



## Music Booster Meeting notes 3/10/2026 6:30 pm



**Attendees:** Amy Moran , Anthony Gnutek, Arlene Dubiel, Ashley Stryker, Chad Bobik, Christy O'Dea, Devin Moran, Elizabeth Little, Jennifer Parker, Jennifer Slater, Jill Bradley, Keith Kornatoski, Rachel Reger, Reid Bloomfield, Terry Foster

- President Reid opened meet with review of past minutes. Asked for a motion to approve.
- Christy O'Dea motioned to approve. Devin Moran seconded. Motion approved.

### DIRECTOR REPORTS

#### Band Director: Anthony Gnutek

- Pep Band Done. Basketball is done. It went well. Even refs enjoyed (one conducted from the sidelines).
- Batavia Festival was in February (2/14). We are one of the festival's original participants (started second year of event), along with a few other schools. Occurs at the Batavia Fine Arts Center, very nice venue. Gives the kids a chance to play someplace larger and more formal. Orchestra spent time with Dr. Stacy Larson Dolan.
- Pops Concert went well.
- Marine Brass Band is on tour. They are giving a concert on March 11 between 4th and 5th period. They're at Roosevelt University Today and going to Elmhurst University tomorrow.
- ILMEA festival at Northeastern University the Saturday after Easter. It's a Music for All program, the Chicago Invitational (4/11). 50 bands present, including McHenry, Prairie ridge, etc. All the big ones.
- Working on a Disney rehearsal schedule. Students have expressed a preference for later practice times, not right after school, due to other activities they have. Targeting rehearsals to be around 7-8:30 pm.
- March Band registration fees for next year will be due soon – in order to participate in the competitions. Will be around \$250-300 most likely. We want to be later in the performance order. Copyright needs to be paid as well, once music is decided.
- Solo & Ensemble was last Saturday at Harvard High School. All performers got Division 1 results, which is outstanding. We had 15 entries. Kids pay their fee if they sign up. Part of IHSA.
- **Spring Band Concert 4/30/2026.**

#### Orchestra Director: Terry Foster

- Taking students to see Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Very exciting.
- Clinic at Roosevelt University in April. Working with their director. Want to bring in another clinician before the Spring Concert, it's the Past Director from Niles West.
- Practice Room Doors – we've elected to let go. Just too much back and forth, red tape.
- 50th anniversary of the school's music department is next year. Want to bring in some past directors for it. Department Directors are discussing things to do to make it special. Gnutek noted that he did speak with the past director and composer regarding the piece we are commissioning. Don't have it finalized yet, but started the process. We may need to provide a W9 to him when we get there.
- Orchestra room is looking to get new doors for the instrument lockers.
- Electric Bass still hasn't been ordered. Asked if we can get that done. Lost out on one previously that was less expensive. Want to make sure we can get one before the final concerts of the season. Sent link to site previously. President Reid indicated we have a debit card for purchases and indicated we'd take care of it after the meeting concluded.
- Tri-M Induction on 4/23/2026.
- **Spring Orchestra Concert 4/28/2026.**

**Choir Director:** Jennifer Parker

- Musical is done. Really good show. Everyone enjoyed it!
- IMEC is done. Went well. IMEC All State was 1/28-1/31.
- Two college professors, DePaul and UIC worked with the ensembles.
- Superscript was the only vocal jazz group at IMEC. Will be asking for funds to purchase recordings from IMEC. They record it, but charge for each performance segment. Estimating around \$500, but will follow up when she has an exact amount.
- Pops is done. Now focusing on good music, performance, and theory.
- Thursday Superscript will be at DMS. They will also be heading to DC on 4/13 for their Jazz Festival. Bel Canto was invited to Augustana.
- Bella Voce and Bel Canto will perform together with Jenny Lind 3/20.
- **Spring Concert is 4/27.** Reminded students that it's right after returning from prom and students must attend school to participate in the concert.
- **Spring Jazz Concert 5/5.** Celebrating Latin Set.
- Mic Cords are starting to break. After 90 gigs plugging and unplugging, can create wear and tear on the XLR cords. We'll probably need to replace for next year. They've lasted about 10 years, which is really good. They use the 15ft the most, but do have a couple 25ft. Mr. Bobik noted that it's now more cost effective just to purchase the whole set, but in bulk when possible instead of trying to repair the cords

**Guitar Director:** Chad Bobik

- Battle of the Bands more than doubled in size from last year (occurred 1/16). We had 11 bands, with 300 people in attendance. Can't charge admission, unless playing original music. Playing covers, but considering a "suggested donation" or seeing if the students are interested in doing original music. May also look for sponsorships in the future.
- UIUC (from Urbana) guitar ensemble collegiate group played for our group.
- **Spring Guitar Concert (last one) 5/7.**
- Getting quote for computer to be able to have more effective recording technology. Will advise on cost. Will be helpful for students, to have better option to record themselves.
- We've had good luck getting people to run the sound and lights. Would like to be able to give them something, like lunch, when helping out. They come right after school and stay all night, so we should at least feed them. Can't give them gift cards and such, but can at least buy lunch or dinner for their efforts.

**VP REPORTS**

**Orchestra VP:** Jen Slater

- Excited about upcoming CSO trip.

**Band VP:** Amy Moran

- Introduced Elizabeth Little who will be taking over as Band VP and "Marching Band Mom" for next year.

**Choir VP:** Christy O'Dea

- Musical was totally awesome! Great show and kids did a great job.

