GVMPA Town Hall Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
April 30, 2020

1. Welcome—Tom DeTulleo, 2019-2020 President of GVMPA

a. Welcome to new/first time attendees. Tom explained the GVMPA mission – advocacy, service and support or music students of GVSD. Please join meetings and learn how you

b. Bylaws for GVMPA, a 503c organization, state that we hold a general meeting in April, so this is it! Call the meeting to order! Approve Minutes of the December Meeting—moved and approved by the Association.

c. COVID-19 social distancing impact on GVMPA activities--On April 1, we sent a COVID-impact letter to Association on how GVMPA is adjusting. Bingo, Raffle - $10K – hope to reschedule Bingo in the fall. We're OK…not great…but OK. Limited spending to essential items, only those which are already contracted.

d. Scholarships. GVMPA has budgeted for three scholarship awards of $1000; fabulous participation with 19 Senior applicants! The highest number of applicants ever! The applications are in review now. GVMPA will do a video presentation of each award and send it into GVHS for inclusion (time permitting) in anticipated virtual award ceremony.

e. GVMPA Executive Board—Proposed 2020-2021 Year, presented in last week's GVMPA newsletter.

President - Danielle Werkheiser
Vice President – Laura House-Kelly
Treasurer – Alex Nikas
Secretary – Suzanne Parent Goldman
Financial Secretary – Matthew White
Member At-Large – Tom DeTulleo
Member-at-Large – OPENING! Maybe YOU! Election at May meeting

f. Virtual ensembles—the silver lining of COVID-19 pandemic. As much as we miss being together and enjoying our students in music concerts, quite a few students have come together through classes or on their own to produce virtual music ensemble videos. Check out the videos through links on the GVMPA.org website!

2. Sean Cohen, Instrumental Music Director, GVHS, who thanked all of us for joining together to night in the spirit of community.

a. Mrs Vogel gave birth to a son, Brooks, on April 24! Ashley, Chris, Reece and Brooks are doing great at home.

b. Sarah Yoon successfully auditioned for All-State Orchestra. Congratulations to her! Waiting for All-state band results next week.

c. Presentation of virtual technology/software to help music students grown as musicians. Mr. Cohen sends the music; the software records the student playing and Mr. Cohen provides critique.

d. Virtual ensembles—Mr. Cohen shared a jazz ensemble song, Song for my Father, performed by a subset of the GVHS Jazz Ensemble. Fab! Students play along to a backing track and then the performances are edited together.

e. Special project—Symphony Orchestra is working on a virtual ensemble of a SURPRISE seasonal performance to accompany a virtual graduation event.

f. Marching Patriots 2021—Music is selected; meeting last night with 26 student musicians about leadership positions in next summer/fall marching band. Applications due on MAY 17. Mr. Cohen is currently planning to proceed with band camp as if there are no obstacles to attain the highest goal.

g. Instruments in the school—students and parents cannot enter the school. Mr. Cohen is working on a system for a curbside pickup over the next week or two.

h. Honoring the Senior Class Musicians—Mr. Cohen is planning a virtual event in late May to acknowledge the achievements and leadership of the Senior Class musicians.

i. Thank you for supporting your students in the GV music programs!

3. Address by Rachel Schuck, who has been substituting for Ashley Vogel as GVHS Choral Music Director while Ashley is on maternity leave. Ms. Schuck summarized her academic background and experience in music education. She is enjoying the choral music students, and as a GV grad, it feels like a homecoming even if classes are at a distance. The choral students are working on some projects for graduation and a special Senior song.

4. Address by Adam Search, Band Director of GVMS. Mr. Search misses seeing the students; happy to be able to chat with some students who "stay" in virtual classroom after class. Very excited about 5th graders moving to the MS.

a. Distance learning going well. General music classes plus band/performance ensembles. Like the HS, the MS music department is working with technology (noteflight) to engage students in music from home. GVMS band jointly working with HS on Star Spangled Banner project. Students must submit their recordings by MAY 15! Mr. Search invites GVHS alumni and parents who play instruments to participate.

b. Mr. Cellini—equally engaging orchestra music students with online technology.

c. Mrs. Byrne—is starting to prepare for choir next year—joining students from all 4 elementary schools.

5. Questions from the Association—

a. For Mr search--Take 5 is a favorite candy bar (and Brubeck's too, no doubt); what's the favorite ice cream? Mint choc chip.

b. For Mr Cohen and all—How to return formal wear? Hoping to work out a system to drop off the formalwear before the end of the school year. The entire school has similar needs—dropping off textbooks, etc. Solution will come soon; stay watching for communication.

6. Wrap Up—Tom DeTulleo—outgoing President of GVMPA

a. Please visit GVMPA.org for phenomenal videos of GVHS virtual ensemble performances.

b. Senior parents—Claiming fundraising funds earned by your students and held by GVMPA for use for any music purpose—See important information emails from Mr. Cohen and Ms. Schuck. It's your student's money!

c. Perpetual Plaque Project—Tom explained that the Board wisely moved the project to a music student team to research and purchase (with GVMPA funding) plaques to memorialize award winners in the GVHS music department forever! A project that has lingered for several years with the Board, for lack of time (but not of heart). Special thanks to Senior Katelyn DePaula who spearheaded the project with the team. Plaques could be available from the provider in about a week!! Hallelujah!

d. A few words from Katelyn DePaula, Student Instrumental Music representative to GVMPA—Katelyn reports that smart music is excellent and very satisfying. She's also enjoyed participating in

several choral virtual pieces. (See them on GVMPA.org!) Congratulations to Katelyn who will attend University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

e. Tom concluded the meeting--Thanks very much for joining the meeting. It has gone well and maybe we'll use a virtual meeting sometime in the future just because it's great to meet from home, even if we don't have to! "See" you all next month!

7. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.