Marshall High School

Choral Boosters Meeting Minutes

Sept 17, 2019

7:00 – 8:00pm

Participants:

1. Kelli Pierson, Director
2. Becky Foster, Choral Boosters President
3. Marie Windt
4. Nancy Reuscher, President-Elect, took the minutes
5. Stephanie Gillespie
6. Lindsey Perez
7. Piyuli Jain
8. Betsy Quint-Moran
9. Dawn Ebert
10. Jennifer Smyth Church
11. Tina Ejtemai
12. Jennifer Manise
13. Lauren Cryan, Choral Boosters Secretary

| **Topic** | **Presenter** | **Details and Decisions** |
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| Welcome, Agenda, Introductions | Becky Foster | This year’s Choral Boosters membership represents a diverse age range of students and choirs!  This year’s proposed budget was developed over the last month and shows how we intend to use the surplus from previous years. |
| Budget Overview | Kelli Pierson | Kelli and Becky reviewed the budget in detail. Dianne Gurdak (Booster Treasurer) was not available for this meeting.  Money for the budget comes from family donations, advertising, Broadway desserts, tickets, and concessions/flower grams.  Key Budget Expenses:   * **Spring Trip**: March 20-21 Spring trip to NY will cost approx. $450/person. The cost includes lodging, shows, workshop with a performer, and transportation. The Boosters will cover part of the cost for chaperones. * **Collegiate Acapella Group**: Bring in a collegiate acapella group or two to sing and answer questions. The intent is to help singers learn about how to continue singing in college even if they are not music majors. * **Drums**: Buy a Djembe and a Shaker to accompany choirs so they don’t have to borrow them. * **Kennedy Center Field Trip**: Provide a field trip to see a show at the Kennedy Center on December 11, 2019, Come From Away. This provides choir members with a chance to see a Broadway show. Boosters cover the student ticket cost ($25/a person) and busses. Kelli will ask interested students to fill out a commitment form that says they will go to the show (or pay the Boosters back for their ticket). * **Food for concerts**: Food before concerts is a nice option for tight schedules. This budget covers four concerts and 127 students, but we can reassess this line item later in the year. * **Clinician**: Bring in clinicians throughout the year to work with groups or sections. i.e., Michael Erlich will work this week with the Men’s Choir and Marshall Harmony. * **iPad**: Buy an iPad to use in class to record choirs, take attendance, upload practice tracks, show videos, store photos * **Leadership conference**: pay the fee for student leaders to attend a conference on how to lead their peers * **Professional development**: for Kelli to attend a conference (if Mr. Litz won’t cover the cost) * **Royalties**: for songs in the spring show. Will know more about the amount later once songs are chosen. * **Senior breakfast**: provide breakfast for Seniors on Choreography day * **Spring show**: biggest expense. Many moving parts and production elements for a 2-night show. * **Student fees**: cover uniform cleaning, fitting and alterations, so those line items are not in our budget this year. |
| Budget Approval | Vote | The Boosters unanimously approved the budget. |
| Future topics | Betsy Quint-Moran | Explore options for scholarships for seniors. Suggested we sponsor scholarships with the funds raised during Broadway desserts. We would need an application process and selection process – which could be modeled on what the Theatre Boosters do. Discuss at a later Choral Boosters meeting. |
| Director’s Report | Kelli Pierson | **Class update**: All classes are starting to have great rehearsals. There is a lot to do to get started in the first few weeks of school, including:   * Getting to know each other * Voicing choirs for tone, blend, vibrato * Uniforms * Elections * Rehearsals!   **Student Leadership**: Each choir elected leaders and social chairs to create ways for the choirs to get together outside class (once a month is ideal). In class, Kelli will have monthly leadership team meetings to check in and do event planning. Once a quarter, all leaders meet as the Choir Council to identify ways to minimize hierarchy and create unity.  **Sight reading**: Students have access to sight reading resources, including Sight Reading Factory accounts. This provides access to sight reading examples and exercises, organized by level and difficulty.  **Combining choirs**: in the Fall concert, the Men’s Choir will sing with the men from Marshall Harmony to give the men a chance to sing more. Same with the Treble Choir and MH women.  **Renaming Treble Choir and Men’s Choir**: to get away from gender specificity and foster pride. It would be nice to include the griffin mascot! Will announce the new names at the Fall concert.  **Acapella choir auditions**: Next week. Tuesday Sept 24 from 3:00-4:30. Students don’t have to re-audition if they are already in the choir.  **Alumni song**: Explore the idea of inviting alumni up on stage to sing with the choirs at the end of a concert. Winter concert would be the best option. This was a tradition that might be worth rekindling.  **Music Honor Society, Modern Music Masters (Tri M**): open to 10-12 graders who are singing in an auditioned ensemble and who want to increase their investment in choral arts. Interest meeting will be in October.  **Fall Concert Oct 16**: Choirs will wear their choir shirts (Jennifer designed them and they are beautiful!) and jeans. After the concert, the choirs will go have dessert while their parents stay in the auditorium to learn about the NY trip, Kennedy Center field trip and other auditions. |
| Volunteers needed | Becky Foster | We need volunteers in several areas:   * Uniform liaison * Ticket sales for the Spring show (Lindsey Perez volunteered) * Concert decorations (Tina volunteered to work on this)   Check out the Boosters website for opportunities.  Additional volunteers:   * Concessions – Tina * Flower and Candy grams – Dawn * Jennifer & Jessica – Graphic design, programs * Alli – Dine outs * Marie – Hospitality (especially feeding the kids) * Nancy – PTSA liaison |
| Adjourn | All | 8:00pm |