

GRMPA
Monday, June 8, 2015
Meeting Minutes – Chorus Room

The meeting was called to order, but consisted of only 9 members plus the music director, so no matters were submitted for a vote.

President's Report - Kris Ramanathan

End-of-year Concert and Dinner

The high school concert was amazing. The dinner was wonderful too. Kris will go by Fitzgerald's to thank Paul Brewster and Dave Fitzgerald for making the Sidecar available (thanks to Paul Byrne). It was great of them to support GRMPA in this way, and was a fantastic way to close out the season.

GRMPA Scholarships

The GRMPA scholarships were presented at the Academic Awards assembly. It was sad not to be able to provide scholarships to all of the applicants, but there were so many talented applicants this year, which made the decisions really difficult.

Concession Stand -- Pat DeCelie.

Brad Bushue has spare baseboard trim he will be providing. The quote for repairing the roof and leaders is \$3950 (\$3200 plus \$750). It will require one-month lead time for the repair, so we'll need to keep this mind as we get closer to the season. Paul Byrne and Anthony Turiano have paper copies of the quote. There are some beverages remaining (some of which may be expired when the season begins -- we will need to check when we reopen).

Treasurer's Note - Yvonne (and Gary) Provost.

Cash on hand \$36,778.15. We haven't yet paid for the year-end dinner. Pat Decelie has been reimbursed for the concession stand repairs but not yet cashed his check (in the amount of \$68.34), nor have the scholarship checks (totaling \$4500) been cashed yet. Kris Ramanathan also still needs to submit the invoices for the \$175 gift card. We will need to confirm that we are left with the required minimum in the account to avoid fees. The bank accounts and Paypal account are now in full control of the Treasurer. (All passwords have been changed.) The full-year Treasurer's report will be made available in September. Tax filings are based on the calendar year. Reports are done on school-year basis (July-June), but fiscal year is calendar year.

NEW BUSINESS

New Musical Director

We all welcomed Dr. Gage to his first GRMPA meeting as the new Musical Director. Kris Ramanathan shared how excited the students are the Dr. Gage will be the new leader of the marching band. Dr. Gage said how honored he is to be part of GR and the band program, and to be joining the GRMPA meetings. He mentioned that he was a member of the GRHS Marching Band himself, and his mother was president of GRMPA for many years. Lisa

Lauterbach asked what he will be doing with the Middle School students. Dr. Gage stated that regrettably he does not yet know what his teaching schedule will be. Dr. Gage would really like to combine the concert band classes into one. He is discussing this with Mr. Phillips. The same problem exists with the 7th and 8th grade band, and Dr. Gage is working on this as well (although it may take a year or two before that can be rearranged). Dr. Gage mentioned that Jessica Cino is coming back this fall and he doesn't know if she expects to have the same slots as before. Since it is not yet clear how many music classes overall there will be, he doesn't yet know which periods will be what, but he definitely wants to teach a Music Theory class and would love to expand to AP Music Theory, Advanced Musicology, Film Music -- all classes within his expertise. There also is the issue that there are more and more strings players coming out of RAUES, but there is no string program at GRHS. Dr. Gage will be working with Mr. Phillips on all of these points over the coming months and years.

Marching Band Signups

Marching band signups went very well and continue to go very well. There is a 10 person Color Guard at this point, and they have already begun to practice. Dr. Gage thinks that we may end up well into Group 2 in size, which could make a big difference for the competitions.

We want to make an extra effort to welcome the rookie parents. Kris Ramanathan mentioned that Trisha Turiano has offered to host a new parents' cocktail reception at her home. Kris will check with Trisha on her availability. One suggestion was the Friday before Band Camp begins on 8/31. Dr. Gage will plan to come by to meet the new parents. Dr. Gage offered another suggestion, which is to have a new parents' meeting [at 7:30](#) on one of the evenings when the students are done at 9 ([Wednesday evening](#), maybe) and have them see the end of the rehearsal as a bit of preview. This would be in addition to the usual camp-end preview. Lisa Lauterbach said that we should invite the parents of this year's seniors to the year-end preview, since they will know so many of the students.

Marching Band Show for 2015

Dr. Gage shared that the show this year will be based on Buddy Rich's West Side Story, which is a big band version of the show. Since there is no studio recording, Dr. Gage has transcribed the score from the live recordings he has. For the third part, he has made his own arrangement of the mambo number. He also shared some preliminary ideas on props (e.g., a movable fence/wall, in order to highlight the walls that arise between the two different groups and the tragedy that those barriers can lead to). In the mambo number, they could break through the fence to demonstrate the elimination of the barriers. Dr. Gage played us a 3-minute clip of the prologue. He has already written the music for half of the show. There will be solos for the saxophone (alto or tenor), percussion and brass, for which he hopes to run auditions before the school year ends. The band classes have already begun to work on this material. Dr. Gage hopes to give the students all of the music before school is out. Dr. Gage is designing the drill (because Ron Frech is very eager to pass the torch on this -- but he has promised to come back and provide his feedback and input to Dr. Gage). Dr. Gage pointed out that since he is arranging the music, the drill design and music arrangement has become a very organic process, where each part informs the other.

Liability Insurance – Kris Ramanathan

The woman from Whitney Roddy has come back and stated that only the HSA will be covered by the school's umbrella policy going forward, so all of the other associations, including GRMPA, will need to obtain their own insurance. Kris has received the application form and will work through it. Dr. Gage stated that his agent at Whitney Roddy (Martha Falheimer) has been extremely helpful in identifying the best, most economical coverage for his not-for-profit organization. She is in fact our agent as well. We will need to work on this issue. We will try to cover the Performing Arts Academy as well.

Summer Academy

There will be a camp -- there have been enough applicants -- but no strings at this point. Mr. Lagos has mentioned in the past that there are always last-minute applicants, so maybe that will change. The director of the Summer Academy has also indicated that there will be scholarship money available (from profits for the camp), so we should pass that information on to students who are interested but would need scholarship assistance.

GRMPA website – Kris Ramanathan

Ali Umana will continue to manage the website. We are looking into using different software to make it more user-friendly.

Volunteers

Kris Ramanathan stated that we are still looking for some volunteers -- most notably a props master. Kris proposed sending out an email asking for volunteers. If that doesn't work then we'll reach out to select individuals.

Project Oompahpah is the group that has bought needed equipment. I asked Dr. Gage if there is anything we need for this year's show. He stated that there is nothing needed for this show at this point. One issue we will need to wrestle with, however, is how to power the show at the fields that don't have an outlet at the back of the field (such as using a battery inverter, for example).

The videographer will be Osvaldo Umana, we believe. Gary Provost asked if Dr. Gage would like a video of each show on the following Monday and Dr. Gage said that that would be really great.

Dr. Gage mentioned that the band is already signed up for all of the competitions. Last year there were 5 home football games and 5 competitions. This year there will be only 4 home football games, so Dr. Gage added a 6th competition. Two will be local "independent" shows (Verona and Bloomfield, because it's good for recruitment to have nearby competitions and it's nice to support our neighboring towns) and the other 4 are US Bands shows (including the NJ competition and the National competition in Allentown). He will send the tentative schedule to Kris Ramanathan.

Yvonne Provost requested a switch of the meeting dates away from Mondays. Dr. Gage suggested Wednesdays. We will look over the calendar and Kris Ramanathan will send out an email message to see if that will work for people. It was suggested, and Kris agreed, to send the meeting invitation out as a Calendar item.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anke Kramer Dombrowski
GRMPA Secretary