parkway -- March 10 from 10 AM - 10 PM
 - Papa John's on Kingsley -- April 13, 2023 from 10 AM - 10 PM
- Thank you Music Parents!
 - Thank you all for your support of the music programs in Unit 5! I know this is a challenging time for all of us due to the upcoming referendum, but your continued support and showing up to spread the word at concerts is not going unnoticed. Thank you!!

Normal West High School Choir:

Sara Williams (Director) **NO REPORT**

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

Normal Marching Band (NMB)

Multiple Directors (Ryan Budzinski, Paul Carter)

The Varsity Winter Guard performed at the Normal West winter assembly last week. Both the JV and varsity winter guards continue their successful seasons with upcoming performances at contests in the coming weeks. The NMB staff was recently awarded the team *Award of Excellence* as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's *Those Who Excel Awards*. This award series includes the Illinois teacher of the year honorees and other outstanding educators from around the state, and the *Award of Excellence* is the program's top tier recognition. The NMB team consists of current and retired faculty as well as additional staff and volunteers. Their work in preparing for next season is well under way!

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 – 2024 Officers

- Nominations will be at April 24 meeting
- Votes will take place at May 22 meeting
- As of this meeting, there is an opening for an Assistant Treasurer from Normal West
 - Kelly Geigner has expressed interest

Referendum & School Board Talk

- Unit 5 Music Parents are continuing to endorse the Referendum

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- Motion was made by Mike to support specific candidates for the School Board
 - Amy Roser, Kelly Pyle, Mark Adams and Alex Williams
 - Motion was seconded by Karen Fryer
- Need to continue to get messaging out to the community:
 - Help every community member understand they need to vote
 - Remember what it was like for you as a child
 - Did you play sports?
 - Were you involved in Music and Arts as a child?
 - A healthy school system correlates to the health of the community
 - If the referendum does not pass in April 2023, there will not be another referendum on the ballot for at least one year
- As a Music Parents Organization, what more would we want to do to support this?
 - Representation at Concerts between now and Election Day on April 4
 - Will compile a list of dates and times
 - Share common message points and requested action
 - Ask representatives and directors to blast these common message points on all social media

Music Parents

- Concerns were shared by Karen Fryer in regards to attendance and parent involvement with Music Parents
 - Only 7 of the 18 programs were represented at tonight's meeting
 - We are not getting people to the Music Parents meetings after the Extravaganza
 - Suggestion: implementing an attendance policy that will affect how money is divided the following fall
 - If this is our advocacy program, we need to have our advocates HERE
 - Give parents message points of action items for them to their directors
 - How do we help parents realize they are here for more than to read a report?
 - What committees should we create to handle the different pieces of the needs?
 - Suggestion: Pre-created emails to send to directors
 - Suggestion: PR Chair
 - Need to get meeting minutes out sooner than the night before
 - Suggestion: Ask for more than 1 rep per school program
- Music Exploration Nights
 - Originally scheduled for April 11, 12, 13
 - Is for incoming 5th graders to explore different instrument options
 - Currently hanging in the balance pending the outcome of the referendum passing and the School Board reinstating the program
 - 5th grade program was one of the cuts made at the last School Board Meeting
 - U5MP takes care of food for directors on those nights

Logan Geigner motioned to adjourn the meeting; Monica Baca seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 8:12 PM
The next meeting will be on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM at the NCHS IMC.

ATTENDANCE:

- Michael Perez – CJHS Choir

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- Tanya Waninger – NWHS Orchestra
- Natasha Syed – EJHS Choir
- Ashly Muirhead – CJHS Orchestra/CJHS Choir
- Roy Guzman – NCHS Orchestra
- Renee Stromberger – EJHS Band
- Jamie Conover – PJHS Orchestra
- Kara Heuer – NWHS Choir
- Monica Baca – NCHS Band
- Karen Fryer – NCHS Choir