

SFMA Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

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August Meeting Minutes Approval

Directors Reports

Mr. Walls – HS Band Director:

- There are 12 AP Music Theory students
- Concert band has 2 pieces in their folders, the 3rd piece is coming from Belgium, never thought I would have to purchase something in Euros
- 9th grade band plays the same note but they are really good at it
- Marching Band is moving along, 1 and ½ parts out of the 4 are on the field, progress at rehearsals has been awesome, the props are amazing, lights went up on them yesterday, looking forward to the home show
- If any parent or student has an issue with anything please come to me first so we can talk about it together, don't go an email the superintendent about every thing
- Show uniforms are coming, possibly the end of September
- For next season, with so many kids adding in and dropping out, can we move the essentials kit date to earlier in the summer?
- Question from member: Plan on bringing the 8th graders to football games? Yes – I have been talking with Mr. Yoder about it. They are all rehearsing together in October anyway so hope to get it in before Homecoming
- Middle School started lessons this week and it seems to be going well

Mrs. McGranahan – HS Orchestra Instructor

- There are 192 4th graders, 231 5/6th graders and 123 7/8th graders in orchestra
- Jamboree is going to be huge this year, it is March 26 or 27th, whatever that Thursday is, will need to up concessions to handle it
- We have been told by the state that we are hosting district orchestra this year, it's a 3 day event, January 8th after school the students arrive and rehearse, January 9th we need to feed them lunch and dinner and possibly have an ice cream social at the hotel, January 10th we will need snacks, lunch, dinner and then the concert happens, I can plan most of everything, and no money comes from us, I will need help ordering food, I have never ordered for this many people before, PMEA pays for everything, there's going to be around 120 kids total and I don't know what to order or how much to get
- Laura Simons and Carrie Rutkowski will help with ordering food for PMEA, Sissy Morelock can help with budget so we get the most out of the money, will also need a Sign Up Genius
- PMEA also requires a nurse, can't get a school nurse, just need a nurse for when meds are given in the morning and evening

Officers Reports

Vice President, Lauren Chychota:

- Seem to slowly be working my way up to be an ambassador of volunteers
- I have signed up tp chaperone a couple of middle school events so I can talk to the parents more
- Also talking with a lot of freshmen parents

- Lisa Corey and I attended the 10th grade back to school night and Cristina Cercio and Sissy Morelock attended the 9th grade one, we were able to represent all of the music programs, think it went pretty well
- The pie fundraiser will come out in the next week or so and be on the website, pick-up is Thanksgiving week
- I am trying to put out a list of events that are coming up, even if there isn't an exact date, so people can be more ready to attend or participate and can keep their calendar clear if they know it's something they want to do

Treasurer, Sissy Morelock:

- Final budget for 2025, tried to print it and it didn't print correctly, will make sure it is uploaded to the website with the meeting minutes
- High school marching band is too early in the season, nothing is really coming in or out yet
- Currently pushing out invoices for unpaid essentials fees, show shirts, percussion shirts, would like to be sure to have payments before handing items out, don't want to have to chase people down for payments
- With football concessions, more people seem to be using credit cards this year, wifi is horrible at the stadium, we should try and figure out a way to boost it somehow or get a hotspot or something

Assistant Treasurer, Dawn Svendsen:

- All SPA is updated through the August RaiseRight
- A lot of people used SPA to pay for their essentials and that's great, it's what it is there for
- I can say it enough to keep building your SPA with the Disney trip coming up next year

Secretary, Gwen MacDonell:

- I have been sending out sign up genius' for the home show and volunteering for chaperones and ram crew, even sent one for middle school events
- Still working on the Holiday Shoppe, only have about 30 spaces left

Committee Reports

Chaperones, Chris Chychota:

- Everything going ok so far
- Plan on talking with the kids on Thursday and review the rules at all football games and on all trips
- Could use some more help for away events
- Getting new safety supplies for the bags, promise it won't be as heavy as before, plus I will be there almost every time to carry it

Concessions, Carrie Rutkowski:

- Had a great first game, very busy the entire time
- There's a new way for the line where you pick up what you want and then pay at the end, definitely need to keep the line moving to make more sales
- No one heard any complaints so that's good
- Homeshow still needs more people to sign up for the second shift, don't worry, you will be able to watch the kids perform

Fundraising, Scott Houde:

- It is our busy season, we have several fundraisers going on at once, but don't think you have to participate in every one of them, we offer a lot of different types so there is something of interest for everyone

- We have the Ultimate Philly Sports Raffle, you can win 200 Philly sports tickets to all the different sports, pick up the tickets in your instructors classroom, 10 tickets per envelope, try not to take a 2nd envelope unless you're sure you can sell them, wouldn't want someone to not get an envelope if they want to participate
- Want to keep reminding the 8th grade parents that they need SPA since they are going to be on the Disney trip
- The Texas Roadhouse dine and donate is coming up, they are offering 20% of your meal and they are allowing us to have a basket raffle
- Joe Corbi's is running and pick up is on October 29th
- December 8th is the Holiday Shoppe
- We will have ornaments – both balls and flat ones this year, the balls will have the show logo for marching band and the flat one will just say Spring Ford Music
- Poinsettias are coming soon, also the Frecon pies for Thanksgiving
- Handels fundraiser we raised \$130

Hospitality, Laura Simon:

- In the planning stages for the season, deciding when we need meals and when we won't
- Also planning the end of year banquet

