

Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters

Meeting Minutes

Sept 20, 2022 at 7pm

Chair: Tom Henderson

Attendees: Shari Matheson, Angela Hoefler, Annalise Rockow, Brooke Conway (Colleen Petersen absent)

Location: MIHS choir room and Zoom

Meeting summary:

Tom provided an update on the opening of a bank account, which appeared to be moving into the signature phase with completion by next week. Tom and Shari have been looking at a fundraising platform for nonprofits called Givebutter that may ease our ability to collect from multiple apps including Apple Pay, Venmo, and Paypal. The meeting agreed to proceed with giving this a try unless issues arose.

Annalise next reviewed the fall schedule and opportunities for booster club participation. The fall concert on Oct. 26 may be an opportunity to announce a fundraiser. We settled on a plan of booster club members attending at 6:30 to pass out programs as well as a small sheet describing the booster club fundraiser, with fundraising goals and plans for using funding on the flyer. Annalise suggested the possibility of coordinating a fundraising push at the IMS winter show with the band and orchestra boosters, but later discussion in the meeting backed away from this idea. However, there may be an opportunity to coordinate with the Fine Arts Advisory Council to put a link on their site. Shari agreed to talk to her contacts about possible coordination.

Tom suggested to recommend to the MI Reporter that they write an article about the launch of the booster club. Annalise said that she had a student who would be interested to contribute in some way, if possible. Angela agreed to look into this idea.

Tom brought up the possibility of choir singing the national anthem at a MI home game this fall. The meeting decided to start small and just focus on girls soccer this fall. Tom will reach out to their booster club.

Annalise mentioned that the choir would like to decorate a float for the homecoming parade on Oct. 7th, and is looking for a truck to decorate and ride in. The booster club could possibly purchase candy. A volunteer with a truck is still needed.

Annalise asked for feedback on the recent social event. Everyone thought it met the goal of being fun, casual, well attended, with a good vibe. The split location (commons/amphitheater) worked well. More ice cream than popsicles should be purchased next year. The booster club could be better briefed to answer parent questions.

The high school choir also plans to participate in the Mercer Island city tree lighting on December 2nd.

Regarding booster funding opportunities, Annalise said that funding could go towards the middle school ice skating trip, the MIHS April field trip, and homecoming expenses. The meeting discussed whether and how to ask for a recommended amount per student. Shari proposed to draft a budget, but rough calculation seemed to indicate that a target of about \$100 per student would be a reasonable suggested donation and meet our funding goals with some reserve. Brooke also reminded us to ask for corporate matches.

Moving back to administrative items, Tom mentioned that Givebutter would not allow us to open a premium account because we do not have direct 501(c)(3) status--our status is under the umbrella ParentBoosterUSA organization. He looked into filing directly with the IRS and suggested that it may be useful, also if we wish to move from ParentBoosterUSA in the future.

Tom also looked into the cost of liability and board directors insurance. The firm associated with ParentBoosterUSA priced a minimal policy at \$250. There was general agreement that this was a good idea to support future events.

The next meeting is Monday October 17, 4:30pm, tentatively at IMS.

Minutes Submitted by: Tom Henderson