**Guitar VP:** Ashley Stryker

- No additional Guitar Business.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### **Craft Fair Chair:** Christy O'Dea

- Christy and Co-Chair Ashley had a preliminary organizational meeting. We have 139 vendors "soft sign up" for the craft fair. Plan to send the applications after Easter, push between Easter and Mother's Day for full sign up. Can fit 141 booths. We'll have a google form that will populate into a Google sheet for tracking. There will be a PDF for hardcopy if some vendors need to do manually. Bought a domain and would like to use that to streamline.
- Ashley and Christy are working on the full process, but will have a jury selection in June/July to make sure vendors are actual crafts (hand-made items) and that we don't have too many of the same kind of thing. Want to ensure there's a homemade element to the majority of vendors and not "Temu" resellers.
- If the vendor has been with us in the past, we'll still work with them but want to make sure it's very craft and small business-forward.
- Marketing and promotion will begin then. We are going to consider food vendors.
- Christy asked the group if we'd consider paying the fee to the Chamber of Commerce so that they could hand out our event information. It's a year-long membership for approximately \$200. Doing so would allow them to spread the word about the Craft Fair, as well as concerts and other programs and share our flyers. President Reid indicated we could consider and asked her to re-send the information to him.
- Co-Chair Ashley set up a Facebook page for the craft fair, tied to the HDJ Music Booster page.
- **Event is planned for 11/7/2026.**
- Gnutek confirmed that he sent the Facilities Request and received a confirmed response from the Associate Principal. He forwarded to the Booster Group for documentation that the space is reserved for us.
- Trying to get "sponsors" for aspects of the craft fair to help increase profitability/defray costs. This will particularly focus on vendor lunches, either subsidized or fully donated, along with snacks, beverages, etc., as well as additional signage for the event.

### **Fundraising Chair:** Devin Moran

- Did another Disney World fundraiser. Lower participation.
- Also did a coffee and popcorn fundraiser again. Just about doubled the sales from last year. Whoever takes over for next year, be aware, this vendor is very aggressive on the follow up and expects quick response time.
- May do a Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser. Wanted to see what the group thinks. \$500 minimum order. Basically get an order form for the students. The charge is \$7, from which we get \$2. Devin will pick up the full order when ready and everyone who sold will go to their house to get their order.
- Have a Yankee Candle flyer. Has dips, trail mix, and candles. Also has seed mats and bulbs. Considering working it in. Would prefer to do live plants and flowers. Looking at Tom's for this. Incoming Band VP Elizabeth noted that Tom's' does a great job with this, but many groups participate in the community so the market may be a bit saturated. Just keep that in mind. Flowers in spring, mums in fall. Vegetables and Herbs in general.
- Platt Hill will do a sale day for groups where they get the percentage of the sales.
- Orchestra VP Jen indicated that Baskin Robbins wants to do a dine and share.
- Guitar VP Ashley indicated that Chili's also wants to do a dine and share. Contact name is Lisa. Jill indicated she has the manager's info as well because her son works there and can help follow up.
- Co-Treasurer Arlene suggested a dine and share with Syrup on a late start date. A lot are going out for breakfast on those days and think it might be worthwhile.

### **Social Media Chair:** Ashley Stryker

- Asking for Dept. Directors if you have any media, pictures, flyers, etc. that can be posted on socials to send to her. Also any dates of events and advance notice of concerts, etc. would be great. Parents who have pictures can also submit to be included on the Facebook page.

**Board Secretary:** Rachel Reger

- Thank you to all the directors and Booster Parents who volunteered to help with the Pops Raffle Fundraising Event. We had a great turnout.
- Grand total of 2921 raffle tickets sold this year, a 48% increase from last year's 1529 tickets.
- Hockey Prize was popular. Had someone purchase \$100 worth of raffle tickets Choir night. Ultimately, though, he wasn't the winner. Several other prizes were very popular including Canes Chicken, Biaggi's, Woodfire, Red Robin, Trader Joe's, Nothing Bundt Cake, Chili's, and the CoopersHawk & Rochaus Date Night Combo.

	<b>Guitar Tickets</b>	<b>Band Tickets</b>	<b>Orchestra Tickets</b>	<b>Chorus Tickets</b>
2921 Total	276	600	927	1118
Winning vs tix count%	0.36%	1.17%	1.83%	1.16%
% of tix total	9.45%	20.54%	31.74%	38.27%
Winners vs prize count	2.63%	18.42%	44.74%	34.21%

- Co-Treasurer Arlene stated that Pops raised \$1987 in cash and \$215 in Zelle. Donations from Battle of the Bands and Pops totaled \$457.

**Board President:** Reid Bloomfield

- We will vote on board positions for next year at the next meeting. We have a VP candidate to replace Jill and a Secretary candidate to replace Rachel. We still need another Co-Treasurer for Arlene's place (Keith is staying).
- Directors asked about communication. Secretary Rachel advised they have it and sent already, but can resend.
- Other chair positions for volunteering would be good to fill: Volunteer Ambassador, Fundraising, and Concert Attire. For Concert Attire. Someone to handle orders, sort through, and follow up. Foster asked if the directors can be notified a week before to make sure people have ordered and then follow up to the deadline.
- Scholarship for summer – money is set aside for it. Secretary Rachel asked Reid if he reviewed application format sent to him. He said he'd take look and send out to directors. Haven't had to do a separate selection process because of the number of students requesting funds. If we can fund, we will. If there's a lot of competition, we will involve an outside party to evaluate applications.
- Asked if there was any additional business that needed to be addressed. Group did not have anything further.
- Devin made a motion to adjourn. Ashley seconded.
- Motion carried and meeting closed

**Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.**