

GVMMPA

Meeting Minutes– October 26, 2021

1. Approval of September minutes—moved and approved
2. Reports from Officers and Representatives
 1. President report – Danielle Werkeiser—
 1. Band Banquet—November 21—at Downingtown Country Club. Danielle summarized the activities of the banquet—eat a delightful brunch; present gifts to each band member, band staff, and the band director; special presentations by Mr. Cohen for seniors. Mr Cohen and Mr Siwa are both invited.
 2. Combined Jr/Sr Prom on May 17. GVMMPA will host a coffee house karaoke room. (Or, if this scribe has her way, a coffeehouse with smooth jazz ambiance, tea, coffee and biscotti.)
 3. Great to see new regular faces at the GVHS Stadium Shack on Friday! Hooray!!
 4. Shack Candy sales postmortem. Kids at football games go crazy for ring pops. We should raise the price to \$1.
 5. It was a great season at the Shack for GVMMPA —very satisfying to see plenty of volunteers with operations running quickly and smoothly.
 6. Shack attack—November 11.
 7. New grilling and fry surface needed so The Fry Guys (magical alumni volunteers) will rebuild. Thanks!
 8. Volunteers needed for exciting upcoming activities. Like Designer Bag Bingo! Come out and help!
 9. GVMMPA Executive Board is in need of replacements at the end of this year—Three members are seniors of parents of seniors 😊. It's time for parents of younger musicians to join. (It's fun!)
 10. Come to Phoenixville cavalcade on Saturday at 7:30 pm and Conestoga cavalcade the following Saturday. The Marching Band has a good show this year! Very competitive!
 2. Student officer reports - Mollie Goldman / Michaela Tseng / Samantha Horvath / Logan Madden / Maya Leibowitz
 1. Logan Madden ISC President
 1. Students are discussing how to the ensembles active while waiting for Mr Siwa to start his job as the new instrumental music director of GVHS. The students have productive, supportive ideas.
 2. Starbucks fundraiser—Tom DeTulleo offered to help the student organizers.
 3. Aditya wants to start a project to mentor middle school students, but Mr Search says moving students from one campus to the other is still being considered by the administration, so that great idea is on hold.
 2. Elana Pikounis, VP of the Choir
 1. Elana summarized the blind audition process for the Chamber singers to compete for a slot to audition on behalf of Great Valley for PMEA District Chorus in November. The students with the highest scores for each voice part were also selected to sing in quartet for the Chamber Singers performance of the Pentatonix version of White Christmas at the Winter Concert (probably on December 17).
 2. Elana told us about a concert piece for the Winter Concert with lyrics in Hebrew, which is proving challenging. (Advice from this scribe—only pronounce the vowels!)
 3. The choral ensembles have had some outings to bring student singers together. The Chamber Singers would like to re-instate Friendsgiving—a dinner during the Thanksgiving

