

**Summit Music Parents Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2025**

General Meeting - 7:00 pm

In attendance: Hazel Siegel, Dana Kane, Laura Mahecha, Fabian Luque, Karla Ruiz, Nevena Bojovic

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

The Executive Board for the 2025/2026 school year was approved;
Laura Mahecha motioned, Karla Ruiz seconded the vote for the following:

- Stacy Donck- Recording Secretary
- Susie Seum- Assistant Communications
- Diego Hoic- Assistant Treasurer

Open positions for 2025/2026 include: President Elect, Vice President, Volunteer Coordinator, Concession Stand, and Pledge Day Co-Chair.

Minutes from the Jan. 13, 2025 meeting were approved. Melanie Lowenberger approved, Karla seconded.

Hazel shared a video recap of this past year in music including band and chorus, sourced from the Instagram pages of Band and Chorus. Mrs. Bojovic said that she has lots of photos that she will share which can be added to the video. Once updated it will be put up on the SMPA website

Karen Forgione is leaving the district to become the Performing Arts Supervisor in school in Bergen County. Her last day in the Summit district will be June 30, 2025. Mrs. Mongioj is on maternity leave in the fall but will continue to lead the marching band. We are looking for a replacement to support her program during her leave.

Summit received an award for 2025 best community for music education by the NAMM Foundation!

Elementary music concerts were done Wednesday May 14th for 6th and 7th grades.

We are in the process of setting next year's calendar for 2025/2026 school year and the dates will be added to the district website when set. Projected BOC enrollment up 4% in Summit High School. Middle school enrollment will be finalized soon, and 4th grade music enrollment will be settled by Memorial Day.

Awards for band, orchestra, and chorus.

SMPA senior scholarships will be announced at the concerts during the week of May 19th. The Hassert scholarship offers one band and 1 chorus student scholarships.

Orchestra update:

The final concert for orchestra is Tuesday May 20th at 7pm and it should last about 1 1/2 hours.

The orchestra participated in the Central Jersey Music Education Association (CJMEA) Festival. It was a good experience for our musicians because they can hear objective feedback, and received feedback and ratings from the judges. The students get to hear the recording of their playing and comments. The observers said our kids looked like they were having fun! We hope to participate in this each year and the size of the festival grows every year. This past year there were nineteen groups participating. Mrs. Boyer which wants to do it every year but needs help from SMP A to fund this.

We are planning the Carnegie Hall trip for next year for select music groups: Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Chorus. The tentative date is April 29, 2026 but this has not yet been approved by the school or the BOE. We are looking at options for cost for the bus and restaurants but about \$500-\$600 per student is expected. Help is needed from SMPA to fund this important field trip.

This is a very memorable experience for all the students who attend and the help from SMP a is greatly appreciated

Band Update:

Big Band Dance was a big success. It was a sold out crowd at canoe brook Country Club with over 130 people in attendance. Canoe Brook has agreed to keep the event as a community event and we do not need a country club membership to host the Big Band Dance there. The event raised \$1,132.00 which was higher than the budgeted amount. Megan and Nevena will run this again next year but that will be the end for her. They digitized all the details and hoping a new person will take over in 2027. Mr. Bocchino is adamant and he does not want Big Band Dance to be a fundraiser.

The SHS band will participate in the Memorial Day Parade and there will be a backyard party for participants to celebrate the success of Big Band Dance.

District Arts Festival Update:

Over 42 parents donated food this year. We should change it up next year and do more sub sandwiches and more desserts. There were a lot of leftovers but the kids were very happy.

Scholarships:

There were 16 applicants for the scholarships and they will be awarded across all fields. The total amount to be given away is \$3500 divided across four students. These scholarship will be announced at each end of year concert.

Financials:

Eva was not at the meeting. Membership and donations this year are the same as they were last year. Next week on Monday the 19th we will meet on the budget and we should be more conservative next year. Pledge day was really good this year. Restaurants were very successful this past year. The money raised from the restaurant fundraisers helped to cover instrument rentals for trips and we will continue to do this next year.

Total cash in the bank account is \$70,556.11. We decided not to close the Bank of America account and keep both Wells Fargo and Bank of America open so we will keep funding more efficient. The CD that we hold with Wells Fargo matured in April 2025. We closed this one and reopened a new CD for the next seven months with a slightly reduced interest rate. The total income from the CD that matured in April was \$733.65.

Invoice for Lennox scholarship was mailed out last week. The check was received and will be deposited this week.

The final number for trip credits is \$6,300 based on the info provided by Karen. This reconciles with SMPA numbers and will be carried over to the next year.

We need to pay \$1,400 for the Merola scholarship for this school year.

Income statement:

Memberships and donations are consistent with the previous year. We did not make the budgeted amount, but we need to keep in mind that we raised the budgeted amount hoping that it would be higher this year, so we need to be more conservative when planning for 2025/2026. We did not receive additional money from last quarter.

Total income is \$48,909.93 and is higher than budgeted, mostly due to additional initiatives that were added: restaurant and concert donations. Those helped to cover trip expenses and trip scholarships. Senior scholarships were awarded and checks are ready to be distributed to representatives before the concerts. The final number for big band dance was \$1,132.68 and was slightly above the budgeted amount. We need to plan and brainstorm next year about a better budget. Net income for this year as of today is \$6,428.44 due to the higher income from Pledge Day and additional income from restaurant and concert donations and increased interest income from the CD. We may need to issue a couple of checks so it could be a little bit lower at the end of the year. Please submit expense reimbursements before end of school year.

General discussion:

Melanie Lowenberger asked if we would be open to Fund a Need, but Mrs. Bojovic said the cost to maintain so many instruments is very difficult and extremely expensive. We used to rent instruments to students, but it became a massive expense with over \$30,000 in for repair budget and we used it all up every year we are not open to doing this anymore. It would be better to fund private lessons or scholarships with the money raised by SMPA. The QR codes to purchase flowers at big band dance didn't work we need to get an SMP a PayPal account

We also discussed the possibility of setting up a table at the spring concerts the week of May 19th to get free will offerings and potentially sell some of the music note ornaments or the magnets that are leftover in the concession stand

Mary Ann needs pages in color by Friday May 16th for the Tuesday program. The programs will list the holiday big band dance and district arts volunteers.

Meeting adjourned 8pm.