

## MEPA General Meeting Wednesday March 17, 2021

Call to order/welcome – Jeff Wolfe, MEPA Preident

Old News:

### 1. London – Franci Gargaro

Unfortunately, the London trip needs to be postponed again. BCPS will not allow international travel this year and London is requiring that all guests and participants be vaccinated, which is an issue as there is no vaccine approved for under 18 in the US. All monies paid will be refunded – Franci and Suzanne will be in contact with the families to facilitate the refunds. Points will be returned as well (something that never happens). The trip is currently scheduled for New Year's day 2023 (Dec. 2022-Jan 2023). A new commitment sheet/fee schedule will be arranged, hopefully by August.

Mr. Rivero added that anyone who was a student at MSD when the original London invitation was received is welcome to join the trip, as a participant or spectator.

### 2. BB&T – Miguel Rossi

The concession stand at BB&T is an extremely important fundraiser for MEPA, last year we made around \$45,000. We need to keep it. As such, we need more volunteers. Currently, around 15 people are doing all the shifts. We encourage everyone to give it a try at least once, and now is a good time as they are waiving the alcohol training requirement. BB&T is a good place to get to know other MEPA parents and to keep informed about the goings-on with the band. BB&T is following very strong Covid protocols (plexiglass dividers, no cash, no open/fountain drinks, masks, etc) to keep everyone safe.

### 3. Wreaths Across America – Judy Feldman

Our kids are doing a great job at the Parkland Farmer's Market getting donations for our service project. We encourage all members of the ER to volunteer for a shift – generous volunteer hours are given.

## New Business

### 1. Upcoming Schedule – Steve Rivero

Kids are doing a great job with in person rehearsals. Mr. Rivero shared some emails from parents expressing their gratitude for getting their kids out of the house, motivated, and playing music again. A huge thank you to all the current seniors who are coming out to help – they are doing a great job.

After spring break, ER rehearsals become mandatory. Mr. Rivero needs accurate numbers to give the drill writers. Drill will be reworked in April and the students will begin to learn it in May. If you have any concerns regarding in person rehearsals, please reach out to Mr. Rivero and/or come watch a rehearsal to see how safe they are.

We are hoping to have a parents only work in progress performance in late May/early June.

No rehearsals in June.

Band camp begins in July – see the calendar on the website for specifics.

We expect band to be in full swing in the fall and Mr. Rivero has signed us up for several competitions/events. See the calendar on the website.

Please make sure you have the band app page for ER 2021-2022 on your mobile device. Reach out to Mr. Rivero if you need a link/invitation.

Indoor Percussion – the only winter program still in progress. We invite everyone to stay after regular marching rehearsals to watch this group rehearse. We are hoping for an in person performance/exhibition on 4/17/21. 4/10/21 is also a pending date, but we are less certain about that one happening

## 2. MEPA Elections – Georgia Garnecki

We will be following the same system as last year for MEPA elections. Descriptions of roles and a timetable will be emailed out asap. Email Georgia if you would like to nominate someone or if you are interested in a position on next year's board.

## 4. MEPA Committees – Tricia Yaipen

There were committee sign ups at Hurricanes last week and they will be out at Chipotle on our give back there on March 30. We strongly encourage everyone to get involved for at least 1 thing. We are updating the list of standing committees, and it will be sent out along with the board position descriptions. Sign ups for rehearsals, band camp, and donations will be coming soon.

## MEPA Events

### 1. Banquet – Lauren Sussman

We are looking into 2 venues for the banquet, one indoors, one outdoors. Currently, the date is Friday May 21, but it may need to be moved to Sat. May 22, depending on the location. A survey will be sent out about the location options.

### 2. Local restaurant Give-Backs – Judy Frlman

Hurricanes was very successful, thank you to all who came. It was great to see everyone.

Upcoming: March 30 – Chipotle, which will include mobile orders

Date TBD: Tijuana Flats, once a month

Date TBD: Burger Fi –

Date TBD – Food Truck (maybe)

#### Future Meetings:

Tuesday April 20, which may be in person during rehearsal, if we can work it out.

Tuesday May 18 will be the final MEPA meeting for the 2020-2021 year.

Final Remarks by Mr. Rivero: Please reach out if your child is struggling with motivation or with any concerns about in person band, or anything else.