Membership / Data:

- 12 new members
- Data is busy because it's the beginning of the year with essentials and the fundraisers

Merchandise, Brynn Lange

- Very successful Parent Preview night, will definitely do it again, sold \$1900 worth of merchandise
- Angela and I are preparing for the Homeshow
- Ordered the show shirts, should be here any day
- Also ordered all the Ram Crew products that were ordered
- Put in a request for the band jacket for the new members and freshmen
- Middle School shirt orders still coming in
- I am working with the vendor to put together an on-line sale, taking a new approach this year where the on-line sale will have new items that are at a little higher price but for the people who already have everything I want to offer new products
- I will send out a lot of announcements as it gets closer

Raise Right, Lauren Chychota:

- 168 families signed up as of 9/5/24 (no change from last month)
- 104 active families with Online Payments enabled
- 15 families purchased \$8,460.00 in gift cards
- Net rebate to SFMA was \$413.78 for an average rebate of 4.89%
- The 60% share to student SPAs was \$248.28
- The 40% share to SFMA of \$165.50 was reduced by \$22.00 for shipping costs, for a net return of \$143.50

Ram Crew, Tom Kuch:

- Had 2 outings so far, went well
- 1st home game went well, talked to everyone about the rules for the year
- The towers are built and Walls is happy

- We are almost out of prop money
- Joe Domin is working on the lights, as he always does
- Thursday night we are going to be working on the front towers near the stage
- Waiting on the vinyls to arrive to put them on the frames

Sponsorships, Erika Nelson:

- Kristin Ricco with State Farm - \$200
- Scentsy - \$500
- Wegman's in Collegeville - \$1000
- Hair Chic by Vicky Heffline a guard mom - \$350
- The Richfowski family donated \$1000 but it's not a sponsorship just a donation
- Lisa Corey: Erika has a spreadsheet out to stay organized and be sure who gets what with their sponsorship, Erik has been doing a really great job
- Dry Tech told her that it has been good for their business and they are getting more traffic from this area

Uniforms, Becky Fretz: (not in attendance, read by Secretary)

- We have had 2 performances, and the students have been rough on their uniforms.
- I want to stress to students and their families that if a hole appears they must tell an adult to pass the information along to me. Also to keep in mind when doing drill to not land hard on their knees. We found students leaving the items in their garment bags with holes and not letting anyone know. This would not be a good outcome at the next performance without the volunteers who check the uniforms weekly.
- Thank you to those who have stepped up to help. We are still looking for volunteers to help check uniforms weekly, see SUG. Many hands make for light work to sort through each week. Thank you to those who have already stepped up.

Vehicles, Karl :

- In good shape for the season, all the school vans have been reserved, same with all of the Penske trucks
- New drivers have been stepping up so that's good
- The sign up genius is out and we still need drivers on it
- I also did the truck reservation for the Middle School for their 10/5 show at Owen J Roberts
- Lisa Corey: Are you planning to have a practice drive in the parking lot, so people can see what it's like to pull the trailers? Hoping to before the next outing

New Business

- Trunk or Treat:
 - Mr. Walls was at a conference for Marching Band and met a director who has a huge marching band in North Carolina, he said he does a Trunk or Treat to recruit new students to the band, now has over 600 students, Mr. Walls is hoping to copy the idea and cater it towards the lower grades of Spring-Ford
 - Scheduled for October 12th, it's already a rehearsal day, students can come to practice in costume, they rehearse from 10-2 then at 2pm the Middle School will join them and they will rehearse together, they can also be in costume
 - The Trunk or Treat will be held in the stadium lot, the elementary schools will also be invited but not playing
 - Cristina Cercio is running the event and will send out a sign up genius for people to sign up their trunks, they will bring their own candy so there's no cost to us
 - There will be a contest and prizes

- Homecoming:
 - Date is October 19th
 - Times will be announced as we know them, should be the same parade and then 2:00 game
 - Definitely want to think about having more concessions food ready, last year the teachers tent ran out of food and people were hungry
 - We should have more information at the next meeting as we know more

- Committee Name Change:
 - We want to change the name of the hospitality committee so it is no longer confused with hospitality at the home shows
 - Suggestions: Golden Rams Grub or GRG and Rams Dining Crew
 - Winner: Rams Dining Crew

Old Business

- Home Show:
 - 11 total performance, including the Middle School and High School
 - 3 groups have dropped out, this is typical for this early in the season
 - Put a call out for canopies, coolers and extension cords, make sure your name it on the canopy and the case
 - Set up begins at 10, even if you haven't signed up, feel free to come out and help

Michelle White:

- Why is the indoor guard not going to Dayton? Danni is telling the kids she isn't going because she doesn't have enough PTO time. We need to go this year, we can't go next year because of the Disney trip. Mr Walls: I haven't heard anything, not sure why she doesn't want to go, we should schedule a meeting to talk
- I have been emailing Danni and haven't gotten any response. Lisa Corey: She doesn't respond to anyone, makes it hard to know what she has planned
- And what about the indoor props? We are hearing there are 2 drum groups this year, how is there going to be time to build our props? Tom Kuch: I asked her about props, Mike has his entire show planned out, Danni doesn't even have a concept yet. We can start building once she asks for something. We also need guard parents to step up and help. The drum parents do most of the work and they aren't always wanting to build guard props

Meeting Adjourned