

Midland Concert Band
Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 2025

Members present: Taylon Honeman-Earle, Kerry Smith, Beth Thomas, Matt Thomas, Madison Roberts, Joel Wiseman, Angela Kalcec

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm by Taylon Honeman-Earle

Reviewed and approved minutes from the previous meeting.

Secretary's Report:

Madison Roberts was approved as the new secretary. She plays alto sax and this is her 3rd year with the MCB.

Kerry volunteered to send her copies of past minutes, templates, the description, letters, and donor acknowledgements.

The documents are in the Google Drive.

There are no outstanding projects for the new secretary to take over.

Kerry is now acting as the librarian.

Treasurer's Report:

We finished in the positive for last year.

We have a proposed budget for this year.

We have an unfunded scholarship (Pollack scholarship) that was not budgeted for. Beth recommended we do not issue it.

We are under budget for the room rental for both MCB and Jazz Band.

Insurance costs went up this year so contributions were adjusted.

It was suggested that we prepare for room rental costs to go up next year.

We are almost \$5,000 in the positive after all expenditures last year.

We spent a lot less on publicity than expected.

We were under budget for the picnic this year.

Members are making use of the Square.

It was noted that using the member portal to report dues is an extra task for the Treasurer. It doesn't allow us to note the payment method or payment date, just whether or not the member paid. This info still needs to be noted in the Google Drive as well.

Marketing Report:

Soliciting donations and sponsorships is going well, but right now it's just people Matt knows personally. It was suggested that other members reach out to people and businesses they know who might want to donate.

The sponsors for the October concert are Century 21 Realty and Stranded Yarn and Coffee.

Facebook has been getting more likes and engagement.

We're looking at a title for the October concert to draw more people into coming to the concert to keep up above budget and so the band has a better audience to play for.

We selected Marches and Magic for the October concert theme. Matt will share his initial poster idea via email for proofreading.

Matt needs the roster for the programs at least one week in advance, but the earlier the better. 46 people are already in the member portal. Taylon will make an announcement at the next rehearsal.

One trumpet player can't be added because he doesn't have an email. Beth will get the name to Taylon.

President's Report:

Taylon has concerns over MCFTA/Dow Gardens parking. Matt Travis says construction might not be over until after the October concert. The stage side does have 1 half completed.

There is additional parking at the library and MSU St. Andrews.

We can possibly post on Facebook about parking options and for members to save closer parking spots for those with large instruments.

Taylon will ask MCFTA for a map of parking locations.

The room for the Jazz Band has not been unlocked at the start of rehearsal. Joel says this is the norm. It is the responsibility of the MCB to find a custodian to unlock the door. There is also a cell phone number that can be called.

Taylon is reaching out to the schools to clarify room rental expectations and to get an updated cell phone number. The cell phone number will go to Joel and anyone who might fill in for him.

We pay for room rentals but at a very discounted rate. It was noted that we should do everything we can to maintain a good relationship with the schools to keep a discounted rate.

We are looking into background checks for conductors and a formal complaint process for conductors, board members, and MCB members. We want members to feel safe and provide an unbiased process for reviewing complaints.

Conductors' Report:

Jacob not present.

Joel: We have an anonymous donation toward the music rental for Maslanka. We're looking for other donations. We have potentially half of the music rental fee at this time.

The tough sections are starting to look good.

We are still looking for a contrabass clarinet, harp, organ, and tuba.

Joel will start planning the December concert by Wednesday this week. He is looking at what the choir is already preparing.

There was a concern about sourcing percussion instruments. Joel wants to prioritize the mallet instruments we already have. The gongs are just the cherry on top. Joel is confident we will be able to borrow a marimba.

No Santa visit in December this year.

Education Report:

Angela will email the schools about the scholarships after November 1 when marching band is done and the application opens.

The scholarships go through the Foundation now.

Angel will figure out if the Foundation will give us the names of those who weren't selected for the directed scholarships so we can select other students for additional scholarships.

Angela suggested changing the category from "Dance and Music" to Midland Concert Band to make it easier for families to find.

We will pick winners in January or February.

Roundtable:

We will be participating in a reciprocal donation with the Midland Community Orchestra of \$500 to promote music organizations in the community.

Please share Facebook posts on your personal pages and other areas. The more it's shared, the better. We are also having a merchandise sale. It ends after the concert so audience members can scan the QR code at intermission.

New bows are needed. The ones we have are fraying. Sue Bovid might help with this.

Financial Review:

Possibility of increasing the conductors' pay because Joel has been with the band for over 10 years.

What is the metric for success? Right now he is paid \$1,600 per concert.

It was noted that Joel is very personable but not all members like the music he programs.

Also noted that Joel is very welcoming to new members and encouraging when sections don't get it right away.

We should be doing conductor evaluations at the end of each season.

Possibility of doing a percentage raise.

It was decided to approve the budget then set up evaluations.

\$500 was budgeted for guests. Not sure who will need to be paid for the March concert.

The budget was approved.

Time to start planning the 2026-2027 budget so we can give Joel a raise.

It was suggested that the Jazz band have a paypal QR code at their free concerts. They have given Beth cash donations in the past. Over \$600 last year.

We decided we need a pulse check halfway through the season instead of just evaluating the conductor at the end of the year.

Adjourned at 7:43pm.

Action Items:

Matt to send poster idea to board members.

Beth to send Taylon the name of the trumpet player without an email address.

Taylon to ask MCFTA for a map of parking locations.

Taylon to clarify room rental expectations with the schools as well as get an updated cell phone number for the custodian on duty.

Joel to start planning December concert.

Beth to start preparing 2026-2027 budget.