

# GVMMPA

## Minutes of the Meeting – September 28, 2021

1. Approval of August minutes—The minutes were approved.
2. Reports from Officers and Representatives
  1. President report – Danielle Werkeiser—Absent tonight. Meeting ably hosted by GVMMPA VP Laura House-Kelly
    1. Great to see everyone at recent football games and parades
    2. Mums fundraiser flawlessly executed last weekend!
    3. Marching Band show this year is very strong.
    4. Drama Guild is in full swing—rehearsals for The Tempest have started; see the production in November!
    5. At long last—Designer Bag Bingo WILL BE PLAYED on Friday April 1, 2022! No fools!
  2. Student officer reports — Michaela Tseng / Samantha Horvath / Logan Madden / Maya Leibowitz
    1. Chorus—Samantha is the President of the choir—Samantha reported that the Chambers and Chorale have had a few social hang outs which have been great to bring the ensembles together. The Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Concert Choir are working well on their music. Sam listed some impressive example pieces a little too fast for this scribe to capture, but can't wait to hear the singing musicians together in-person again.
    2. Band—Logan just learned that he's President of Instrumental Student Council! Congratulations Logan! The concert band is working on several warm ups and on one piece in particular to use in interviews with finalists competing to become the new HS Instrumental Music Director.
    3. Orchestra—Maya is the President of the orchestra. The students have settled into the instruments and seating and are learning warm ups. They are enjoying This is Halloween and Three English Carols.
    4. Marching Band—Michaela is one of the Drum Majors of the Marching Patriots—She reported on the fantastic performance and increase in scores at the parade last Friday. This week the Marching Patriots will perform at the homecoming football game against Penn Wood and as the pep band throughout the game (and undoubtedly applauding fellow Marching Patriots Mollie Goldman and Sophia Nikas on the Homecoming Senior and Junior Courts, respectively).
  3. Treasurer's report – Alex Nikas
    1. Launched fall donation appeal—got tremendous response. GVMMPA has received about \$7,500 in donations from the appeal.
    2. GVMMPA has netted so far approximately \$6100 by selling concessions at the shack. VOLUNTEERS needed on Friday—the Homecoming game will be jammed with patrons needing immediate fries and ring pops!
    3. The Association has made several smaller purchases for band
    4. GVMMPA has received a request from music teacher Paige Seaton to facilitate T-shirts purchase for the elementary school choir, which GVMMPA will do.
    5. The treasurer's report was moved for approval and so Approved
  4. Financial Secretary report – Tom Detulleo
    1. Mum fundraiser unbelievably well organized and flawlessly executed. 36 students made a total of about \$2k. Ella Koup, Madison Jones, AJ Cooke led sales.
    2. Next fundraisers for students to build their music accounts: Poinsettia sale starting shortly, combined with coffee sale—GVMMPA will purchase GVMusic mugs to provide a coffee/mug holiday bundle.

5. HS Choir Director report – Ashley Vogel
    1. PMEA—mandatory pre-auditions for Chambers on October 13. Only 4 students per school may audition for district Chorus as soprano, alto or bass; 6 students may audition for tenors. Audition window for students is November 3 to 9. In response to questions, Mrs Vogel advised that a recording in a bathroom or stairwell can optimize acoustics for an audition video. Some students record with a Zoom Recorder, which can also enhance a voice (and set Mom and Dad back about \$120+).
    2. Different from past years, Chambers is not an in-school class and only meets on Wednesday nights. The period when chambers used to have class is being used to expand in-school rehearsal time for the Chorale, which is great for that ensemble.
    3. Upcoming events—performance at the Desmond, Christmas on King, starting to plan an event with middle school choir, and performances at the elementary schools.
    4. Socializing among the ensemble members is very important after isolation of last year. Student singers are very engaged. The ensembles are working on Dan Forrest’s “Shalom” and “Tundra” by Ola Gjeilo, which Mrs. Vogel reported to be Alto Section Leader Mollie Goldman’s favorite piece.
    5. Social distancing protocols require that the chorale meets in the auditorium but it’s a tight space with the Drama Guild equipment on the stage.
  6. HS Instrumental Director report – Sean Cohen
    1. The momentum has started now that the groups are past the orientation stage of the new school year—seating, music distribution etc. This is Halloween, Sir Duke (excellent!), Mars. Great music.
    2. The Marching Patriots performed fantastically at the Cavalcade at Ridley HS last Friday. The team is very proud of the band.
    3. Despite strict observance of COVID protocols, it feels like the student musicians on school are really engaged.
    4. PMEA auditions coming soon. Virtual auditions to be submitted between November 3-9. The concerts will be a “commuter event”—no overnights.
    5. PMEA audition advice—find a space with good acoustics for video auditions.
  7. MS Instrumental report – Adam Search—
    1. Choir, orchestra, and band at the middle school are moving along well. Orchestra student musician numbers are high. Working on building more participation for band, especially for 7th grade, which is depleted due to pandemic year when the students were in 6th grade and new to the middle school. Strong 8th grade band members are starting to inspire the underclass middle school musicians.
    2. Jazz band will be rehearsed during 8th period, not before school. Every student who wants to be in jazz band can be in it. Yay!
    3. Discussion of HS/MS mentorship and the idea of HS musicians visiting the elementary schools. Mr. Search Indicated that the teachers just don’t know if students from one school can come into other schools under current circumstances.
  8. Elementary Instrumental Report – Will Shafer—not in attendance.
3. Unfinished Business—None. We’ve been keeping up with the business.
  4. New Business
    1. HS Instrumental Music Director backfill—Members of the GVMPA board met with High School upper management this week to discuss the matter. GVMPA Treasurer Alex summarized the points made: 1. GVMPA wants to support the administration in the effort and didn’t request the meeting to “make trouble.” 2. GVHS is about to hire its 5th instrumental music director in 10 years—a

