

Music boosters meeting 07/10/2020

Started 4:02 pm

Attendees:

Jill Denny, Mina Sharma, Rich Porticos and Karen Porticos, Anita Rao, Jacqeline, Peter Stanley and Anna Linde

KarenPorticos, talked about challenge of getting the financial information in excel.

Peter called for introductions and said the main agenda of the meeting is to review what's going on with Covid and how boosters can support music and what kind of budget to plan for.

Jill's report:

Jill Denny has had a historical, positive relationship with instrumental music being on both sides as a parent and a teacher. This is an unknown with Covid but we are still committed with excellence and are committed to getting the kids what they signed up for.

One of the contrasts is that in other districts they won't have a band or orchestra but have 'Pathways'- like music composition or theory. At MVHS after a survey of all band students our students wanted no change from the community aspect, and want to have ensembles to produce something beautiful and we are committed to doing that. This is my 35th year teaching and there are many things I do normally which I am not being able to or allowed to do that as we wait for an Ok from the district.

We are also waiting for the staff change, but that is not the reason why we are in the waiting mode. We are needing direction from the district. Aerosol exchange is a problem and i and in constant conversation with the district . A meeting/ presentation is being made on Monday and more direction will come then, but there are still big holes. As of now No fundraising except for a presentation of what we want to do.

Peter asked if this will affect PTSA and other such fundraisers.

Jill said that will be determined as per the principal.

This can be frustrating and this is frustrating for the teachers too. Many regular field-trip like activities including Hawaii for IM and Choir- like Art and Wine festival cannot be done as in the past.

Eg. Singers cannot be on the corners so that kind of money will not be coming in. But funds do need to be raised- and this is the same for instrumental. Even though the programs aren't going to look the same we still need to get accompanists etc and other technicians which the funding pays for. We've been working on this but we can't finalize only 'prepare for everything' and this is frustrating since the district hasn't decided which way the learning is going to be. It does look most likely that it will be a Distance Learning model.

One area that is impacted the most- the fundraising and field trips cannot be planned.

Right now there is no trip to hawaii- but the direction is that if we can work with the company and figure out how to get a full refund in case it has to be cancelled and we're willing to wait to see if it can happen. So that means fundraising has to happen for the possibility of field trips being approved..

Currently the district is asking to come up with a plan of which fundraisers we are proposing and then if possible it will be used this year or next year. Which means when working on the budget, we need to keep in mind that we want to be paying for staff so etc.

It HAS to go through the district.

far staffing- the change is

1) so far Boosters pay clinicians and directly to staff- any staff will now need to go through the district and money will come through the district as well.

New hire- we are actively working on this . The position has been posted. Several applications are in. Goal is to move it as quickly as possible. Deadline for application is August 1st.
We want to wait long enough to get a strong pool, but quick enough to get them integrated as soon as possible.

Get students and other parents on the selection committee panel. Jill emphasizes students to be on the panel. Administrators will contact Peter so he can be on the panel as well.
Seeing the principal acknowledging the importance of the performing arts has been a big relief.
Contact Jill anytime for any questions or concerns, and she gets how important the program is as she has been a parent as well.

Anna's Report

Good update from Jill and it's been great collaborating.

Instrumental program update: we are very much waiting on the district. Once the district give the direction we have many things already worked out and then hit the ground sprinting, to put the ideas into action

The possibilities are

- finding innovative ways to incorporate technology.
- more collaboration within performing arts.

Working with other fellow music directors across the country as well as her mentor, and we want to make sure we get a thriving program for our students.

Confident we will find a strong director to make this work for students and families.

Scholarships;

We had a total of 6 scholarships for \$500 each- marching band, percussion, orchestra, concert band and jazz band and also \$1000 for music director scholarships.

We can get those sent out so boosters can get that started for this year.

Karen- Last year 2019-20 we had \$10000 in the budget, but we spent only \$1000. Since books have closed we'll figure out how to make it work this year.

We should get them out even if it's in the new year's budget.

Anna to send the list of recipients, amounting to \$4000.

PD: leadership course is very beneficial and with innovatives in technology it can be adapted. Peter will give a summary on how it works to be helpful for Anna.

Budget needs: dependent on what we decide in the fall and we're still waiting to hear from district.

Instrument repairs need to be done. Inventory overhaul has to happen since its a little bit disorganized due to the emergency mode we were operating in. So once inventory has been done Anna will have a better understanding on which ones need to be repaired, or bought. She will update once she has a better assessment.

Jill- permission has been given to go on campus with paperwork filled out so it's not so easy to get in.

Anna will be going in as soon as she can to get the inventory done.

Peter mentioned that they already know we have some areas in marching band instruments that are in bad shape and so can we quickly get the instrument guy to take a look at some of the known ones. Like a Triage situation.

Jill has already sent a request to West Valley for some of the instruments that were already put in there before the lockdown.

Peter said Anna has a separate budget for instruments from Choir.

Anna said she is Looking into the fall- Clinicians are also on top of the budget. They are like specialized teachers

Peter asked- Are we expecting 80% clinicians coming back? Can we get to a number for how many so we can plan budget wise.

Anna has already reached out to Thomas, Casey and Suzie and conversation will happen based on district. Want to bring in as many as possible. since the finances are not as we have normally. Jobs are going to be distributed during full distance learning and finances are going to be different from normal income.

