



Focusing on supporting our local orchestra programs and inspiring a love of music in students of all ages

**BOEC Monthly Meeting    October 6, 2025    Belgrade District office meeting room**

Call to Order 6:02pm

Board Members Present

Scott Weiss

Christiana Weiss

Tori Rensink

Katie Eder

Student Council Present

Gabby-Pres

Crystal -VP

Bradwyn-Secretary

**Minutes of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Meeting** The minutes were unanimously approved with one change on page 2, Christiana's name is misspelled.

**Belgrade School Superintendent Message** Dede Semerand spoke briefly about a bond issue regarding funds for the new elementary school. The community will receive a ballot in the mail on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The district needs an additional 6.63M to build the new school and an additional 5M if they were to build a gym (which can be tabled if not approved). They currently have a 20M bond that was approved. This school is going to be designed to hold 250 students but will have the ability to add on another wing in the future when needed. The school cannot be built without the approval of the 6.6 3M bond. She answered a few questions our members had.

**Financial Report** Tori reported that nothing has really changed since our September meeting. We did get some donations at our Belgrade fall festival booth, which added up to \$44. The only expenses for the the month were for the fall festival and our executive meeting. Decorations for the floats, items to set up the kidszone booth, and Rebecca brought donuts and water for the kids, and we supplied the student council pizza at the executive session. Our first quarter will end October 31<sup>st</sup>. We had our event at MacKenzie

River Pizza, and we still have not got the funds or the details on that yet, but we had a good turnout, so we are hoping to get some funds from that.

### **Old Business**

Scott discussed the **Belgrade Fall Festival**. He thought it was a success. The kids had a lot of fun and we had a lot of parent involvement and think everybody did a fantastic job. A lot of parents helped Ms. Howell checking students in and out. Rebecca brought donuts and water, which the kids really appreciated. Everyone just had a great time.

Reflected on our **MacKenzie River Pizza Community Night**. Tori took charge of this fundraiser, and we feel we had a good turn out and hope to do it again. Discussed Buffalo Wild Wings & Chipotle as other future options for community nights as well.

**Bylaws** It is recommended that the bylaws are reviewed again to clarify the membership vote versus BOEC Board votes. The goal is to have the voting to be completely written out with our student council to be perfectly represented. This can be tabled until the November meeting.

**Money Request Forms** Tori created a scholarship form to have available for kids that may not have enough funds in their account, but would like to request funds for a certain purpose. She went over the form in great detail and passed it around. There were some suggestions for changes and we will put it on the website once it's refined. It was discussed that we don't have the funds right now to be able to do this, but more for in the future, and it could be for small amounts, even to accommodate more students.

**RaiseRight** Christiana and Tori both tried RaiseRight out to get an idea of how easy it would be to use. Christiana said she used strictly online and Tori used it to buy a gift card. It was very easy to use either way. This is a great way to fundraise, especially during the Christmas season. Tori shared that Marie made \$2.60 just off one gift card that she bought and Christiana shared that Crystal has about \$7 or \$8 in her account already. We answered questions.

### **New Business**

**ROCK Orchestra** Scott read an email that Ms. Howell sent to him. She is asking for our help with marketing the Mark Wood concert, setting up a sound system, and getting the press involved. We still are not aware of a date yet. We need to meet with Ms. Howell for more details.

**Santa Breakfast** no one knows what the plan is for this event. We do know that it's on December 6<sup>th</sup>. we are going to discuss this further with Ms. Howell and see if she needs our assistance or if she already has it put together.

**Marketing and Fundraising** Christiana discussed the opportunity for our advanced music students to be tutors/mentors for elementary/middle school students that may need help. They could charge half of what a music teacher would charge, get the experience, and be able to use those funds for whatever they want. Ms. Howell could vet these students to make sure that they are able to teach others and have enough experience to do so.

**Busking** in the mall in December. BOEC will start inquiring on that soon. Discussing with the mall currently and hope to put a schedule together and create a sign up genius.

**MSU Stadium and Brick Fieldhouse Concessions** during games and concerts. Scott has been talking directly with the manager. He has a list of dates that he is giving to his current nonprofits and will more than likely be offering BOEC a couple of dates to get our feet wet. We should have a couple dates in mind soon. Dates are already filled until December. The dates that are being offered our January through April.

**Town & Country bagging groceries** This is an idea Gabby had talked about at our executive session. Christiana put in in the student councils court to o to Town & Country and find out if they are willing to give us some dates around Thanksgiving. It is an opportunity get tips for bagging groceries.

**Website Update** Christiana spoke about adding an instrument page where students can go to purchase used instruments. Parents are students can contact Christiana with the details of their instrument they would like to sell, and we would dedicate a website page to those instruments or even music materials, such as music books, etc.. These would not be just limited to orchestra instruments, but also band instruments or any type of musical instrument that someone's trying to sell.

### **Event Opportunities/Ideas**

**Sing Me A Song** Christiana mentioned an opportunity that was presented to us in regard to performing a song that an underprivileged child would write. A music student from a college would write the score to it. Then we would play it for the child son writer. Sometimes these events are on TV and promoted on this nonprofit's website. It is an all-around valuable experience for everyone. Christiana said she would reach out to Ms. Howell to see if she is interested in taking charge of this. If not, we could organize it.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USA** We had a discussion about not really having enough time or money to pull off a trip somewhere else. We discussed contacting the Gallatin County fairgrounds and seeing if they have anything planned for the Fourth of July, pitching them an idea of having orchestras come together for a performance to celebrate the anniversary of our country before fireworks. There was discussion about getting sponsors, also getting local veterans involved or even putting on an event with SLAM if the Gallatin Valley fairgrounds isn't on board. We could also reach out to the Bozeman Symphony and see if we could open for them at this event. We could reach out to Renee Westlake again Scott suggested we get a pitch together and contact the teachers that put-on the Bozeman String Jam including Cindy Stone see if we can get them involved in this.

### **Student Council Report**

The report from the high school is the music is not challenging enough. Also, there are not enough copies of music for all the students. Ms. Howell may need more help with printing materials. Some kids are not practicing because of the issues. Scott suggested the BOEC council ask students in the class if they can help her get organized. The student council would like assistance with contacting Ms. Howell about the issue. We will discuss this with her by email and or in person. We may reach out to Mr. Pannell to see if he can help with the music printing.

### **Upcoming events**

- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Belgrade middle school and high school Orchestra performance
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Santa breakfast

Open Discussion was ongoing, and no other discussions requested.

Next meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.

Adjourned 7:37pm motion Christiana, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tori