

CCSA board meeting minutes

May 8, 2025

Attending: Andrew Shaud, Tim Eisele, Maria Bergstrom, Micah Erickson, Traci Yiu, Haley Frederickson

Tim called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
Minutes of the April 17 meeting were read and approved.

Executive Director Report

Andrew noted that already some donations have come from the direct appeal letter. There have also been a couple of people who want to donate violins.

Andrew is looking at next year's budget. He is considering a roughly 4% increase in tuition to address inflation and costs.

Over the past couple of years there have been some changes in how homeschool funds are available through Kaleidoscope for music lessons. There are some indications that this might not be possible in the future, it might require that the lessons are a "class" and have a certain number of hours committed to the activity. Andrew was looking at whether we could combine private lessons with group classes, KYSO, maybe a music theory class or activity to reach the target hours. It would be a question of how much time commitment families would be willing to make. Renata Sommerville is on a board that oversees some of this and she is seeking clarification for us. We currently have a few families who are using this benefit, and two of the families have multiple children, so this could be a challenge for them and for us.

Finances are about as expected. The check from the Keweenaw Community Foundation has been received.

Andrew met with Jared Anderson at Michigan Tech last week. Our goal is to not fall further behind in our debt to MTU. Jared is understanding but would like to see us catch up. Essentially we are roughly breaking even every year. We need a few more students. The recent increase in students has been more on the piano side, which doesn't help address our costs for string instructors. We have the most room for cello students (up to 5), maybe 1-2 more violin students. Tim noted that we should bring this up at the membership meeting.

It was suggested that we might get out the word through Michigan Tech about availability of spots for students, maybe through Tech Today (the digital newsletter), reaching out to new faculty, or even posting flyers. Another suggestion was to connect with the community through Pine Mountain Music Festival this summer. We have been asked to provide some music in the lobby prior to their concerts. Posting a flyer at the public library is another idea. The board suggested thinking about some advertising specifically appealing to adult learners as well. In the past we did offer an adult beginning or early intermediate adult class, which could be a

consideration for expanding our reach as well. Andrew will emphasize early registration for fall to help us identify how many spots might be open so we can publicize them.

Revisiting the missed lessons policy: There were some concerns raised about families who might know in advance of conflicts and how this might impact them. Andrew would like to have some limits on when make up lessons can be scheduled, that they can't be scheduled into the summer term. This would make things more straightforward for the upcoming changes to the sick leave requirements from the State of Michigan.

Tim asked whether we could develop a document that clearly outlines any external requirements (federal and state) that impact how we pay our instructors. The board suggested various ways to address the make up lesson issue, including encouraging people to make up the lessons during the same week they will miss (instructors providing their schedule and contact info early on), option of online lessons if a child is only mildly sick, and making the policies more transparent for families (it was noted that under Covid the make up lessons may have been more flexible). Additionally, families could be allowed to "lock in" their lesson time for the following year when they do early registration in the spring.

Board updates

The annual meeting is coming up on Saturday. Tim will give updates on finances and will also give information about available spots for next year. Maria will run the election for new board members.

Maria will make a plan to meet with Andrew to get an updated alumni list so we can send the direct mail letter out to more families. Andrew will reach out to the Music Together parents to see if anyone might be interested in serving as a board member.

Because next year will be Tim's last year, we will ideally want to identify a president-elect to work alongside him for the next year.

The MACC grant application is coming up. Maria moved and Haley seconded that Andrew be encouraged to apply for the MACC grant for the upcoming year. Motion carried.

Maria will work on updating board member bios on the website.

We will plan on a board orientation meeting, tentatively June 12.

Maria moved and Haley seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Bergstrom
Secretary