Jill: one area we will have new expenses - to pay people for video work. Online lecture recordings are very time consuming, so we will be looking for those kinds of jobs, and bring other talents that are needed- like video editing and other tech related people and equipment.

Teri Fought will be involved.

Anna has sent a survey to Teri of what possible requirements we will need to make Distance learning possible.

Karen mentioned that in 2019-202 100% of clinician expense was for MB and Perc. but we didn't spend on other groups.

Anna: anticipating need for clinicians this year, in all the music groups. it would be wise to hire Kasey fo MB and also have him be a part of wind. so the plan is to kind of double up on the roles of the clinicians as much as possible..

President's report: Peter Stanley

Peter reported that the Boosters are planning on not doing fund raising for a while, but we are looking to be sensitive on how we fund things like MB. Once things start rolling we can plan how much we need to raise now and add line items later. We do have some money left over from last year.

Anna said to be aware of the lesser budget income and still aware of the financial needs.

Peter talked about the Boosters Board for 2020-21. So far Peter & Jacqueline are staying on for another year. Karen is looking for a shadow. Conversations need to happen with Mina, Anita, Secretary, Webmaster. Lot of the current members are aging out and we need to get new parents involved.

Talking about making Webmaster a paid position so we can keep the site independent of parents.

Jill said, Choir has always paid to get admin work done. One thought was to explore to combine the 4 booster groups to hire someone to do the administrative work for all of us.

Peter said, last year we also hired a professional accounting firm to do taxes, so that takes the burden off parents as well and provides a consistent service from an expert.

Stanford Jazz camp scholarship returned the money.

The music booster fund ask will not go out with the school mailing this year.

Last year with 200 students in the music program we only had about 100 families who actually paid.

Combined payment form from district still has \$75 Music Fee that is not part of the Boosters. Jill and Anna need to figure out how they want to handle that.

Later a communication will go out about what Boosters will be doing.

By-Laws- maybe set up a committee to update them. And then at an annual meeting see if we want to vote on updating.

Fall kick off meeting can be worked with the district, so we can have an informational town hall kind of situation.

Anna: once she has information from district and details worked out she will have a parent meeting. Also waiting for the new hire.

So it might be one or two separate meetings.

Inventory and clean out of sheds for uniforms and other equipment left over from Winter perc.

Things we were planning on doing like making new uniform carts etc. will need to be figured out. Especially with the new strict protocol on entry on campus. Anna is planning on cleaning out the garage and room 501 before the fall season begins.

Peter asked how many students are leaving the program, so we need to get a message across to students to keep them confident.

Jill said students aren't allowed to drop per the counsellors.

Peter said that a message needs to be made more forcefully so rumors don't spread.

Anna is working on being clear and wants to come forward with information ready once district clears it rather than saying something and sending out messages that keep changing.

Jill: Choir parents are talking to each other and helping keep the confidence up.

Anita said Anna being the familiar face can send out some encouraging message to the students as well.

Anna said PE credit is definitely going to happen. Keep the new MB families engaged and give them the message/bonding going.

Jill and Anna are also feeling this and are working on it.

Jacqueline said we need to harness the enthusiasm of the new parents and get more of the incoming parents onto the board etc and helping them understand how things are traditionally, so they hang in there.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Porticos

Last year's (2019-20) incoming donations were lower than the previous year (2018-19) and so were the expenses.

We did get more money initially- much stronger than the year before, but then it slowed down.

In terms of expenses- we reduced in instrument repairs. We did pay Chloe Trevor for last year in this year's budget.

We still had money left over from Strings. We came in with a high balance so we wanted to spend it down and that is also true for this year.

Being a NP we need to use money in the year that we raise it. But for now its good we have \$65,000 in reserve.- To put it in perspective thats how much we spend on just MB and Clinicians in a typical year.

Taxes have been paid.

Peter said that for the proposed budget leave many things in place and new line items can be added as needed for distance learning..

Anna said the dept. Is trying to get tech from district but will update in case money is needed from boosters.

Again as for clinicians, we want to maximize their use across all the music groups.

Auditors report: Mina Sharma

Audit will be done when all documents are given by Karen.

Financial secretary report: Anita Rao

All checks up to now have been deposited. Anna please check if there are any left in the box when you go to the school.

Are we planning on getting any donations and if any people choose to send checks how are we going to deal with it.

Peter said there is a paypal button on the website. It goes directly to the bank.

Forms are going to be revamped on the website.

General Discussion

Charms is gone and the department is working on getting a new program online that has a proper trail.

So far paypal charms was coming through boosters and will have to be separated for boosters and school money.

Jill said that part will be implemented sooner rather than later. We may not have to wait for the district to get this set up. Working to get a system that is unified for all the PA depts.

Peter said Color guard will be included in the next update.

Peter said that as far as communications from the booster groups- once Anna and Jill send out their message, Boosters will send out their message. Which will include an explanation of what we do, and that we can be your goto for questions regarding the IMP and PA.

We want to be a voice for our group of parents. We are also communicating with LAH boosters and want to get our message across to the school board about looking at whole child development and not just academics.

Peter asked if we have a student music council set up?

Anna said she will figure it out.

Peter asked :What about New parent orientation?

Anna was thinking of the info meeting as the New parent since so many things will be new to all- towards the end of July.

Further thoughts from Peter

Do we need a MB orientation?

Boosters are ready whenever you are ready.

Action items- getting financials figured out.

Check status after Wednesday's meeting with the District for messaging to get out.

Meeting adjourned 5:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mina Sharma