

## Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters

### Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2022 at 4:30 pm

**Chair:** Tom Henderson

**Attendees:** Shari Matheson, Annalise Rockow, Brooke Conway

**Location:** MIHS Room 501

#### Meeting summary:

The group discussed donation follow up. The boosters received some late donations after the IMS concert. Tom recommended sending a follow up email to donors with a thank you for your donation, reminding them of our EIN etc so they have this in hand for taxes. Tom is working on the draft and will be sent via email. We also discussed sending handwritten thank you notes to donors. Brooke will write up cards and send them into school with her daughter so the HS choir can decorate them and sign as well. Tom to confirm number of cards needed. Goal is to get these finalized before the end of the month.

Annalise updated the group on the pianist and coach situation, which has been secured with funding from the MIHS PTSA, a grant from the Fine Arts Advisory and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation. The pianist is secured for the rest of the year and is excellent (plays with the UW choirs). He is a collaborative pianist and will also help with some vocal coaching every other week. For an ongoing coach, Taylor Clarke will be coming in weekly. She is an experienced choir director who is now doing coaching.

The group discussed ideas for the Choir Booster newsletter, which we'll work to get out by the end of the month. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents haven't had an opportunity to opt into the newsletter. We discussed using upcoming events like the all district even and gator for a night to let them know about the newsletter/boosters. We'll plan to do the newsletters on a quarterly basis - March, June, September, January.

Shari will set up the newsletter on canva for people to input. We discussed content to include in the newsletter including:

- Meet the coaches corner with shout out to MIHS PTSA/Fine Arts Advisory/MISF for funding.
- Encouraging students (via parents) to register for choir next year and invite a friend.
- Including pictures of choir and booster sponsored activities including middle school ice skating pics, homecoming parade, holiday lighting, etc.
- Include links to past performances from the choir this school year.
- Dates for upcoming performances.
- Meet the choir director - 3 fun facts - what you don't know about Ms. Rockow.
- Student thoughts on choir -- Annalise to send google doc to kids to get input on this stuff so we can add to newsletter.

Note – to share info with the community between the newsletters, we should start sending info from events to Ian Henry to put stuff on district social media. We'll remind Annalise when we have the opportunity to share something.

The group transitioned to talk about future fundraising opportunities and funding allocations. We could potentially do a bake sale at the all district event this spring. Annalise will check to see who we need permission from. It may need to be store bought items. Brooke will set up a sign up genius for donations once we understand the scope.

We discussed the singing valentine's plans, which will raise money for the choir ASB account. Shari will follow up with the PTSA to see if they can put a plug for the singing valentine's into the next newsletter.

In terms of booster funding allocations, we currently have \$500 set aside for high school related activities. The high school students have a choral festival at UW in April. The festival fee is \$325 and Shari will pay the invoice to lock down the choir's spot. ASB funds will pay for transportation and the fun/food part will potentially be split between boosters and ASB depending on costs (using ASB funds from singing valentines). The group discussed some options of things the choir could do for fun/moral in the U district after the event (visit U Village, bowling, museum visit, picnic). Group to further explore options and costs.

Annalise is working on plans for the all district event. There will be about 60 choir kids from Islander and MISD that will need to have dinner between rehearsal and the show. The boosters will look at the budget to see if this is something we can contribute to, with the goal of figuring this out in early February before all district info goes out (after mid winter break).

Next meeting feb 15 weds 3:30 at IMHS

The next choir boosters meeting will be February 15, 2023 at 3:30 at MIHS. We adjourned at 5:45pm.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Brooke Conway