

Minutes - SFMA

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Mission Statement:

The Spring-Ford Music Association, Inc. has been organized for the purpose of promoting and supporting the instrumental and vocal music programs of the Spring-Ford Area School District.

February Meeting Minutes

- Approved

Directors Reports

Mr. Jones: not in attendance, read by Secretary

The Big News of the month is my change of assignment that will be occurring in the next few weeks. I wanted to share with SFMA members about the past, present, and future.

1. Thank you to all who have emailed kind words and support over the past weeks since my announcement. It has been such a nice gift. I feel like I do very little to deserve such a claim.
2. From me as a fellow parent – one of the big factors in my decision had nothing to do with your children. I love working with them. The toll on my family as a result of this position became too much. It was something I had to address. I felt like it was time to make a change in the best interest of everyone. When the opportunity came to stay here and continue to support music, I jumped. Recognize that there is likely sadness and disappointment in the kids. For that reason alone, I am truly sorry. This decision was inevitable in the next year. It was time. I hope you can support them by knowing that the program will be in great hands. Mrs. Jennings is still the head of the department and it will be on her to help guide the next director. She may also require your help.
3. Currently, we are in phase 1 of interviewing new candidates. There have been many. We are doing first-round interviews this week. The second round will be next week with the third round the week after. I suspect that we will know who the finalist for the position is by the Winter Percussion show.
4. The new director will be starting at some point dependent upon their availability. I will continue to act as director until they are here with us.
5. Most students have questions about the future – and I will explain what I know and where I will need help from all of you. First, we have already begun planning for the 2023 Marching Band season. I am going to stay on as an unofficial coordinator and assist the new director. The entirety of the marching band staff is staying. We are going to plan the show together and the summer season. This will be important. As I said many times, my biggest failure in the 2022 season was show design – and I will not let that happen again. I want the new director and the kids to have a positive relationship – and this is best accommodated by making the transition seamless.
6. One thing about director transitions – everyone worries that it will be extremely different. The reality is that most things will be about the same. There still will be a season – the show isn't going away, the makeup of the year isn't going away, the group is still planning for BOA, and the

norms students expect are staying the same. The biggest difference will be who is running the rehearsals and how that individual prioritizes rehearsal time.

7. I will need your help in working with the students and parents to understand that someone new is not going to be me – and THIS IS OK! The new director may want to change certain ways that they operate. Please don't hold this person accountable for the actions that I did. For example - You may start to receive information in a different format. Rehearsal plans may look different. The students may have different leadership experiences. The important part to remember is that new ideas bring new things. This program looks nothing like it did when I started.
8. Please don't compare the director to me. She/he will be their own person. It is ok if things change – it will probably be for the better. Saying “well Mr. Jones did this” is helping no one. I'm not coming back.
9. The students will need your listening and guidance to understand this. It will be harder for them. Many might have a singular experience they don't like or just aren't used to – it's part of their growth. I don't expect the new person to have everything perfect on day one, lord knows I didn't. So mistakes will happen – and we just have to support the individual as they are also adjusting to a huge transition.
10. As I told the kids, I'm excited for them. I'm excited to see them working with a director who is going to be more available to assist in their own needs than I was. My family and personal time have greatly diminished my ability to be with the band physically and mentally in the last three years. Because of this, I haven't been able to tend to the band as much as I would have hoped. The new director's primary mission is going to be building relationships and setting some new normal for the band. Embrace this as in the long run it will be fun and fantastic.
11. I will still be in the background to help. I'm not going far. If you 9th-grade-grade family, I look forward to working with you more.

Few of you were around, but when I was hired, the parents that year tried to have me fired four times. They hated me because I was new and different and it threatened their sense of security about the band program. Slowly and surely, we made the program better and I am most proud to leave it in a better place than I found it. Few band directors can really say that in this profession. You will all still see me from time to time because I want greatness, excitement, and amazing performances in the future.

