Skyline Friends of the Arts
Meeting Agenda

Meeting Link:https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/81743760070

Meeting ID: 817 4376 0070

Board Members: This is a shared document. Please feel free to add items you would like to address and/or notes on listed items in advance of the meetings.

Meeting Date: 9 June 2025 7 pm

Attendance

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	Julie Dunmire	President	Y
	Janet Chen	Vice President	N
	Pai Meng	Secretary	Y
	Laurie McNamara McClatchey	Treasurer	Y
BOARD MEMBERS	Kim Stone	Choir Rep/ Account Manager	Y
	Julia Williams	Orchestra Rep	N
	Jason Jaworski	Band Rep/Account Manager	N
	Amy Hannewald	Theatre Rep	Y
	Mera Cole	Visual Arts Rep	N
TREASURY REPS	Carolyn Lukancic	Orchestra Account Manager	N
	Carey Allen	Theatre Account Manager	N
FACULTY	Jason Smith	Band Director	Y
	Lyn CieChanski	Choir Director	Y
	Andrea Murray	Orchestra Director/Tri-M advisor	Y
	Anne-Marie Roberts	Theatre/ITS Director	N
	Candace Ottaviano	Visual and Applied Arts	N
OTHERS	Beth Bromund		

Meeting Called to Order: 7:08 pm
Review of Previous Month's Minutes: 22 MAY 2025
Motion to Approve: Laurie, Kim second, passes unanimously
Division Reports –

Band –

- The plans are still underway for our concert trip next Spring Break. We have sent over three sample itineraries to our travel agent and waiting to hear back and final prices -

voting for families will likely occur sometime next week. Considering Hawaii, New Orleans, Boston.
- Drumline will be practicing over the summer working on our marching band show and cadences so they are ready for band camp
- Our concert uniforms will be picked up on Wednesday at 9am. Any uniforms that have not yet been turned in at this point will need to be taken to the dry cleaners and brought back to Skyline in the dry cleaning bag by that family. They can be dropped off in the main office - we are expecting our uniforms to be dropped off clean on Monday August 4th in the afternoon.

Choir –
- Blues auditions were today, new group rehearses tomorrow!
- Skyline Blues will be performing at Chelsea Sounds and Sights on Thursday 6:30-8:30 at the Clocktower Gazebo!
- Kim and Beth met to prepare for choir rep transition
- Cantare was selected to perform at the Specialized Choral Hour for MMC in January 2026!

Orchestra –
- 73 students attending orchestra camp-largest since before COVID
- Hoping to hire one more violin lesson teacher for camp so that we can continue the pull out private lesson initiative that we started last year
- All uniforms have been turned in

Tri-M -
- Inducted 26 new members on June 3rd and new Board announced for next school year.

Theatre –
- AMR retiring, new theatre director to be coming? Job not posted yet…

Visual Arts -
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SFA Board Officers Reports
- Treasurer's report
    - Financial Reports
    - Please get camp checks list in as soon as possible so Laurie has time to write out all the checks

- President's Report
    - Election successful!
        - Thank you to Amy, Pai, Janet and Candace for prep for the VPAA Awards, and to everyone who came early to help set up.
        - New Board confirmed:
            - President - Jason Jaworski
            - VP - Amy Hannewald
            - Treasurer - Laurie McNamara McClatchey
            - Secretary - Carrie Bank
            - Orchestra Rep - Julia Williams
            - Visual Arts Rep - Tamera Martinek

        - Choir Rep - Beth Bromund
        - Theatre Rep - open
        - Band Rep - open
    - Budget - I commit to getting this across the finish line with Laurie and Jason J.
        - Still need budgets back (choir, theatre, visual arts) so that we can vote on it and have it in place for next school year. Ideal to have it done at the beginning of summer so that camp checks over the summer can be written easily. Can email vote on budget.
    - "How To" notes - if you have chaired an event, or are leaving your position this year, please put together good transition notes. I am compiling a share drive on our new www.skyline-arts.org site where we can store all of these documents to ease planning for the coming year.
    - Big Thank Yous to all of you for a very busy and successful year

Old Business

- Uniform update -
    - All items requested have been purchased!
    - Did old dresses come back from dry cleaner? *Are out slated to come back Aug 4th but Jason will see if they can come back sooner.*. Get donated? *When back*
    - General uniform collection - complete?
- Car Wash, 7 June, 9:30 - 5:30, BP on Plymouth Rd
    - Made $2200+, similar to last year. Great job everyone!
    - Did all items get returned to the closet where they live until next year?
        - Not quite yet. Need to get at least one new hose for next year. Suggest having 2 parents for cleaning and returning supplies to school and put away in the closet.
    - Theatre is scheduled to organize next year (may want to consider allowing new theatre person a year to get settled and reshuffle the order)
- Still hoping to get more advocacy regarding the stage issues at the elementary schools. We are hoping to have some parents on hand with signs at the Board Meeting on Wednesday as well as widely sharing the items below (see additional documentation on separate pages following the minutes) *See below for resources and details

New Business -

- 2025-26 Budget - progress report by division
- Budget vs. Actuals latest version is attached
- In-person board transition meeting TBD (next regular date would be 7/14 & 8/11 - Julie unavailable those dates, Pai can't make 7/14)) needs to between now and early august. Julie to send out poll.
- Budget request: Theatre budget: $905.29 for laptop to drive sound system.(already purchased and requesting reimbursement as denied by the district)
    - Motion by Julie to approve, Laurie second. Passes unanimously.
- Office Depot - SFA membership if possible (888.313.4851) – for binders/supplies. School has an account but is not accessible at all times.
    - Motion to approve if savings is greater than membership cost of $49 dollars by Laurie, second Kim. passes unanimously.
- Change to fundraising events per prior AMR email?
    - Confirmed no need to follow-up directly with AMR.
    - Still need to discuss potential changes to fundraising events for next school year.
        - Confirmed not doing Music & a Meal next year.

