

## **NORTH HUNTERDON MUSIC ASSOCIATION Minutes**

September 8, 2020

**Note: This meeting was conducted through Zoom**

**Present: 19**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Angeline	Vince
Belica	Amy
Chan	Eva
Dieterman	Diane
Fasciano	Jen
Gartlgruber	Margaret
Hoffman	M.J.
Jenkins	Krista
McDermott	Dana
McGrew	Dawn
Panageas	Maggie
Parliyan	Alexa
Patuto	Jen
Romano	Jeff
Shustack	Anna
Smith	Karen
Wallace	Susan
Walsh	Ryan
?	Myla

Motion to open meeting at 7:02 p.m. made by Susan; seconded by Jen P.

Motion to approve June meeting minutes made by Jen F; seconded by Jen P.

### **Opening Remarks – Susan Wallace**

Welcome to all! Crucial to this year's success is increasing our Membership. We need to reach out to all those who enjoy our music program, not just those current parents of music students. Will contact Maren to see if she can send out a mass email, with a possible link to FaceBook for friends and family to join.

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### Faculty Report – Mr. Angeline

- Department News

Thank you for your participation in our music program! Your work is greatly appreciated by all of the directors. We are now inventing education as we speak, and we've been doing that for nearly two weeks now. It can work! Very strange to be teaching kids at home and in the classroom, but we are all getting used to it one day at a time. Outside groups/ensembles are still in the process of auditions. All in-school groups (orchestra, concert band, music theory, etc.) are meeting according to the half-day schedule. Up to this point we have been focusing on individual basic skills but will soon be starting on repertoire. Students at home are playing along, and we are hoping for some performances during the school year. 70 students are in concert band and 27 are in orchestra. We have terrific talent in all four grades. Fingers crossed that we stay healthy and the hybrid model will turn full time by school year's end. All classes are small, since school population is divided into two groups. The technology is working well - no major glitches yet!

- Marching Band

We will be playing live in less than a month. First rehearsals were back in August with a mini-band camp, where we were able to get a lot accomplished with the music. Next week we will start the drills. Guidelines have been sent home, and students are pre-screened **every day** for marching band rehearsals after school. We will play at three home football games this season, and the first performance will be October 9 (senior night) v. Central. We will be seated on the field within the fence and not in the stands to accommodate for social distancing. 500 seats will be sold, 40% of those go to the visiting team. We will have a field show of some sort and the National Anthem. Second performance is Homecoming v. Hillsborough on October 23, and the last will be the Milk Can game v. Voorhees on November 6. The theme of our show will be "The New World" by Dvorak, which was carefully crafted so that students will stand six feet apart. \*This year's show is a two-year project. Two sets of drills were written, using the easier one this year and saving the harder one with backdrops for next year.

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- Questions
  - Do siblings in school have to do the pre-screening? **No, just students in the rehearsal.**
  - Is there band parent help needed going forward? **Don't know yet.** We can't give students food, so no 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter snacks. Kids will be bringing their own water. Parents may help bring equipment out, but that would be minimal.
  - Will there be a Marching Band banquet this year? **Seems unlikely.** Might consider doing it virtual or as a picnic. Parades doubtful as well.
  - Can we put together a virtual Freshman Tea? **Yes.** Can we perform there? **Not sure.** Will check with colleagues to get input. Lots of time would be required to put that together. Video of past performances might be easier.
  - Can you email parents multiple times about Membership? **Yes.** Membership is our largest fundraiser, and we usually have around 100 members.
  - What are the plans for using the Newport Jazz Festival money we received last year? **Will check with Mr. Hopta** who is running point. We did buy the SmartMusic software, but that was paid for by the District. Could potentially be a Zoom Master Class.
  - Do you think we will have the Prism concert this school year? NHMA set aside the money from two of last year's sponsors that we can still use this year. **At this point, we feel pretty good that the concert will happen.**
  - How many kids are actually in school? **Approximately 600 students a day** (total school population is around 1500, 315 are all virtual, which leaves us at about 1200, divided into two groups). Biggest band class is at 24, probably the largest class in the building. **FYI:** We were one of the very first schools in NJ to open. Next step is getting everyone back in the building at once!

### Corresponding Secretary Report – Amy Belica

- Nothing to report yet!