- weekend—while observing covid protocols.
4. New Choir Position—Public Relations Coordinator—Josh Milani! Josh is working to bring the choir into the community. Idea: Quartets to sing national anthem at GV sports events and attend MS choir concerts to encourage them. (Idea from this scribe—quartets could sing at retirement communities—and earn public service line times for college applications!)
 3. Maya Leibowitz President of the Orchestra.
 1. Maya applauded Mr Cohen for encouraging students to maximize positive “intangibles” in their lives and relationships. Mr Cohen will often start rehearsals with a positive goal term, e.g, honesty, and encourages the student musician to figure out how the student can incorporate into their lives. The orchestra musicians have been inspired.
 2. Starbucks fundraiser. The orchestra students are also participating in the fundraiser (which is also a fun-raiser!)
 3. Group activities will help build camaraderie before the new director starts.
 4. Michaela Tseng and Mollie Goldman, Drum Majors of the Marching Band. This meeting will likely be the last for Michaela and Molls since the season will be finishing up in November.
 1. The bulk of work on the cavalcade competitive marching band show is done. The band is “cleaning” the show—fine tuning.
 2. Continuing growth of program, and growth of the band together as a unit.
 3. Mr. Cohen is going to see the Marching Band through to the end of the season. Very generous!
 3. Treasurer's report – Alex Nikas
 1. Last operation of shack concession stand for this season was last Friday. In total about \$13,000 profit to fund GVMPA! Fantastic!
 2. Spent less money than budgeted on some items—Marching band under budget—got show props for a great price. Marching Band Banquet caterer and band gifts still needed to be purchased.
 3. Elementary choir—GVMPA bought the t-shirts for the choir! So great to have the opportunity to support the elementary music students.
 4. The treasurers report was approved by the association.
 4. Financial Secretary report – Tom Detulleo
 1. Coffee fundraiser running until Dec 8. Fashionable and practical GV Music mugs arrive soon. Great holiday gift bundle. (And the mugs are deep blue—nice at Hanukkah and all year round!!)
 2. Poinsettia sale starting November 8 through November 22; pick up will be on Dec 4.
 3. Wawa coupons always available for fundraising by students—with Tom wherever he is!
 4. **New Music Parents Note—GVMPA-sponsored fundraisers are for the financial benefit of your student to be able to earn money, which is put into their personal student, held by GVMPA, which can be used for any music purpose—school music trips, music lessons, buy a new instrument! GVMPA makes no money from student fundraisers.**
 5. HS Choir Director report – Ashley Vogel—not in attendance. Elana made the choir presentation. Mrs Vogel also sent Danielle a list to read. (1) Choir and band concert has been separated, moving band concert to January to allow Mr Siwa to work with the band. (2) Mrs. Vogel will check in with band and orchestra students after Mr Cohen departs to make sure all is running smoothly.
 6. HS Instrumental Director report – Sean Cohen—
 1. GVSD posted an advertisement on October 20 for a long-term instrumental music substitute.
 2. This is Mr. Cohen’s last week at GVHS. 😞
 3. Mr Cohen wants to be and stay in connection with the long-term sub and Mr. Siwa to smooth the transition and support them in any way he can.
 4. Intangible skills—generosity, pride, trustworthiness, etc. Mr. Cohen told the group about his classroom practice of focusing for a few minutes on “intangibles” for each student to consider to become a better student, person, team, etc. Mr. Cohen wants to help the students become the best people they can be. (Just another reason why we will miss Mr. Cohen.)

5. Mr Cohen gave a great thank you to all of the parents—He has been awed and humbled by such support from all of the parents through his time at GVHS. He feels he’s grown more in the past three and a half years than at any other time in his life, and he is very grateful. He says he will miss us (back at you, Mr Cohen!)
 6. The new director is Alex Siwa. Mr Cohen told us that Mr Siwa is a very good musician and was the drum major of his own marching band in High School. He is the current Instrumental Music Director at Upper Darby High School. Mr Siwa lives nearby in Exton!
 7. Rock band class is great—e.g., Canon in D mashed with Hotel California. fab!
 8. Mr. Cohen is setting up Indoor Percussion for winter.
 7. MS Instrumental report – Adam Search
 1. Jazz band ready to go. Waiting for the books.
 2. Mr Search as a couple of candidates in mind for the long-term sub for Mr Cohen. Great!
 8. Elementary Instrumental Report – Will Shafer—Mr Shafer wasn’t present but told Danielle that 4th grade numbers up to pre-covid levels. Great news.
3. Unfinished Business—not mentioned at this meeting, but let it be documented here that the GVMPPA Secretary owes a draft email to the junior soccer boosters about the status of the shack last weekend, and a far more positive draft email for the HS principal summarizing the thoughts of the Association about attending concerts in person, as discussed at the September meeting.
 4. New Business—reported above.
 1. Fundraisers
 1. Coffee
 2. Poinsettia
 2. After Prom
 5. Committee Reports / Planning—discussed in line items above.
 1. Shack
 2. Marching Band Banquet
 3. Volunteers / Board
 6. Upcoming Events
 1. October 29 – Away game vs. Unionville
 2. October 30 – Cavalcade Competition @ Phoenixville at 7:30 pm!
 3. October 31 – Malvern Halloween Parade
 4. November 6 – Cavalcade Competition @ Conestoga
 5. November 11 – Shack Clean-up
 6. November 13 – Cavalcade Championships @ Hershey
 7. November 18- 20 – Drama Guild Production of *The Tempest*
 8. November 21 – Marching Band Banquet
 7. Adjournment— moved and approved!