        - Considering trying to just increase income from Benefit Concert & Showcase beyond just family ticket sales: outside ticket sales, sponsorships, more advertising, auction, etc…
- Laurie motion to approve up to $300 out of theatre budget to supplement student-led retirement party for AMR. second Julie. Passes unanimously.

Next Meeting: TBD transition meeting

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:06 pm

Motion to adjourn by: Laurie, second Kim. unanimous consent

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Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by <Pai C Meng > on: 6/9/2025

Please send any corrections or clarifications to <Pai C Meng: pcmjunk@yahoo.com>

The Ann Arbor Public School Music Teachers have written an open letter to AAPS Administration and Board of Education to advocate for the inclusion of an appropriately-sized, dedicated and permanent performance stage and community gathering area in the designs of our new AAPS elementary schools. Current designs for the new AAPS elementary school do not include plans for permanent stages or a dedicated performance space, and as a result, the AAPS Music Teachers emphatically oppose the current plans for portable pop-up platforms.

Why are permanent stages and performance spaces in Elementary Schools important?

- Currently, all AAPS elementary buildings have a permanent and dedicated stage and performance space. Our stages are utilized in our music programs for vocal performances, instrumental concerts, assemblies, dance presentations, talent shows, and musicals.
- Prior to these performances, the stages are utilized for weeks and months ahead of time for rehearsals, where students are able to get accustomed to the space and its acoustics, practice performing in larger groups, and work out the challenging logistics of working together in the collaborative, hands-on learning experiences that our elementary student performances provide.
- Guest speakers, musicians (including professional, local and AAPS middle and high school ensembles), dancers, theater groups, authors and experts are invited into our schools and onto our stages to engage with our students. Whole school assemblies help us to come together and connect as a school community. We connect with our larger community through events (International Festivals, celebrating NAAPID, MLK Day, holidays, graduations and much more).

What was promised to music and arts programming by the 2019 billion dollar bond?

- AAPS stated that the bond money would be used for, "*improving safety and updating equipment in school auditoriums and performance facilities to create a better experience for students, parents and community members*."
- Bond language asserted that it would prioritize, *"the development of the whole child"*, and create *"exciting, innovative hands-on learning"* for students. In 2019 promotional materials to the community, AAPS said it would *"enhance performing arts spaces"* with the bond funds.

How do the current building plans fail to meet students' needs?

- Instead of ensuring that new buildings give students access to the same performing arts facilities (or better) than their current building does, plans for the new schools suggest using **temporary pop-up platforms** to be placed in one of the schools gathering areas. Permanent stages are not included in the building plans for the new elementary schools.
- **Portable platforms are no substitute for a dedicated, permanent stage.** They lack the professional features required for high-quality events—such as proper acoustics,

lighting, sightlines and structural features such as backstage access and wide stairs in front—and they simply can't support the wide range of activities that take place in a vibrant school environment. They are noisy and are not designed to be a 70-year replacement for a permanent stage.
- Temporary pop-up platforms must be assembled and taken apart multiple times each year, sometimes multiple times in a single week. This repeated handling leads to faster deterioration, instability, and a higher risk of accidents—especially when students are walking, dancing, or performing on them.
- **Moveable platforms would need to be set-up for rehearsals days, weeks, and sometimes months ahead of the performance**, reducing the space in the area that these are set-up in. Students and teachers need many hours of rehearsal and practice to create high quality and educational programming. If the platforms are set-up in either the cafeteria or the gym, it would severely impact either meal service capabilities or gym class.
- This proposed plan calls into question **who is going to be setting up and maintaining these proposed moveable platforms**? What funds will be used for repair and replacement of these platforms? The set-up time for these platforms will be extensive and typically require a 4-person team.
- Schools without a permanent stage would no longer qualify for Michigan Section 33 Arts Grants as a **permanent stage is the educational standard** for elementary students to experience and interact with the performing arts. This would create further inequity within the district, as schools without a permanent stage would miss out on a significant funding opportunity that could further enhance their performing arts programs.

How can our AAPS community support Music and Arts programming in our schools?

- Trust the wisdom and experience of our hard working professional (music teachers).
- Sign the petition supporting this cause: https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protect-aaps-performance-spaces-save-our-stages?source=direct_link&
- Advocate for **appropriately-sized permanent stage and community gathering spaces in each school.** This includes a permanent stage that is large enough to accommodate a **grade level** of performers in that school. Stages with proper acoustics, lighting, sightlines and structural features such as backstage access and wide steps, running the length of the front of the stage as well as ramps on the side and/or backstage. As well as a space connected with the stage that is large enough to hold an **entire school community**.
- Contact AAPS leadership with your concerns. Often writing a single letter, but sending it to each individual email address, yields the highest response rate.

Administrative Staff/Capital Programs Team:

- Jazz Parks: parks@a2schools.org
- Dawn Linden: lindend@a2schools.org
- Jason Bing: bingj@aaps.k12.mi.us

- Bernerd Rice: riceb@a2schools.org

Board of education:

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