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### Treasurer Report – Alexa Parliyan

- We had a ton of money coming in last year, ~ \$9K. However, everything stopped in March! We ended up with an overspend of nearly \$6K due mostly to lower fundraising. Refunds for the spring trip went back to individual students, not NHMA. This year, after setting aside some monies outside of the budget, our actual balance is ~ \$2,200. Biggest ticket is Membership, as always. Goal is 100 members, maybe more. If we don't reach that goal, we will have to step up other fundraising efforts. We still want to offer Master Classes and scholarships this year. Options to increase our reserve? Check employers for matching grants. Maybe offer one banquet this year instead of two, combined? Banquets never really cost us that much, though. We could even charge more per ticket this year. Will re-evaluate as the months go forward. Alexa made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget. Jen F approved the motion, and Dawn seconded the motion. Motion passes!
- Membership link on our website page doesn't work. The link in the upper right-hand corner does work. Alexa will send Vince a note tonight.
- **TOTAL ACCOUNTS BALANCE** as of September 1, 2020:

		<b><u>Set Asides</u></b>	
Checking	\$ 3,327.76	Newport Jazz	\$ 1,222.20
PayPal	50.26	Silver Oak (Prism)	500.00
Gaming	820.44	Hunterdon Music (Prism)	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,198.46</b>		<b>\$1,972.20</b>

**Total Actual Balance: \$2,226.26**

### Fundraising Report – Dawn McGrew

- Mickman Brothers Holiday Wreaths  
We could fundraise by using their online sales and purchasing options. Everyone loved the products last year. We wouldn't have to do anything

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this time (last year students had to set prices and discounts depending on how much they wanted to earn). Very little work involved this time.

- Pampered Chef

All done online and very easy as well. Popular products that basically sell themselves! Could check to see if there are any PC reps in our new memberships.

- Shammy Shine

Still ongoing. Alexa initiated this last year. We purchase gift cards and then we have to sell them. Susan has (four) \$10 cards left. We can decide how often we want to offer this one.

- Amazon Smile

Still ongoing. Super easy way to make money buying on Amazon.

- 50/50 Raffles

Still ongoing. Colene does the raffles at football games. She has the dates reserved and we have our license. However, seems unlikely we will be allowed to do it this year. Susan will ask Colene to check into whether this can be done online.

- New Ideas

- Clothing Drive, especially after the pandemic. You get paid by the pound. M.J. noted that only one drive per month during the year is permitted and that only three available months are left. Not sure if this is just for Boosters or school-wide. Building use forms have to be filled out if there is a fundraiser. Dawn will investigate.
- Poinsettia holiday sale and Flower sale in the spring. Could maybe offer an online catalog. Some nurseries deliver, and Dawn would also do a porch delivery.

### **Membership Report – Jen Fasciano**

- We need to find new ways to increase our membership!
  - Margaret suggested we could maybe do a virtual video blurb to target more choir parents. Perception is that NHMA is band-centered and not for choir parents, and we want to change that!
  - Compile an email video link including student performances, alumni talking about how their scholarships benefited them, messages from teachers, etc.

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- Booster Club has a parent Facebook page. Could we do that? More parents might then be in tune with what we are doing. This has been shot down in the past.
- Send out a "Renewal" email to past year's members instead of grouping them in with everyone else.
- M.J. added that the soccer team handed out brochures directly to parents, also having the teachers have a reminder on their website. Can we mail the brochure directly to parents or send through the kids?
- Email past members with children who have graduated with an Alumni rate to remain members.

### **Open/New Business – Susan Wallace**

- Volunteer Status
  - Band Operations  
Jeff is getting emails from parents wanting to help, but there is not much to do! Whoever takes over next year will have lots of work to do to learn the ropes. Diane also noted that there are always a few good men and women hanging around after the football games. Try to recruit them this year for Band Ops!
  - Third Quarter Snacks  
None for this year
  - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Night  
Diane is looking for ideas to make this happen. This event is so important to show kids how much fun Band is.
- Band Parent Shirts  
Will hold off ordering until next year (usually about \$30-\$40 per shirt).
- Performance Tees  
Susan will check with Vince. There are fewer than 20 new kids, but they will need them for the Memorial Day parade.
- Open Committee and Chairperson Positions for 2020/2021
  - Newsletter  
Has anyone been taking pictures that could be used for the fall newsletter? Will Mike Ricketts be taking pictures again? Jeff will do some if not.

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### **Recent Events – Susan Wallace**

- Marching Band Uniform Distribution  
Gave out 30 uniforms so far and it went pretty smoothly. Used google forms to get kids' measurements. Other half will be distributed Thursday. Thanks to Jen F and Susan for helping!

### **Upcoming Events – Susan Wallace**

- Home Football Games (3)
- Virtual Band Banquet?
- Freshman Tea

### **Open Forum/Roundtable – Susan Wallace**

- Susan will email all directors to see if groups or individual students could perform for the Freshman Tea. This is a very important event for gaining new members and wouldn't necessarily have to be done in September. We just don't want to miss all the freshman recruiting. Could students record something for a virtual Freshman Tea, and then freshmen parents can watch the video at their leisure?

Motion to close meeting made by Susan at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Dana.  
Minutes prepared by: Dana McDermott

**Next Meeting:                      October 6, 2020**  
**Via Zoom at 7:00 PM**