Mrs. Jennings:

- Need to remember that Jones' transition is for the better health of Mr. Jones
- It's hard – this is the 5th band director in her 34 years at Spring-Ford, but the program is in the best shape that it has ever been
- Trip payments for the MS spring trip continue to come in, by end of March she will have the final invoice amounts
- Jazz Band's last festival is this Saturday at Kutztown
- April 26th is the District Jazz Band concert
- End of May, Jazz Band plays one more time for the District Honors
- Very exciting that many 8th graders have gotten soloist awards, there are 17 8th graders who are taking band as a major or a minor their freshman year
- There are 28 percussionists in the 6th grade currently, may need to talk to SFMA treasurer about budgeting to buy new drums
- Strings Fest is this Friday

- MS and Cadet are a part of the indoor night on 3/20
- MS is at Royersford for Memorial Day this year

Vice President: No report

Treasurer:

- Collecting payments for the trips, events and merch.
- Working on next years' budget some time this month

Assistant Treasure:

- SPA's updated through Wawa fundraiser and February Raise Right.

Secretary: No report

Concessions:

- Everything is running fine, currently nothing going on

Fundraising:

- Superbowl Pool raised about \$2000
- Trivia night is in May, still need help collecting items for prize baskets
- Bag Bingo is March 24th, tickets aren't selling as much as last year so please spread the word
- Flower sale coming in May, will be available for pick up the Thursday before Mother's Day
- Candy sale was closed, sale yielded \$350, pick up in on March 30th, Gwen MacDonell volunteered to help with handing out orders

Raise Right:

- February was very underwhelming, \$152 went to SFMA
- Discussed in the fundraising meeting some ways to generate more Raise Right usage, going to try and email out tips and alerts for bonuses once a month

Hospitality:

- Did a meal for Percussion in February at Hatboro, ran it through the Harboro concession so as not to take away from their profits
- Doing a meal this Saturday at the Monroe Township WGI Regionals, it's going to be a long day, hospitality team has it all laid out but need more donations to make it happen

Ram Crew:

- Vehicles are good, props are good, still a few more props to build
- In May a request for help will go out, the away concessions stand needs to be cleaned out and a lot of the items moved to the new Ram Shack
- The mule will need to be serviced this summer; President recommended setting that up ASAP

Data/Membership:

- No new members

- Data has been busy with all the new orders coming through

Chaperones:

- Things have been rolling along with indoor guard and percussion
- There is a meeting for anyone traveling to Dayton with the groups, on Monday April 3rd

Uniforms/Merchandise:

- Band uniforms are not being worn, indoor uniforms are all in and being worn
- Wrapped up the orders for indoor show shirts, they just came in and are being handed out tonight after practice
- There is a big t-shirt order being placed for the MS trip, still need to set a hard close out day
- String jamboree will have a merch table set up so if you want to buy anything, come on out

New Business:

- MAPS show in 4/1, the committee has been formed and is already working, nothing is really changing from last year, there are 31 units coming out, no testing this year so that makes it less stressful since we don't have the challenge of being quiet
- Elections are coming up in May, board seats for President, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary are up for election, will need to form a nominations committee; Lauren Chycota, Scott Houde and Beckie Landry were chosen as the committee

Old Business:

- Strings Fest – the only ask of SFMA is pretzels and water, also adding flowers and beanie babies
- String Jamboree is 4th grade through 12th grade, same as Strings Fest but will add in a merch table
- Sign Up Genius' were put together and given to Mrs. McGranahan and she has already gotten volunteers to sign up
- Dayton Trips – not getting a ton of information about the guard trip, Dani isn't responding to texts or emails. Room selection email went out to guard but that is it so far. There will be a percussion email going out soon with a ton of details. Percussion rooms were all booked yesterday. There are 9 left with king sized beds available to anyone who is going but not going with the group, just let Gwen or Heather know if you are interested. They need to be released soon and they are \$159 a night plus tax.

Adjourn Meeting