

THUMB Meeting

Sept. 24, 2020

Attendees: Spiro Tsingaris, Lisa Barnes, Suzy Gibson, Patty Ginnebaugh, Deb Miller, Debby Ally, plus about six others who were on the Zoom partially or had partial names (Trish, Mr. Lehrman, Dvera)

*Introduction to THUMB by Lisa via slide show (attached)

Call for others to join the Board if interested - need technology and secretary positions

Patty will be sending a questionnaire for newsletters and to let us know what volunteer opportunities parents may be interested in joining.

*Budget

David was not in attendance but provided numbers regarding cash on hand (\$50K) and membership thus far. The reason for the budget surplus is due to last year's venue refunds, no NY trip and still having a successful click-a-thon. New membership is going well with the initial DonatePal ,all school booster fundraiser, however now it is up to THUMB to do our own outreach to music families and increase participation.

Slide show outlined fundraising efforts - membership (\$75 ask), click-a-thon, V-day reception. Expenses will continue to change and good that we have the reserves to react. What we usually fund - instrument repairs, sheet music, band shirts, festival entries, trip to NY, guest workshops, venues. This year started with remote set-up expenses - video/camera equipment, editing software and applications.

Spiro is looking into building out sound studio within music room. The district is ok with it however there will be no construction during the year due to Covid. A consultant will let him know the costs for construction and changes needed (interior windows, outlets, sound proofing) that could possibly happen in summer. A student, Colby has taken sound design classes and will assist with the process. This would help teach students a new skill and also have a place for small groups to collaborate. Perhaps have a music technology class in the future.

*Spiro Update

The remote classes have been an adjustment for all. Spiro's strengths are rehearsal, event and performance planning and building relationships with the students. He had a learning curve with the tech but is glad to be learning these important new skills.

Spiro is excited about how the students are working with the Zoom classes and getting them to record themselves. It is a benefit to the students if they develop as individuals and learn the music theory as well. Hopefully will make them stronger

musicians when able to come together as an ensemble. Just now editing some ensembles together. Difficult to teach kids to play along and keep beat to the metronome. Using software as well as apps to help with back up music. Suggested students get IRealPro, in app store for \$15. Please send Spiro an email if a student has a need and THUMB will purchase. Makes the editing and playing process easier for student. They have control of instrument back up, key and tempo.

Spiro is hoping to be able to edit together some songs for a virtual performance to share with school and parents.

Guest artists are recording themselves and helping with lessons. Suzy suggested looking into various online music performances and workshops from actual musicians and music students conducted by colleges and performing arts groups. She has a family member who is taking lessons from a college musician and Tam music may be able to tap into their experiences and get them to talk and play for our music classes. Spiro is open to other online opportunities but is hoping to get back to the classroom soon and return to traditional music class.

Spiro is working to keep kids engaged. He and students miss the comradery of the all being together in the music room. Spiro is aware that kids may drop electives or take more AP classes if not engaged and excited about music classes.