



ANDREW MUSIC PARENTS

Victor J. Andrew High School Tinley Park IL

Music Parent Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2018

- Directors Present:** Mary McCarthy, Mark Iwinski, Chris Moan
- Board:** Sandro D’Andrea, Jerry Rauman, Carrie Rooy, Nancy Evens, Tom Brown
- Correspondence:** No new correspondence at this time.
- Financial Report:** Tom Brown - A new round of invoices were sent out last week for members of Winter Guard and Percussion and are due by this Friday. Budget is still in good shape and the Spring Craft show brought in roughly \$14,000. Congratulations and thank you goes out to Dorris Burch for organizing another successful event. Also thank you Carrie Rooy for organizing and staffing the kitchen and to Bob and Cari Sonnefeldt for organizing the volunteers. We received a lot of compliments about our student volunteers and how helpful they were to the crafters and vendors as well. Congrats again to all. Yesterday’s pancake breakfast went well, as we presold approximately 500 tickets ahead of the event and around 40 tickets at the door which brought in around \$3,600. Cathy Rauman reports that roughly \$900 in raffle tickets were sold as well. A huge thank you goes out to the Allen Family for their generous donations as well.
- Director’s Reports:** Mrs. McCarthy - While I do not love the spring weather, I do love spring in the music department because the students are really coming into their own and it’s amazing to watch and listen to all the music coming from them. I’m very proud of Winter Guard and Percussion for the awesome seasons they are having and look forward to seeing what the rest of their seasons have in store for them. I did get the chance to go down to Indy to see the flute quartet perform at the National Chamber Music Festival and I’m

so proud of the maturity and poise that the girls showed at this event. They received a lot of positive feedback from others. I'm also especially proud of our Honor Band participants for representing our school well. We've had wonderful festival performances by many of our groups, as well as two great concerts, and just to hear how phenomenal all the groups are performing, from our youngest members to our nearly gone seniors and our wonderful soloists there's just so much to be proud of. Thank you for letting us work with your students and I hope you have enjoyed all the music that has occurred thus far this year. Just a couple school events to mention, this Wednesday afternoon our seniors will participate in senior academy, an event we have been doing for several years. They will be a part of three presentations which include post-secondary topics such as habits for successful lifestyles, college lifestyle, and financial planning. This Friday will be an early release day to kick off Spring Break. Students will return the Tuesday following break. And finally, due to the snow day administration may decide to add a make up day to the end of the calendar so please plan vacations accordingly.

Mr. Moan - There has been such spectacular, fresh music coming from all our choral ensembles. I am very proud of where they're at now and the direction they're heading in the future. Coming up tomorrow our two top ensembles will be working with Donna Tallman, a choral director from Elmhurst College, for the D230 Choral Festival which will be held here at VJA in the PAC which will hold clinics for all. This will be a day full of great music making from all the groups in D230. I can't wait for it, it's always a great opportunity for growth. May 8th will be our Finale Concert. Our Spring Musical, West Side Story, will feature great on-stage performers and technicians as well as our tremendous pit orchestra taking on one of the toughest musical literatures. It's going to be a lot of fun and rehearsals have been going on since February. It will be held on April 19th at 7 p.m., April 20th at 7 p.m., and April 21st at 3 p.m. Ticket information will be going out soon, so look for that as well. Please come out to support our music department in musical theater form, it's going to be a blast!

Mr. Iwinski - Our Winter Guard has been busy racking up many trophies and awards this season, including performing in prelims, semi-finals, and finals in Indy and taking 3rd place in their class in Schaumburg. This year's members have been breaking score records from previous seasons and a big thank you and congratulations goes out to them as well as to Danielle and her staff as they continue their successful season. Winter Percussion has been enjoying their usual success as well and took 2nd place in their class in Indy two weeks ago, so congrats to them also. This past weekend our flute quartet brought home

this beautiful plaque from the National Festival in Indy. It was a little weird to sit in the audience instead of conducting, but I had such a proud moment as the girls had a beautiful performance and conducted themselves as complete professionals. They had many people asking them questions about how they learned to beat box on the flute as well as how they ended up with two premier music pieces, which led to a discussion with an ensemble from Texas about sending their tapes in to the Midwest Clinic, another prestigious event held in December. After discussing with the girls, they decided to submit their application and audition tapes in the hopes of being chosen for this event. I couldn't be prouder of how all of our participants represented our school. Our Concert and Symphonic bands performed at Sandburg High School at the end of February. They both had outstanding performances and received high compliments and praise from the judges and both bands received a Division 1 rating which was awesome. We should find out if Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony were chosen to attend SuperState on March 30th. If chosen, Symphonic Band would perform on Friday, May 4th and Wind Symphony would perform on Saturday, May 5th. Our last concert was awesome, I was very pleased with all their performances. Our Finale Concert will be held on May 10th, featuring all our bands and our orchestra. May 11th Notre Dame will be visiting VJA and performing a concert in our PAC. You should all have received an email from me requesting home stays for their band members. A change to the original request has been made to include that they would be ok with air mattresses if you do not have extra beds for them to stay in. Please consider hosting a few students in your home, they just need somewhere to sleep, as well as breakfast, and a ride back to VJA in the morning. Dinner for the students will be provided by the Music Parents and their staff will stay in a hotel. If you can help spread the word about this need that would be great, as we need to fill the needs of 89 students and as of now we only have housing for 12 students. If you volunteer to house students you will receive two free tickets to this event, which is a \$20 value so please consider taking in a few students. April 7th is the John Hersey Festival, which is a Music For All sponsored Regional event. This is a world class festival, some of the very best in the profession come out to judge and help our kids do better. We did request and receive evening performance time slots which should allow members of Winter Guard to get there in plenty of time. The itinerary for this event will be sent home before break. Our marching band kick off meeting has yet do be determined, so look for that information to come out soon as well. We will not be going to Indy this year because it's the same weekend as ISU's competition and I'd like to maintain our presence at that event, so instead we will finish our season at the BOA in St. Louis. There is a local band there that hosts a competition the Friday before BOA that we may try to attend

