

## Unit 5 Music Parents Meeting Minutes –August 24, 2026

### Normal Community West High School – IMC

#### BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Present: Beth Marsh, President

Present: Leslie Gully, Vice-President

Present (arriving late): Jennifer Schierer, Secretary

Present: Angela DeJaynes, Co-Secretary

Present: Andrew Walter, Treasurer

Present: Kelli Halsey, Co-Treasurer

#### GENERAL ATTENDANCE:

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Beth Marsh. Excited for the new year; last year was a year of learning and rebuilding, feeling more confident in the direction U5MP is headed.

#### TREASURER REPORTS:

- Balance as of July 31: \$7000
- Paid \$8,000 for audit
- Next audit is quickly approaching
  - Still looking for a new/cheaper auditor; ask is being shared with all programs and directors
  - Our biggest expense is our audit; all funds for all music programs at the jr and sr high levels come through U5MP
  - There is currently a proposal with the current audit company to see about negotiating to reduce this cost; if this is accomplished this will allow U5MP to pay for the audit and give money back to our programs
  - We'll be able to give money to the programs if we meet our fundraising goals. The reduced fee will help but we still need to fundraise more to provide money to the programs.
- Caught up on all past audits and filings

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

#### \*\*\*\*\*CHIDDIX JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\*

##### Chiddix Junior High Band:

Tricia Ogdon (Director)

The Chiddix Junior High School Band program is officially underway for the 2026–2027 school year!

##### Key Updates & Upcoming Dates:

- **6th - 8th Grade Band:** Students began playing their instruments today and are already making great progress.

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- **5th Grade Band Intro Night** and **5th Grade First Official Day:** are rapidly approaching

**New Fundraising Initiative:** We are excited to launch a new fundraising opportunity this year to support our student musicians.

Thank you for your continued support of the Charger Band program!

#### **Chiddix Junior High Orchestra:**

Jillian Meszar (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### **Chiddix Junior High Choir:**

Jack Mellen (Director) **NO REPORT**

### **\*\*\*\*\*EVANS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\***

#### **Evans Junior High Band:**

Krista Beddigs (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### **Evans Junior High Orchestra:**

Elizabeth Fontana (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### **Evans Junior High Choir:**

Julia Beer (Director) **NO REPORT**

### **\*\*\*\*\*KINGSLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\***

#### **Kingsley Junior High Band:**

Tyler Harr (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### **Kingsley Junior High Orchestra:**

Daria VanDeLoo (Director) **NO REPORT**

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#### Kingsley Junior High Choir:

Katie Winchester (Director) **NO REPORT**

### \*\*\*\*\*PARKSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\*

#### Parkside Junior High Band

Riley Odehnal (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### Parkside Junior High Orchestra:

Peyton Miles (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### Parkside Junior High Choir:

Melissa Jennings (Director) **NO REPORT**

### \*\*\*\*\*NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\*

#### Normal Community High School Band:

Paul Carter (Director)

##### NCHS Bands

- We have just over 140 students across the 5 bands this year. This is a pretty good number considering we had 41 seniors graduate back in May.
- All bands will be doing uniform fittings next week and will start to work on music for the November concerts.
- The NCHS Chamber Winds Ensemble started rehearsals last Monday.
- The marching ironmen will play at the first home football game on 9/11.

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Ellen McCarthy

NCHS Ironmen Band Booster President

#### Normal Community High School Orchestra:

Melissa Siebenthal (Director)

Great start to the school year!

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#### Normal Community High School Choir:

Ben Luginbuhl (Director)

**\*\*\*\*\*NORMAL COMMUNITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL \*\*\*\*\***

#### Normal West High School Band:

Ryan Budzinski (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### Normal West High School Orchestra:

Kim Boehm (Director) **NO REPORT**

#### Normal West High School Choir:

Sara Williams (Director) **NO REPORT**

**\*\*\*\*\*NORMAL MARCHING BAND \*\*\*\*\***

#### Normal Marching Band (NMB)

Multiple Directors (Ryan Budzinski, Paul Carter)

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

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#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### U5MP

- New goals for U5MP
  1. Increase board engagement and representation
    - Director or representative presence at 75% of U5MP board meetings (6 out of 8 meetings)
    - Attend at least 75% of Unit 5 school board meetings during the next 12 months (9 meetings)
      - Recruit and onboard at least one dedicated volunteer or board member to serve as the organization's school board liaison
      - Provide brief summary of key meeting discussions, decisions, and opportunities after each meeting
  2. Strengthen financial position and oversight to ensure audit readiness and financial stability
    - Identify and engage with a qualified auditor by end of 2026
    - Increase profits from Extravaganza and Music Bingo by 25%: \$8,800 to \$11,000 (\$2,200 increase)
  3. Increase Facebook presence and engagement to raise awareness of organization's mission and support individual programs
    - Increase Facebook followers to 500 by end of 26/27 school year (73 followers to 500 followers)
    - Achieve a 200% increase in average post engagement (likes, comments, shares, reactions) (0-2 engagements to 4 engagements per post)
- Will be sending directors a "Program Spotlight Survey" link that needs to be completed ahead of promotion for Music Extravaganza
- Reminder to directors to share Parent Welcome letters from U5MP

##### Fundraising

##### Music Extravaganza

- Normal West on Monday 11/2
- Normal Community on Monday 11/9
- Same menu as last year, prices will also stay the same
  - Half chicken or meatless lasagna option
  - Both served with potatoes/Gravy, green beans and biscuit
  - Options for slice of pie/cinnamon roll
  - Need to update the Square website

##### Musical Bingo

- Incorporating a fall event in addition to the spring event
  - Fall will be Broadway Tunes; Spring will be typical musical genres
- Suggesting Sept 18 for fall event (can also promote Extravaganza at this event)

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- Oct 9 is proposed backup date
- Will need prizes
- Directors were on board to donate reserved seats to a concert
- High School Choirs will each donate 2 tickets to Spring Musical
- Suggestion to donate a meal or dessert ticket to Extravaganza

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Leslie Gully motioned to adjourn the meeting; Andrew Walter seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:37 PM.  
**The next meeting will be held Monday, September 28 at 7:00 PM in the Normal West IMC.**

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

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## Normal Community West High School – IMC

| <u>Name</u>      | <u>Email</u>            | <u>School</u> | <u>Program</u>          |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Angela DeSuyres  | angelak83@hotmail.com   | West          | Band / Choir            |
| Tricia Ogdon     | ogdonH@unit5.org        | CJHS          | Band                    |
| MaryPat Bishop   | bishopmarypat@gmail.com | West          | Choir / musical dance   |
| Melissa Jennings | jenninm@unit5.org       | DJHS          | Choir                   |
| Hiley Odhnal     | odhnar@unit5.org        | PJHS          | Band                    |
| Ben Luginbuhl    | luginbhl@unit5.org      | NKHS          | Choir                   |
| Mistey Borst     | mistey-borst@yahoo.com  | NCAS          | Choir / Orchestra       |
| Jaekueen         | mellenie@unit5.org      | CJHS          | Choir                   |
| Kristie Nickel   | kristiekay27@yahoo.com  | & KJHS        | Orchestra / choir       |
| Alex Borst       | alex_borst@hotmail.com  | NC HS         |                         |
| Kim Boehr        | kboehr@unit5.org        | West          | Orchestra               |
| Sam Williams     | williams@unit5.org      | West          | Choir                   |
| Brian Bishop     | ff304gfd@gmail.com      | West          | Choir / musical / drama |