

NORTH HUNTERDON MUSIC ASSOCIATION Minutes

October 6, 2020

Note: This meeting was conducted through Zoom

Present: 24

Last Name	First Name
Angeline	Vince
Belica	Amy
Cudworth	Katie
Dieterman	Diane
Fasciano	Jen
Fielding	Barry
Gartlgruber	Margaret
Holk	Melissa
Hopta	Charlie
Kreitner	Linda
Lambert	Veronique
Lipinski	Laura
McCormack	Jen
McDermott	Dana
McGrew	Dawn
Parliyan	Alexa
Patuto	Jen
Romano	Jeff
Shankar	?
Smith	Karen
Ticktackler	Jen
Wallace	Susan
Walsh	Ryan
Zengel	Leila

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

Motion to approve September meeting minutes made by Jen McC; seconded by Karen.

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Faculty Report - Katie Cudworth

- I am so happy to see nine choir parents tonight...most ever at an NHMA meeting! Question: Can I have the link to the Amazon Smile fundraiser and the Shammy Shine fundraiser so I can send out to my choir parents? Jen F. explained how these two opportunities work and will forward the information.
- Classes are moving along. Voice lessons and all ensembles are meeting now. Everyone is masked 100% of the time. We initially tried singing outside, but that quickly became a lantern fly squashing event! Overall, we are pleased with student participation. Choir elections (President, Vice President) will be held next week. Section leaders have been chosen. Officers and section leaders comprise the Choir Council. We are encouraging as much student involvement as possible.
- The CJMEA Region II Ensemble auditions and All-State choir auditions have been canceled for this year. They are hoping to offer some virtual Master Classes/Festivals to keep the interest going.
- The Fall play is The Lost World, based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel. This is a radio show, with parts assigned by audition only and directed by Mrs. Meo. Tickets are \$5, and this is a virtual-only event that will be recorded. Opening night is Oct. 24.

Faculty Report - Charlie Hopta

Thank you to everyone for being part of the NHMA!

Faculty Report – Mr. Angeline

- Department News
We are six weeks in now, and it's less unusual with each passing day. All are making the best of the situation, one day at a time. There are challenges with the hybrid model, as the band is rehearsing both in school and at home simultaneously. Students have been great and are very cooperative. Things go a little slower than usual, but we are definitely

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moving forward. It is very quiet in the building! There will be no All-State Region II band events this year. Going forward, we are in discussions with our Principal regarding having the winter concerts in December. Our reasoning is that if indoor winter sports (i.e. basketball) are permitted, then there is no reason why we can't have a concert indoors. We are heavily pushing for a live concert! Can't have a full audience due to the restrictions on crowd size in the gym. Possibilities include having a shorter concert, perhaps two in one evening; ticketing the event with two tickets given per student; maybe holding off the concerts until January; recording our groups and putting that up as a live-streamed event. Not looking or thinking about the spring yet.

- Marching Band

We are looking forward to our first live performance since the musical last year, this Friday at home v. Central. It will be Seniors Night, honoring seniors and their parents. We will be out on the field and performing a portion of the show, the first of three movements. Call time is 5:45 pm in full uniform. We will march down to the field, sit in chairs back behind the end zone inside the perimeter, and perform our show at half time. Our ability to use parent help will be somewhat limited this year. We need help in two ways: (1) Prepare individual snack packs in a brown bag like for the Columbus Day parade. These will need distributed to the students during the third quarter. (2) Dads with flashlights are needed to help us with the traffic on the way back from the field. Very little equipment needs to be moved. There will be no parades this year, except possibly the Clinton Christmas parade. The Marching Band Banquet will probably be virtual, just like last spring.

- Questions

- Susan: Two confirmed Covid-19 cases have been identified, probably a third. Once the health department starts contacting families by Friday, will marching band be affected? **As of now, the game and our performance are on. This could always change!**
- Jen: What is the status of Jazz Band? Mr. Andrews is teaching virtually, so we don't see him. **Vince will contact him to find out.**
- Margaret: Are kids staying within the safety guidelines at school? Are they wearing masks? **Students are masked the entire time, except when they play. Protocols are being followed in all classes. I see 100% compliance with masks, but they are not**

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six feet apart while seated due to space. Should we be quarantining our kids if they are within six feet for longer than 10 minutes? **No. Design of the day takes care of that.** Our day is short – a half day with four minutes between classes, sitting in class mostly distanced. Are they congregating? **They are not socially distanced in the halls.**

