

Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

Chair: Tom Henderson

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

Location: MIHS Room 503

We kicked off the October meeting debriefing on recent choir-related activities.

- Talent show: The first MIHS talent show was held on Weds, Oct 11. This was run by choir with no help from the boosters. It was a small event – 9 talents – but went well and had good feedback from judges (including Nick Wold) and attendees. Annalise would like to do it again next year and try and get more hype around it. We discussed some ways that boosters could help potentially support next year and other avenues to promote it (PTSA to reach parents).
- HOCO: Overall the HOCO parade went well, although choir students may need to listen a bit better! Annalise said that 3 big bags of candy will be plenty for next year. Kids gave out too much candy to the same spectators, so they will be given the feedback to spread out better next year. The balloons for the float made a statement – she may just need more help preparing them for next year and may need to do out of foil (because of potential latex allergies on campus). We discussed getting smaller MI choir booster signs made that can be used for cars next year or other events. Angela is on point to explore options.

We then shifted into upcoming activities.

- Fall Concert: We confirmed that the boosters will print the fall concert programs, so we can include information on the fall fundraiser, corp match and corp sponsorship on them. Some of the boosters will come early to prep the programs and we'll have a table to hand them out and answer questions. Annalise will start the program on canva so we can finalize and print. We discussed printing about 100-115 so that there would be a bit over one per family (84 singers). Angela will follow up with Angela Garinger about helping with the booth. Also at the fall concert, Tom will plan to speak briefly to remind folks to donate or look into corp sponsorships.
- In terms of corp sponsorships, we discussed reaching out to Pagliacci to see if they could do an in-kind donation/sponsorship before the concert – in which case we would highlight them in our first program. Tom is following up with Pagliacci.
- Next we discussed the upcoming newsletters. We agreed to do the constant contact subscription (\$108) as the email management is very helpful and the emails themselves are much more professional looking. Shari is on point. Our next newsletter will go out the beginning of November – so we can include the concert, retreat, honors choir info, and other upcoming activities. We'll connect in late Oct to share pictures and start this.

- Pizza at Sahara: Our first dine out fundraiser is this Thursday, Oct 19. Annalise will send an email to choir guardians. Shari will follow up later the week with a constant contact reminder for the dine out as well as for parents to support the arts in the current school district planning survey. Annalise will invite kids to hang out outside Sahara on Thursday eve to promote the fundraiser.
- IMS field trip: IMS choir students will have their annual field trip on December 6. The students will go to MIHS to rehearse with the high school choir and have lunch, after which they will go ice skating. Boosters agreed to support this event like last year with skating and food support. Annalise is working with orchestra leadership to figure out where they will skate. We discussed food options – Paglicci opens too late (logistically), so Angela will talk wot Sahara and we discussed other options (Dominos, sandwiches, etc).
- MIHS retreat: The retreat starts Friday, Oct 20. Brooke and Shari will meet offline with Annalise to finish planning booster support (bags, snacks, desserts, stuff for a photo booth).

Budget and facilities planning

- We spent some time discussing facilities planning and the current district survey. The signed letter to support the arts that has been worked on with drama and other MIHS arts programs has stalled a bit. We discussed instead reaching out to choir parents to share their voice directly as part of the current survey. Tom will draft a note asking for participation/support that Shari can include in the reminder email on Thursday – essentially ask them to advocate for choir and fine arts in a way they're comfortable with.
- We had landed on additional funding for Taylor's support at the last meeting, but unfortunately she is out on personal leave for now. Annalise is potentially looking for new support and is exploring bringing other clinicians in.
- We discussed a gift for families that have donated to the fund drive. We are making this a lower priority at this moment, but will revisit if we do a gift later in the year (mug?).
- Tom is working on taxes and can use the simplified process as we are below the fund/donation threshold for the more complicated paperwork.

Our next meeting will be on November 20 at 5pm at MIHS room 503. In December we'll meet with an email check-in on December 13. Our first in-person meeting for 2024 will be on January 8 at 5pm at MIHS room 503.

Minutes Submitted by: Brooke Conway