

## Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters

### Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024

**Chair:** Tom Henderson

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

**Location:** MIHS Room 503

This was the final meeting of the Choir Boosters for this school year and we used the meeting to close on official business and brainstorm about the growth of the choir program and the boosters club. We had one non-board member join the meeting (Marianna Beckett), and some of the board members spoke to other parents for feedback that we brought to the meeting.

The agenda:

- What are the choir boosters?
- Year in review
- Finances
- End of year business
- Choir program growth (numbers and opportunities) – brainstorm
- Booster structure & involvement – thoughts, feedback

What are the choir boosters? We reviewed the boosters purpose and director roles. More on roles needed, below. We also gave an overview of boosters' focus for years one and two:

- Year one: Get non-profit status and set up infrastructure for fundraising. Focus efforts on awareness of new booster program, support of the choral staff, and "food and fun" for the students
- Year two (2023-2024 school year): Fundraising improvements for sustainability, including adding corporate matching and local dine-out opportunities. Expansion of support for choral staff, investment in some enrichment opportunities for students, and MORE of "food and fun" for students.

Year in review: We gave a quick overview of where the boosters invested for this school year.

- Choir ala mode welcome party – all grades
- Fall fundraiser
- MIHS retreat
- Homecoming parade support
- Dine out x 2 (Sahara Pizza)
- IMS support – Exchange Lunch & Skating, Gator for a Night
- MIHS Solo & Ensemble entry fees
- Field trip for PLU event & roller skating
- All-district bake sale, MIHS & IMS student dinner, and elementary gift bags

- All-District photography
- Senior celebration at Spring concert
- Bass accompaniment at Spring concert
- Coordination with other fine arts booster clubs

Finances: Shari gave an overview of the fundraising and finances for the year. Most of the funds went to MIHS activities, and parents of this group were our primary donors, although there are more students enrolled in choir at IMS (47 at IMS and 39 at MIHS).

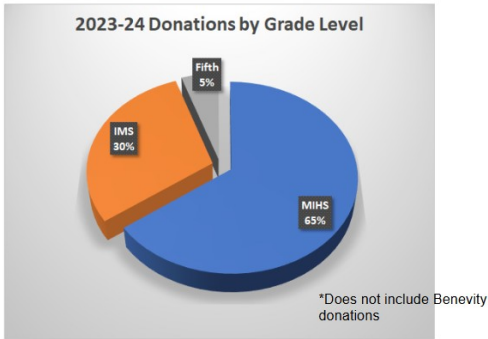
We spent some time talking about the Fall fundraiser. We heard feedback that sometimes a donation ask feels like too much in the Fall since so many other orgs and sports are also asking for contributions. But some families find it easy to donate in the Fall to “check things off their list.” We discussed offering a second donation opportunity in December before EOY (for tax deduction purposes) and will potentially add a flyer to concert programs/promote throughout the year in a low-key way.

While we have remaining budget, we do not have enough money to cover all of our current “wish list” so we reviewed the budget and decided remaining funds would be focused on: MIHS retreat deposit (Shari will write a check for ASB in June for payment), tshirts, \$1200 for the retreat and the rest for early Fall activities (welcome ala mode party, etc). We removed paying for retreat clinician and MIHS sweatshirts.

# Finances

## HIGHLIGHTS

Fundraising:  
 Last year - Goal of \$95/student, Actual \$61/student  
 This year - Goal of \$100/student, Actual \$91/student (HS & MS)  
 28 families donated to Fall Fundraiser



Spending was aligned with donations by grade levels.  
 How should remaining funds be spent?

