

Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Chair: Tom Henderson

Attendees: Shari Matheson, Angela Hoefler, Annalise Rockow, Brooke Conway

Location: MIHS Room 503

Meeting summary:

It's been a busy few weeks, so we discussed recent and upcoming events.

First – the Eastshore Choir Festival. MIHS and Ms Rockow hosted choirs from several east side schools. The event went really well overall – it felt like a shifting event for hs choir...students got to welcome people and have responsibility. There were some learnings. The main one – Annalise will share more info on scope and needs ahead of time for volunteers in the future. Ideally have a pre-meeting. Band had a similar event and had a leadership lunch for certain students, which is something to consider in the future (Eastshore could pay for this). Orchestra and choir had their own events and we should figure out a way to promote these types of activities to district/Island audience. Annalise is the Eastshore choir lead. We're supposed to host again next year but tbd if admin will support.

Next – the All District Choir performance. It was much bigger than last year with between 200-250 performers. We discussed plans for next year – we need to keep it in the gym because of size (PAC won't be able to handle) and keep it as one concert for now. The bake sale went well and raised \$578 and the even spurred additional donations to the choir boosters. We received some feedback that the even ran long/late, so we'll be conscious of this next year.

We also discussed choir promotions and upcoming activities.

- We'll continue to look for ways to cross-promote choir. Choir was included in a 4th grade newsletter about orchestra and choir opps thanks to coordination by Annalise.
- We ideally need more parents on or to be involved with the board. All of us try and do personal invites.
- We discussed the end of year awards dessert. The choir has two seniors. Annalise expect to be low on ASB funds. We'll plan to have flowers and something framed for the graduates. Desserts will be donated by families. We plan to talk about this at our next meeting (additional booster funding, sign up genie, etc).
- Angela has been working with local businesses to figure out plans for a night out fundraiser. We discussed the pros/cons of each option and Angela will follow up with qdoba on the island to set up a date. We'll look into Sahara for next school year. (Places investigated: Factoria mod pizza, give 20% -- qdoba 25% (qr code), chipotle factoria 33% 4 hour window need tax id, sahara more info to come but promising, Pagliacci doesn't do but will offer free slice cards)

- Gator for the night is on March 22 – 4:30 call time for middle school singers. Event 5-6:30. Angela and Shari will go to support. She has enough candy etc. they will help get people into the room.
- April 3rd is the MIHS UW offsite. Students will have lunch on their own and go to U Village later in the afternoon. Shari will look into pricing for Hello Robin cookies as a treat for each student and boosters will pay.

We next went through a budget update and where it is needed. We've raised more funds recently from the bake sale (\$578) and in donations (\$250 at the event). We agreed to buy the Hello Robin cookies from the fund as part of support of the MIHS choir (getting it more to parity with IMS activities. We discussed saving some funds to carry over into the next school year so that we will have money already in the account to cover the ice cream social (beginning of the year), homecoming, and potentially a retreat for IMS and/or MIHS students to help the choirs bond earlier in the school year/season.

Tom discussed the latest with the IRS – he plans to resubmit the application for boosters to have a direct tax status instead of under ParentBoosters. PB helped with a letter, returned payment for unused services and gave application feedback.

Miscellaneous discussions to close:

- High school numbers are up for next year. In good shape with 8 to 9th retention looking good.
- Tom will look into adding a treasurer specific email address for donation related communications.
- Tom has proposed dates for singing at softball/baseball games.
- Next newsletter end of may before the last concert. We'll have this on the agenda in our next meeting. Ideally, we'll have the dine out plans set and can promote in the newsletter.
- We discussed looking into a potential email list contact management solution for down the road as our list of contacts grows. Brooke will do some research on this (constant contact?). Tom will autorenew current blue host system.
- The next choir boosters meeting will take place April 18th at 5pm in the choir room (503). We adjourned at 6:50pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Brooke Conway