

**Summit Music Parents Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025**

General Meeting - 7:00 pm

President's Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dana Kane and Hazel Anne Siegel

- We are in need of executive board positions to be filled for next year. Dana, Mary Krunnfusz, and Laura Mahecha all have seniors and will be gone next year.
- Open positions- President Elect for next year is needed to shadow Dana and Hazel so they will know what to do in the upcoming school year.
- Recording Secretary filled by Laura Mahecha for '24-25, but as the parent of a senior, we will need to find a replacement for next school year.
- Becky Muston agreed to stay on as Pledge Day chair.
- Our next meeting is March 10, 2025 and May 12th is the last one for the year.

Supervisor Summit Fine and Performing Arts- Karen Forgione

- Boston trip, Guardian Travel meeting in the next two weeks with a more detailed itinerary, she will send an update.
- Scholarships have already been sent.
- Jan. 15th the next payment is due and the last payment is due 2/15 and that's the payment where Pledge Day credit will be applied.
- There will be a survey for all parents coming in the next week or so.
- Head School Nurse Mrs. Akian needs the forms completed for any medication by 3/24 and the medications must be dropped off to her on 4/7.
- Clinics with Boston Symphony Orchestra and clinicians at the Bach center also a Harvard acapella group. More information forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.
- There will be a trip meeting on March 10 at 6pm before the SMPA general meeting; both students and parents will come to this meeting for the trip.

Construction update- new choir room being built upstairs and has new features like built-in risers and a music library. Also, a dedicated office space for Ms. Rhodes near new addition near media center. A recording studio is being added. Should be ready by the end of January. Chorus and orchestra have been sharing the orchestra room all school year. There is a new theater room being built as well.

Band update- Melanie Lowenberger

- Clifton Little worked with trumpet students on Friday 1/10- this was funded by SMPA.
- Thurs. 1/16 Kean University teachers are coming to SHS to work with woodwind students.
- Marching Band Recognition Night was Thurs. 1/9 where students that participated in marching band were recognized.
- Wind Ensemble auditions will take place 2/11-2/14.
- Pit orchestra is in place and they have been rehearsing in full swing.
- Big Band is preparing for our 52nd Big Band Dance at Canoe Brook Country Club.

Orchestra update- Jackie Bohner

- Chamber orchestra performed for the Rotary Club Lions annual luncheon in December
- Orchestra went to the middle school for Move-Down Day on 1/7/25 and performed for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.
- Hilltop Quartet performed at the annual organization meeting at Summit City Hall 1/1/25.
- Artist in Residence Ivalis Quartet. The quartet's violist is Marcus Steven who is a SHS alumni. He and his colleagues will work with SHS String Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Hilltop Quartet as part of their residence. Huge thank you for SMPA for funding this program.
- CMJEA Orchestra festival at New Brunswick High School on 2/26, during the school day, district got them a bus; permission slips coming.

- Currently working on securing the clinicians to come for sectional rehearsals with the chamber orchestra.

Chorus update- Megan Gaeta

- New repertoire with Mr. Hosmer
- Wicked Treble Chorus
- Bohemian Rhapsody

Fundraisers

- Zappia's on Thurs. 1/16. All orders that mention SMPA, they will donate 20% of the order to SMPA. Only for pick up or dine-in; no delivery services.
- Trevor Project on MLK day, make corsages to be sold at The Prom at the Summit Community Center 3-5pm 1/20/25.
- SMPA made \$572 from Tito's Burritos fundraiser.

Pledge Day- Becky Muston update

- SMPA made \$27,539 net.
- Out of a total of 215 students 156 or 71% participated.
- We had 34 parent drivers which made a big difference because the students were able to go to streets and neighborhoods that hadn't been worked for several years.
- Golden Sneaker award.
- Becky agreed to stay on as Pledge Day chair for next year.

Scholarships- Mary Krunnfusz

- Over \$13k in scholarships have been awarded to lots of applicants.
- Lennox Underground- cover rock band that plays 70s rock- private band that has roots in Summit are donating lessons.
- 2 students got scholarships from Lennox Underground.
- For 15 years Lennox Underground has given to LCJSMS.
- They are playing at River Grille on Nov. 1st

District Arts Festival – Rachel Petrella

- New K-12 committee 4/4/25
- They want to expand this to all arts, not so much of a focus on music.
- Opportunity to showcase art work, film studies, culinary arts.
- Want to improve publicity and have better schedules.
- Wednesday do elementary art
- Thursday All City Music Masters- 5th graders make it same week.

Big Band Dance - Rachel

- Photos were done in December.
- Save the date was sent also.
- Working on meeting the staff of Canoe Brook in January.
- Megan and Mrs. Bojovic met in Dec. to go over timeline and budget.
- Last year or two years ago ticket sales were a problem where the discount code for faculty was emailed to everyone.
- Ask Pledge Day supporters for help.
- Reverse Auction 50/50.

Treasurer Report - Ewa Misiewicz

- Direct contributions are below plan because we increased budget by \$2,000. Should be \$1,000 less.
- Increase email blasts to get more awareness and maybe donations.
- Fabian- add new emails manually.
- Thank you letters are going out to all who donated \$100 or more to the program.
- The Pledge Day amount \$27k was above expectations.
- \$300 from free will offering at the holiday concert.
- Sold 4 seat plaques (this opportunity is usually somewhere in the concert programs)
- \$800 investment income.
- We have profit of \$3k which is more than we planned.

- Consolidating the two back accounts from Bank of America and Wells Fargo bank to just one acct with Wells Fargo to reduce fees.

Meeting Adjourned - 8:00 pm