concerning rate of turnover. 3. Previous administrative experience at the secondary level will help the selected candidate greatly. 4. Impact of long commute. GVMPA suggests explicit notice to candidates about long, long hours. 5. GVMPA requested that the administration cooperate with Mr Cohen if he wants to volunteer time to support the end of Marching Band season. 6. PMEA—the HS needs a person to assign to receive results and facilitate student musician participation in district and regional band festivals. 7. The job as band director and orchestra director is too taxing for one person. GVMPA advocated for an EDR for a part-time employee to direct orchestra rehearsals scheduled outside regular school day hours. In addition, Principal Capetola asked our opinion about in-person concerts. She expressed some concern, especially about choir students standing close to each other. We said that we weren't concerned for our safety at concerts, nor for the student performers who we expect will be wearing their masks.

2. In-person concerts—The Association discussed and universally decided that it is time for the students to be able to perform in front of an audience again. We decided to send a note to Principal Capetola with some thoughts/ideas—
  1. Consider distributing free concert tickets, perhaps 2 per student, to restrict numbers in attendance to allow for audience separation. Ticket face could indicate that it is the GVSD policy that masks are mandatory inside schools.
  2. Music teachers Could indicate how COVID protocols will be observed—students wearing masks, separated as best as possible, etc.
  3. Students really need to start performing again. It's hurting the student musicians to be restricted to making videos in isolation. (It's hard for parents too)
  4. Provide a live stream of concerts for family and friends who want to see the live concert but who couldn't get a ticket or who want to stay at home.
  5. Provide that participation in concerts is NOT mandatory for student's class grade if the reason for non-participation is related to COVID-19.

## 5. Committee Reports / Planning

1. Annual Appeal—now is the time to get your name on the trailer!
2. Shack—homecoming and senior night immediately upcoming. Especially need volunteers to help cover for parents of seniors on senior night. (It is tradition for seniors to present their parents with a bouquet of thanks during half-time, so those parents can't be selling fries right then.) Nov 11 is the date for "shack attack 2.0." Revenue good, but slightly down from 2019. Senior tailgating could be cutting into the shack profit margin. Some issues with making and receiving orders for supplies at the shack—pandemic woes. Fewer supplies. Shack season likely ending on Oct 22.
3. Marching Band Banquet—Nov 21– Downingtown country club. Need help with planning. (Please oh please help us!)
4. Volunteers—good for shack but need more chaperones for away games (and help with the band banquet).

## 6. Upcoming Events

1. October 1 – HOMECOMING (home game vs. Penn Wood)
2. October 8 – Away game vs. Oxford
3. October 15 – Away game vs. Kennett
4. October 16 – Cavalcade Competition @ Upper Moreland
5. October 22 – SENIOR NIGHT (home game vs. Rustin)
6. October 29 – Away game vs. Unionville
7. October 30 – Cavalcade Competition @ Phoenixville
8. October 31 – Malvern Halloween Parade
9. November 3-9 — Submission of virtual auditions for PMEA District 12 ensembles

10. November 6 — Cavalcade Competition @ Conestoga

7. Adjournment—the meeting was adjourned in accordance with procedures of the bylaws of the Association.