

TO: REVERE MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION
FROM: JEFF STENROOS, PRESIDENT, RMPA
RE: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009-2010
DATE: June 15, 2009

Dear Music Parents:

It is an honor to serve as President of The Revere Music Parent Association 2009-2010. The dedication and commitment of our members is an inspiration to me. RMPA support contributes to the continued growth and success of the Revere Local Schools Music Program.

How do we measure the success of a public school music program? We celebrate the growth of the marching band. Our concert bands and choirs present well-rehearsed school concerts along with participating in concerts and competitions outside of the school district. OMEA Solo and Ensemble events add a further refinement to musical skills. Many students take private lessons. The Music Department helps to make the high school musical an eagerly anticipated annual event. Consistently high ratings in OMEA Adjudicated events confirm what we already know – the Revere Local Schools Music Program sets high standards for achieving musical excellence – and consistently meets and exceeds those standards.

Music education provides many benefits to students. The discipline needed to master singing or playing an instrument carries over to many other aspects of life. Participation in a large organization for the entire four years spent in high school is a unique experience. The atmosphere of support and acceptance found here can move out into our community and beyond. I am convinced that a strong and vibrant program of music education provides young people with an opportunity for personal growth and development unique in public education and well worthy of our continued and enthusiastic support.

Perhaps the most significant benefit of music education is the intangible and often difficult to describe experience of exploring the subjective realms of human experience. Listening to and performing music often brings with it a profound experience of feelings, emotions and realities that cannot be expressed in words. I believe that music has its immense influence on us because it gets deep into the reality of being human. It springs from the soul of humankind. And, to be certain, our world today could use more humanity, and less in-humanity, that's for sure!

I spent seven years as a public school music teacher, and hold in high regard those individuals who make music education their lifelong career. Many thanks to Deb Devore, Darren LeBeau, Rusty Frese and my wife Jennifer for helping me get up to speed. I look forward to becoming better acquainted, soon, with all of our officers, committee chairs and members.

I am proposing the creation of two new special committees: the RMPA Finance Committee and the RMPA Advocacy Committee. My proposal does not spring out of a perception that something is broken. Rather, it is the natural growth of the organization to its present scope and dimension that make this a good time to do this. Please take a moment to review this information and then forward your honest reactions, suggestions and concerns to me at my e-mail address: jeffsten@gmail.com. (Or reach me on my cell phone 330-472-3823). If it makes sense for us to proceed after I get your feedback I will be calling a special meeting of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons to develop a proposal for presentation to the membership for review at our first meeting in August.

Finally, thank you for your support of RMPA. If you are an "old hand" I salute your commitment and dedication and look forward to working closely with you. If you are new to the organization, or if this is the year for you to get involved, please let me know. If you have already completed an RMPA Committee Preference Sheet you will be contacted soon. If you have not completed this form but would like to help out, please contact me and we will get you plugged in. To paraphrase Rusty Frese's comment at the June RMPA meeting, it is really great to be involved with your children at this stage in their lives. You will be there with them as they form memories and develop an appreciation of music that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,



PRESIDENT
Revere Music Parents Association

PROPOSED RMPA FINANCE COMMITTEE

I. RATIONALE

- A. Growth of program, size of budget and sources of funding.
- B. Newly adopted financial procedures must be implemented.
- C. Strategic planning with School Administration and Board of Education.
- D. Accountability
- E. Slowing economy may reduce our resources and negatively impact our programs. Finance Committee will help us to focus attention on our finances.

II. PROPOSED DUTIES

- A. Assist RMPA treasurer and assistant treasurer in performance of duties. Development and implementation of policies and procedures.
- B. Oversee financial aspects of all programs that involve collection and disbursement of funds.
- C. Develop, implement and monitor standard procedures for collection and disbursement of funds.
- D. Develop a strategic long-range financial strategy in consultation with the Music Department and in collaboration with the Administration and the Board of Education.
- E. Develop additional sources of funding from new sources such as private foundations.
- F. Attendance by Finance Committee member at all BOE meetings to become familiar with the BOE budget process as well as to advocate on behalf of RMPA and the Music Program when appropriate.
- G. Development of financial components of Grant Requests in collaboration with the Advocacy Committee.
- H. Acts in an advisory capacity in the development of proposals and recommendations that are forwarded to the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee shall decide whether to forward to the membership any proposals or recommendations for review and approval.

III. PROPOSED MEMBERS

- A. RMPA President
- B. RMPA Vice-President
- C. RMPA Treasurer
- D. RMPA Asst. Treasurer
- E. At least one music director
- F. Representative from each of the following committees:
 - 1. Bath Community Day
 - 2. Concessions
 - 3. Tag Day
 - 4. Marching Band Invitational
 - 5. Fruit Sales
 - 6. Bands In The Round
- G. Others to help spread the workload

IV. PROPOSED MEETINGS (This will take some work to figure out.)

- A. Prior to Executive Board Meeting? Or at a different time?
- B. Work sessions as required.

PROPOSED RMPA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

I. RATIONALE

- A. We believe that the value of music education has immense benefits for students, our community, our nation and our world.
- B. We desire to articulate and demonstrate the benefits of music education to our students, school faculty, administration, Board of Education, our community and beyond. By this we expect to increase community awareness and support of the Revere Local Schools Music Program.
- C. We seek support and funding from all sources to sustain and grow the Revere Local Schools Music Program. Current national and global economic problems require that we act decisively.
- D. Advocacy seeks to use positive and community-beneficial strategies with those from whom we solicit support.
- E. We seek collaboration with any and all organizations when such involvement furthers our aims and objectives.

II. PROPOSED DUTIES

- A. Develop communications materials and strategies to succinctly articulate and demonstrate the benefits of music education to target audiences. Work closely with music directors in the development of materials.
- B. Attendance by Advocacy Committee member at all Revere Board of Education meetings to become familiar with BOE budget process as well as to advocate on behalf of RMPA and the Music Program when appropriate.
- C. Development of all non-financial components of Grant Requests in collaboration with the Finance Committee.
- D. Acts in an advisory capacity in the development of proposals and recommendations, which are forwarded to the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee shall decide whether to forward to the membership any proposals or recommendations for review and approval.

III. PROPOSED MEMBERS

- A. RMPA President
- B. RMPA Vice-President
- C. RMPA Secretary
- D. RMPA Publicity Chair
- E. At least one music director.
- F. Others to help spread the workload

IV. PROPOSED MEETINGS (This will take some work to figure out.)

- A. Prior to the Executive Board Meeting? Or at a different time?
- B. Work sessions as required