- Leila: Fully remote kids are completely muted so others in class can't hear them. Any plan for you to hear them play? **Impossible to hear them all while rehearsing.** They hear the band, though. SmartMusic software is being used. They play to a recording, it scores them, and then we assess that. They are developing individual skills via the ensemble. It is actually more important that they hear us!
- Susan: Can you give a quick overview of the purpose for the Freshman Tea? **We give freshman parents an overview of what the music department offers, and we want to bring parents into the NHMA.** Typically held in late September, with performances by freshman members of choir and band. Refreshments are served and faculty members talk about music education, NHMA Officers talk about what they do and opportunities for volunteering. Can we do a virtual Freshmen Tea this year? **Katie volunteered to be the spokesperson for the event.** Mr. A and Mr. H. have recorded the marching band and will send it in. Freshman choir is not yet ready to perform, and there has been no opportunity to be fully together to record something. Maybe could compile a short video, introducing freshmen in a five-second blurb, with some sort of singing. This would not look like a traditional performance. The sooner we can do this the better, because we want to get families involved and connected. We will consider putting together a fully recorded video like what was done for the awards ceremony last spring and send it out to everyone. Each director could record some performances, or offer a PowerPoint presentation. Jen: Directors should encourage parents to watch it, sort of a requirement to have freshman watch it with parents. Karen volunteered to edit and put it together. Anytime in October would be great! Vince will send in Orchestra recording once completed. Margaret: Should we get some adults to do a commercial for it? "I went to the first concert and saw how great it was!" Can Karen put a membership link on the video to join the NHMA? Kids could get

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involved as well, by making a short promo video – “This is what the music department means to me” kind of thing.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Amy Belica

- Nothing to report yet!

Treasurer Report – Alexa Parliyan

- We received a bunch of memberships...up to 52. Well over half way to our goal!
- Are we doing the raffles? License already written for certain times and dates. Can't do it online or at any other time AND can't do it in person. There may be online licenses, but that will take 4-6 weeks to get them approved. ROI might not make this worth it. Only \$40 total for licenses. Jen T suggested an online auction and will look into doing that for us, although would still need another license. Dawn will look into that.
- Susan and Amy made \$274 from candy left over from last year. Amy took it to her office and sold it, and Susan's father sold what was left. Will send money to Alexa.
- **TOTAL ACCOUNTS BALANCE** as of October 1, 2020:

		<u>Set Asides</u>	
Checking	\$ 4,301.44	Newport Jazz Fest	\$ 1,222.20
PayPal	0.00	Silver Oak (Prism)	500.00
Gaming	820.44	Hunterdon Music (Prism)	250.00
Total	\$5,121.88		\$1,972.20

Total Actual Balance: \$3,149.68

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Fundraising Report – Dawn McGrew

- Mickman Brothers Holiday Wreaths
Disinclined to do any fundraisers that require physical interactions. Still have to pick up and distribute the product. Kinks need to be worked out. Don't want to pass out flyers in envelopes - still not safe. Not sure about this one!
- Clothing Drive
Saturday, December 5 from 10 am to 2 pm. Driver will be coming by between 2 and 3 pm to pick everything up. Need volunteers to help unload bags out of cars, pass out tax receipts, etc.
- Other Options
 - Can still do Pampered Chef, entirely online.
 - A direct appeal to all music families, such as we need money but don't want to sell you a bunch of crap!
 - Susan: Singing telegrams called "Musical Grams" involving the kids. Pay \$10-\$15 to hear kids recording a video message with playing or singing.
 - Margaret: Christmas carolers for hire. Pre-recorded audio files to mail to your recipients. Could offer for other celebrations as well, such as birthdays, Hannukah, Valentine's Day, etc. Could be instrumental or singing, or both. Alexa: we need to talk to the Directors first. Could do this after the Membership drive is over. Dawn will reach out to the Directors.

Membership Report – Jen Fasciano

- We are at 52. A few stragglers haven't paid.
- Want to send something to Maren to send out to everyone and hopefully gain more members. Put Jen's email on there. Susan will write it up and send off to Maren.

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Open/New Business – Susan Wallace

- Open Committee and Chairperson Positions for 2020/2021
 - **Newsletter**

Includes pictures, letter from directors, letter from NHMA President. Kathy Horsch did it for the last four years. Should wait until after Marching Band is done so that awards would be included. November or December is the best time frame so photos can get in as well. Check with Mike Ricketts for photos.

Upcoming Events – Susan Wallace

- Football game this Friday; keep your fingers crossed! Jen McC and Jen P will put together snack bags for third quarter. Jen P has a Walmart card and will get enough for one game. Nothing budgeted for that.

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

Next Meeting: **November 10, 2020**
 Via Zoom at 7:00 PM