



Monday September 19, 2022 • 7pm • Senior High School Chorus Room

Minutes 9/19/22

1. **Call to Order: 7:00 pm**

In attendance: Donna Watts, Jenny Hamson, Anna Markowitz, Scott Cannan, Diane McBride, Pamela Ficarra, Teresa Connors, Karen Arbagast, Su Syouthoum

2. **Welcome & Introductions: Jenny Hamson, President**

Approved minutes from previous meeting, 6/13/22

Motion to approve by Teresa Connors, seconded by Pam Ficarra

3. **Director's Report: Donna Watts**

a. Intermediate school lessons began this week for 5th and 6th grades. Fourth grade ensembles begin in mid October.

b. Last year the band, chorus, and orchestra teachers actively conducted outreach between levels and within the band, chorus, and orchestra teams to encourage continued participation, especially as students move from building to building.

c. So far this year fourth grade enrollment at one of our elementary schools is currently 70%, which means that 70% of that grade level has chosen to participate in the before-school music program at that building. This is good progress in the post-pandemic year and we are thrilled to welcome these new students to the program!

d. This year the JHS and SHS have 25 students who were selected to participate in the NYSSMA Area All State Festivals that are held in November. RH also had 4 students selected and 2 alternates selected to represent RH in the winter Conference All State Ensembles in December.

e. There will not be an in-person Beginning Instrumental Parent meeting this year. If there is information that RHMPA would like teachers to share with their parents, please reach out directly to them or contact Donna for assistance.

4. **BOE Updates: Diane McBride, Board of Education President**

a. Superintendent search has begun, "Executive Style" (anonymous to public to protect candidates until finalists are announced). Information will be going out in English and the top 4 alternative languages spoken by RH families. Hoping for a deep pool of candidates to choose from so the best match for the district can be made. Hope to have a final candidate announced by the end of December/early January to allow 90 days' notice to be given to their current employer.

- b. BOE members will be undergoing “Implicit Bias” training before Superintendent interviews begin, in keeping with our District priorities.
- c. A parent survey will be coming out soon to give the community the opportunity to share feedback regarding issues that are specifically important to them. *Diane emphasized that this is an excellent opportunity for district Music Parents to share their hopes and concerns with the BOE and future candidates.*

5. Treasurer’s Report: Pam Ficarra

Current balance: **\$3,019.41**

- 6. **Potential Organizational Name Change:** Discussed changing from Rush-Henrietta Music Parents Association to RH Music Parents or RH Music Boosters to put us on par with the incredibly influential RH Sports Boosters. Everyone agreed that “Rush-Henrietta Music Parents Association” was a fine name, but too many syllables for everyday use. Agreement that the “RHMPA” acronym is undesirable as a business name for use on the school calendar (uninformative and slightly lewd sounding). Scott Cannan felt strongly that from an advocacy perspective it was important to keep “Parents” in the title, and also felt “Boosters” didn’t convey the weight needed at BOE events. It was agreed to keep the full name as is (Rush-Henrietta Music Parents Association), but shorten to “RH Music Parents” for calendar and common use, avoiding use of “RHMPA” acronym whenever possible.

7. SHS Auditorium Update: Diane Mc Bride

Gave a brief update on the SHS Auditorium committee process: Due to the amount of work to be done to bring our facilities up to current HS performing arts center standards, this may well mean the BOE has to take out a bond, face a lengthy process of approval, and be years before completion. Planning to address immediate safety concerns first, and take the committee on tour of area auditoriums and stages, so they can see what is common now vs when our building was built, to see what is truly required. Diane expressed her passion for the performing arts and as our BOE-RH Music Parent Representative is helping to facilitate the process. We discussed the importance of intergenerational support for RH Music programs, embracing local seniors who love musicals and concerts, knowing that their community support when the time comes to vote on auditorium expenses will be crucial.

8. Upcoming Events: Jenny Hamson

- a. Doing SpiritWear Sale again, hopefully with a November coupon code from SquadLocker. Scott Cannan recommended that we not enter an end date when registering to keep the fundraiser open all year.
<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/rush-henrietta-music-parents-association>
 - b. There are **16 winter concerts this year** between Nov 16 - Feb 9! Volunteers will be needed. Planning to sell RH Music Parents swag at each event (wooden roses, stick balloons, stickers, decals, buttons, candy, and potentially earrings as well).
 - c. Restaurant nights approved, dates TBD (Panera in October, Chick-Fil-A in December). Discussed an ice cream fundraiser(s) after Spring concerts and/or musical - DQ, Creamcredible, Yolickity, and Happy Days all enthusiastically considered.
9. **Previous Summer Grant recipients:** positive feedback received, great quotes to share.
We have two students willing to perform on piano at our November 7th meeting!

10. **Survey for Music Teachers:** Looking for ways RH Music Parents may be helpful to out music programming beyond simply providing music-related summer scholarships for students. Hoping teacher survey will uncover ideas from teachers with “inside info”. Scott Cannan recommended covering NYSSMA Solo Fest fees for needy students (costs range from \$14-30), and proposed a Teacher Grant so staff can take lessons, etc. Jenny will be send out our Music Teacher survey soon.
11. **PTO Meeting Attendance:** RH Music Parent Board reps attended nearly every school's first PTO meeting of the year. Anna is now able to post on each PTO's Facebook page, and will be starting a FB page for RH Music Parents as well. *Our hope is to get one PTO rep per school to attend our meetings to keep their PTO pods informed of district music happenings.* We look forward to more parent reps with updates from RH Singers and other district music programs.
12. **RH Music Parents meeting dates for this year, each at 7pm in the SHS Chorus Room:**
 - a. **Monday, November 7, 2022**

(NEXT MEETING: two student pianists performing!)
 - b. Monday, February 6, 2023
 - c. Monday, March 6, 2023
 - d. Monday, April 10, 2023
 - e. Monday, June 12, 2023