and compete in if logistics allow. Our Invitational will be held on September 15th, and we already have a great field of bands signed up including 8 class 3A bands including Marian Catholic, Plainfield North, and Lincoln Way. I'm definitely looking forward to another fun season.

Special Guest:

Tony Serratore, former VJA Music Parent Board member and current D230 School Board member - First off, I want to thank everyone in this room for everything they do for the bands, students, and school. It's been 12 years since I was sitting behind that table and I can't believe how fast time has gone, but these are the people that support every aspect of the music program and without parent support this program does not move. Equipment, meal preparations, and many more things need to be done and I am so appreciative of everything you do, so thank you and please keep up the great work you all do. Thursday night the D230 Board will be honoring the flute quartet for their successes at the board meeting. Unfortunately, due to recent events school safety is a high priority right now for our board. You all should have received an email from Dr. Gay talking about some of the things the District is doing and what our efforts are, and I just want everyone to know we are on top of this and involved in this very important topic. During a closed session board meeting last month, we met with the three school principals and Dr. Gay to discuss school security issues and concerns and what we can do to improve current measures. There have already been many efforts taken in our schools and we will continue these efforts. All three schools are working with local law enforcements on reviewing our safety plans and looking to see if any additional measures can be taken. Dr. Gay and Dr. Dwyer traveled down to Atlanta to a school safety conference as well, so there are many things being done as we continue our efforts to make our schools safe. We are very proud of our students as we have continually reinforced "See something, say something" and our students are not afraid to do so. Withholding some details, I will tell you that there have been incidents that have occurred this year that because students spoke up and said something problems were avoided so please reemphasize with your students not to be afraid to speak up because that could be the reason someone's life is saved. We will continue to work on these issues, we are far from finished with this as we always seek new ways to secure our schools. Two years ago, Sandburg changed the back entrance to the school to make it more secure and we will continue to look for new ways to secure our schools to make them as safe as we can possibly make them. In addition, please sit down with your students and encourage them to be smart about what they are posting on social media. You cannot joke around about things these days and police are not taking chances and any threatening or disturbing posts will be followed up on. Everything is being taken seriously. On another note, school funding is still an issue

in the state of Illinois. You all may have heard back in the Fall that they finally passed a budget and the state was finally going to fund schools the way they were supposed to. Well the 350 million dollars that was set aside for that funding has yet to leave Springfield. When that money is finally distributed it will be distributed in levels that are based upon how much money your district gets from property taxes. District 230 is in the 2nd to last level to be funded, which means that we will share .09% of the money shared with all the other school districts in our level which unfortunately means we will get basically nothing from the state funding. The good news is that we continue to monitor our spending and balance budgets and make every effort to cut costs without sacrificing quality. Do not worry about co-curricular activities disappearing because as a Board we would like to see more co-curricular activities as new groups are just getting started, so we are not looking to cut these programs out and want to keep these programs strong as it's all about the kids and taking care of them is our main objective as a board. We were also able to raise \$1000 for the Amanda Puckett Scholarship program and will be awarding them on May 16th. Thank you to all that helped support this effort and thanks again to all of you for your time. The Board thanks Tony for his continued support and sharing important information with our parents.

Fundraisers:

Jerry Rauman for Cathy Rauman - Cathy would just like to thank everyone for your donations of raffle prizes and candy for yesterday's Pancake Breakfast, as well as a big thank you to the Allen Family for their incredible generosity and support for this event.

Please follow the Andrew Music Fundraising and VJA Bands Facebook pages for more information.

Open Board Positions:

Nominations for open board positions will begin at the end of this meeting. Our nomination chairperson will be Cathy Rauman, all nominations need to be submitted to her. Nominees must have attended at least three board meetings during this school year. Nominations will close one week prior to the April 24th meeting. If more than one person is nominated for a position, there will be a vote in May. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask.

Open Discussion:

What exactly will hosting a Notre Dame band member include? Really they just need a ride home from VJA, a bed or air mattress to sleep on, a shower if they choose, breakfast, and a ride back to VJA in the morning.

Tonya Regiro - If any parents of seniors would like to submit their student's photo and small biography to post on the Music Parents website that would be great. Also if there's anything anyone wants to see on the website please let me know as we can add as much to it as we'd like. Thank you.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24th at 7:30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Rick Campbell
2nd Kelly Vassalla