

**Summit Music Parents Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2024**

General Meeting - 7:00 pm

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

- Overview of SMPA, what we do, why we exist, what we raise money for, and ways to get involved.
- 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.

Supervisor Summit Fine and Performing Arts- Karen Forgione

- We do a big trip every other year, this year we are planning for a trip to Boston Spring 2025.
- These trips provide enriching cultural and new experiences, they provide our students the opportunity to travel together outside of school.
- There will be more details such as cost and itinerary for the trip in October after approval from the Board of Education.
- As of right now we know that there will be a clinic for each group and band orchestra and chorus students perform for professionals.
- We will also do something touristy and fun like Duck Tours of Boston we are considering Boston College, Berkeley College, or Boston Symphony Orchestra to provide clinicians that will give hands on feedback to our student musicians.
- For more information, please check the SMPA website or district arts website which you can find by going to Summit Public Schools website then click Departments/Fine and performing Arts/Calendar.

Director's Reports - Alex Bocchino, MaryLynne Rhodes, Nevena Bojovic

Band- Alex Bocchino

- The last home football game is 10/19 which will be Senior Day and the Marching Band will end their season then.
- Next week's concert work begins and Big Band auditions are 2 weeks from Tuesday.
- Two weeks later there will be a drum set and then singing.
- Edmund Solis from Costa Rica will perform for our band members at Lincoln Center. He is a family member of one of the Band musicians and we will pay him an honorarium for his time.

Orchestra- Nevena Bojovic

- So far, the orchestra is off to a good start we have a good group and a lot of new faces.
- We had planned an orchestra party for Friday 9/27 but there were too many conflicts so it's getting rescheduled.
- September 30th are the Chamber Orchestra auditions.
- This year again we will have an annual visit sponsored by SMPA, a professional to perform for students and review the kids' work at Chatham Presbyterian Church.
- November 24th is prelude to the concert and Artist in Residence with clinicians (a guitarist and singer).
- There are scholarship opportunities as well.

Chorus- Mary Ann Rhodes

- Blast-off Party was a success.
- We have had 12 rehearsals to date.
- Mr. Hosmer is the pianist that accompanies our chorus, and he is coming more regularly thanks to SMPA.
- Choir merchandise closes on Wednesday after back to school night.
- Our chamber choir, fall play, and Cabaret auditions are all done.
- We are working on Big Band material now.
- We should consider giving incentives to the kids to participate in the mandatory Pledge Day. When cleaning up, I found a flyer for the 2013

Pledge Day and Ed Sheeran concert tickets as well as Short Hills Mall gift cards were offered to the best performing group. Perhaps SMPA could consider donating to help boost participation. Anyone interest in making donations or collecting donations from small businesses in town should contact Ms. Rhodes or Becky Muston.

Pledge Day- Dana Kane

- This year Pledge Day is Sunday 10/27/24 from 12-4pm.
- BOC kids go door-to-door looking for donations.
- Participation is mandatory and the best-selling group earns \$50 towards their trip.
- Pledge Day is the biggest and most important fundraiser of the year. On average Pledge Day has raised between \$24,000 and \$25,000 per year.
- We need parent drivers to drive the groups of students across 40 routes across town.
- There will be a Sign-up genius parents to volunteer for driving and/or organizing the kids before they go out on routes.
- The kids organize themselves into groups and wear BOC T-shirts they will have a flyer and door hangers to leave behind for anyone not home.

Concession Stand Update – Mary Krunnfusz

- There are 2 more home games (weekend of 9/28 and 10/19) and we need volunteers to work shifts. She will continue to email the Sign-up Genius.
- So far this year, we have profits of about \$2,400 which is on par or better than last year.
- The money raised is for all BOC parents and it helps if chorus and orchestra parents help to allow the band parents to enjoy their children's performances, particularly during the game on 10/19 which is Senior Day.
- Mary thanked the parents who worked the stand and/or make empanadas, chili, and brownies.

- Also note that students are not allowed to help in the kitchen but, can help with set up and sales of candy/chips/popcorn outside.

SMPA Scholarships - Rachel

- These are due 10/30/24; will discuss at Back to School Night.
- Scholarships are used to fund private lessons for student musicians who cannot afford them.
- Balance from last year of \$295 for 2 combined, consider adding that to this year's scholarships.
- There are also senior scholarships for contributions to the program and participation and trip scholarships.

Treasurer Report - Ewa Misiewicz

- Review of budget; no questions raised
- Changed from Bank of America to Wells Fargo bank
- Consider creating a flyer for SMPA donations with Zelle, Paypal, and/or Venmo for both parent membership/donations and concession stand. There are no fees with Zelle.

Meeting Adjourned - 8:00 pm