Mercer Island Schools Choir Boosters		As of: 6/10/23
<b>Funds Available</b>		<b>YTD Actual</b>
Carryover from prior year		\$1,481
Fundraiser-Fall/General		\$7,836
Fundraiser-Sahara		\$1,170
Fundraiser-Bake Sale		\$441
Fundraiser-Sweatshirts		\$141
<b>Total Funds Available</b>		<b>\$11,069</b>
<i>*Received \$563 Donation of pizza from Sahara</i>		
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>YTD Actual</b>
Admin (Website, PO box, Constant Contact)		\$503
Marketing (Photography, banners, programs)		\$891
Events		
Choral Event - Fifth (goodie bags)		\$514
Choral Event - IMS (SnoKing, lunch)		\$923
Choral Event - HS (Retreat, PLU event, Senior Awards, Eastshore Reg)		\$2,179
Choral Event - All (Choir a la Mode, All District, Concert Accompanist)		\$765
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,776</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$5,294</b>
<b>Other Possible Expenses:</b>		
HS retreat deposit		\$1,500
HS Retreat clinician/pianist		\$1,500
HS sweatshirts (next fall)		\$1,750
MS t-shirts (next fall)		\$900
HS t-shirts (next fall)		\$720
<b>Total Other Possible Expenses</b>		<b>\$6,370</b>

End of year business: Tom led the discussion for end of year business and covered the following:

- Amendment to MI Choir Boosters bylaws related to two-year term limit for officers
- Renominations for 2024-2025 two-year director term and vote
- Nominations for new directors, officers, and vote
- New/additional roles for boosters (in brainstorm)

Tom motioned to remove the restriction of two terms from the bylaws and Brooke seconded it. It passed unanimously. Tom renominated Shari and Angela for another two year term. Tom motioned, Brooke seconded, it passed unanimously. Tom announced more broadly that he will be retiring as president at the end of this term (in June) and nominated Brooke for president, Shari to remain as treasurer, and Angela to move to secretary. Shari seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

This leaves us with open board slots for VP of fundraising/marketing and VP. We will recruit for these roles, with more focus on this in the Fall when parents will be getting involved for the new school year and may be more receptive to take on a role.

We moved into the brainstorm around growing the boosters. We discussed creating some more specific/ ring fenced roles that would be a more predictable commitment for parents and take some stress off the current board. We discussed the following roles, with the communications director being particularly important. Marianna Beckett said she is interested in a role and we'll follow up with her as we get closer to the new school year.

- Bake Sale Chair (organize bake sale fundraiser at All-District concert)
- Community Outreach Director (look for ways to increase awareness in community, foster relationships with local business like Sahara and Pagliacci)
- Choir a la Mode Chair (help coordinate fall family social event)
- Communication Director (lead newsletter organization, send out reminders or updates via Constant Contact)
- Media Director (ensure video/photos are taken and collected at events, share media with District website)
- Website Director (keep booster website up to date)
- Recruiting Director (look for ways to increase and retain enrollment - help with Gator for a Night, 4th grade intro, 8th grade transition)
- All-District Rehearsal Dinner Chair (organize dinner for IMS and MIHS students before All-District concert)

Finally, we brainstormed ways to help grow the choir and ways we want to see the choir grow (in terms of opportunities for the students). Some topics discussed:

- Audition for Mariner's Game national anthem - only accept elementary and middle school choirs, Annalise plans to apply in the fall.
- Music in the Parks at Wild Waves (in June next year)
- Look into travel opps for high school - one year small trip next year big trip. Some things to keep in mind:
  - Trips involved a lot of planning and financial prep. High school wise - what's needed for a bigger trip like Disney you need to be ready to do an 8k deposit the year prior 8-10k up front (not supposed to collect from students until the academic year). This may vary

likely be cost prohibitive for some families so need to plan for this as well. We don't want this to be just a trip to an amusement park - needs big focus on choral enrichment. Another interesting opp could be the National concert series collaboration with other singers in Carnegie Hall

- o In terms of goals - discussed Disney not this coming year but following (add college tour, high school exchange). Potentially Vancouver youth choir exchange this coming year.
- Tutorpalooza. Mini voice lessons. Annalise did this in class at IMS this year with grant money and it went well/good student feedback. We'd need funds for voice teachers to do -- grant money doesn't start until January. In the meantime, look into opportunities for MIHS students to mentor younger students.

**Our next meeting will take place as an email check in on August 20 with the next in-person meeting slated for Thursday, August 29 at 5pm. (These meetings are especially important to help plan Choir ala mode, which will take place on Monday, September 9.)**

**Minutes Submitted by:** Brooke Conway