

GRMPA Annual Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2014
Meeting Minutes – Chorus Room at Glen Ridge High School

April Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Pat DeCelle to approve, and Torbin Winther seconded. All present approved.

President's Report – Linda Hall Winther

Review of the past year – Linda is very proud of all the work that was accomplished over the past year, starting with the review and updating of the GRMPA bylaws, the improvements of the concessions stand at Hurrell Field, the great Marching Band show, the fruit sale kick-off at the GR Train Station with the Marching Band & Color Guard greeting commuters on their way home, the Marching Band Dinner, the trip to Boston, the Summer Music Academy being spun off to Luanne Dragone, the Trumpets fundraiser, and having most of the Volunteer Chairs being filled. Overall, all the fundraisers did better this year than the prior two years or so.

President for next year is Paul Byrne. All important documents have been handed off in either “box file”, flash drive, or dropbox file format.

Music Director's Report – Kevin Lagos

Boston Trip – The trip was great. They had amazing clinics in which all the adjudicators were all very positively oriented and focused on how the students could become better musicians. They spent quite a bit of time at Quincy Market and the Aquarium.

Arts Festival – The two school Jazz Bands will be performing in the morning at the festival. They have done very well given that quite a few rehearsals were missed due to several factors.

Fall Sports Sign-up – Starts May 27th. The Marching Band will be graduating out 11 seniors and there are currently 15 8th graders. Marching Band needs to be talked up to this group – there are quite a few that are athletically-oriented and may decided to chose another sport over Marching Band.

Fall 2014 Marching Band Show – Tentatively called “This is the End” with endings from famous music pieces compiled together to create it. The show will draw from the more famous Glen Ridge shows such as Firebird, Beethoven's Ninth, the 1812 Overture, etc.

Rumor has it that a new person was in charge of US Bands last fall and changed a bunch of the items that most people found objectionable to be less so.

Going to the Independent circuit was certainly cheaper in terms of registration fees, as well as the benefit of having the shows closer to home. US Bands had more expensive fees to pay and the venues were further away.

Something that the school administration needs to be aware of is the timing of the hiring of a new Marching Band Director is important as well as the benefits of having the band director and marching band director being the same person.

It was suggested that some of the GRMPA officers and involved parents meet with Mr. Philips to let him know of these issues.

A potential problem that may arise two years from now is the strings program and that of parents paying for a salaried staff member to give instruction to string players.

Treasurer's Update – Diane Chirco

At this time, all bills have been paid. What is still to come in the next month are the Senior Scholarships and the Concert Band Dinner. There are five applicants for the scholarship.

Old Business

Concession Stand – Pat DeCelle

The repairs to the stand need to be done. He's been trying to get in contact with Lorraine Torralva of GRAA to get going on this. GRAA had committed in the fall to helping with the exterior work (repair of the roof and prepping and painting the siding). It was decided that by the next GRMPA meeting that a meeting between Pat and GRAA should happen in which a game plan/time line would be established as well as a materials list and dates for the work to occur on.

Jazz Band Coffee House – Beth Low

Beth was not present at the meeting, however much of the organization and volunteer work happens via email. Another email will be sent out closer to the date (May 22nd).

New Business – Linda Hall Winther

Election of 2014-15 GRMPA Officers

Each May meeting of GRMPA, there is the changeover of elected officers for the next year.

The elected officers are: Paul Byrne for President, Kris Ramanathan for Vice President, Diane Chirco for Treasurer, and Ann Leccese for Secretary.

Motion was made by Sharon Smolen to approve. Motion seconded by both Pat DeCelle and Chris Smeets. All present agreed and the motion was carried.

Scholarships – Paul Byrne

All the applications were due to Mr. Lagos by May 2nd. A meeting will be held with all the newly elected officers to discuss the applications and the scholarship fund. The scholarship(s) (check and certificate) will be presented at an awards assembly held on June 6th.

Filling of Volunteer Leads for 2014/15 – Paul Byrne

Paul will pass this item off until the June meeting.

Concert Band/Chorus Dinner (June 3rd) – Linda Hall Winther

Linda has been in contact with Fitzgerald's about the dinner. Overall cost is \$2,000. The cost per person is \$26 and usually held outside at Fitzgerald's. If the weather is iffy or raining, the Ridgewood Ave School cafeteria can be set up as a back-up. It needs to be confirmed that if it's held off-premise that staff has been allocated and included in the price per person. Use of the cafeteria would also need to be arranged with Mr. Donovan in advance of the date.

New Parents' Meeting – Paul Byrne

A thought was to have the new parents' meeting prior to the May 27th fall sign-up date. That may be too soon to get going. A date will be set by Paul and sent to the appropriate people to get the word out and on the calendar.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 22, 7pm – Jazz Band Coffee House – GRHS Cafeteria

May 26th, 11:00am – Glen Ridge Marching Band performing in the GR Memorial Day Parade

June 3rd, 6:30pm – Concert Band, Chorus, and Madrigal Concert at RAS with dinner following for the performers