



Reagan Orchestra Booster Club General Meeting Minutes Approved August 10, 2019

Mr. Elizondo called the meeting to order at 9:07 am in the Reagan Auditorium. He welcomed parents to the first General Meeting of the 2019-2020 school year. He introduced himself and Mr. Sharplin.

Director's Address and Expectations:

Mr. Elizondo shared with parents the various ways to keep in touch by sharing the Director's email addresses (on the NEISD site) as well as confirming they were available on the website at ReaganOrchestra.weebly.com. He described the content that would be available on the FaceBook page maintained by parents (Concerts, Spirit Nights, etc.), Instagram maintained by students (Social events, Concerts, Spirit Nights, etc.) as well as a Remind Account for each class period. Remind groups can only be for up to 150 people now. Everyone will need to sign up again for this year and it will be by orchestra ensemble.

He confirmed that the Orchestra Calendar contains all major and some minor dates (tinyurl.com/rrhsocalendar). You can find the calendar on Charms Homepage, ROBC Webpage, Mr. Elizondo and Mr. Sharplin's teacher webpages. You will also receive a copy of a paper calendar on green paper with major dates. It will be published during the first few weeks of school.

Mr. Elizondo introduced Mr. Shapiro, ROBC President, for the coming school year. Mr. Shapiro announced he has been the President for one month now and the ROBC is made up of parents. He requested more parents to participate and have a voice in the future of the orchestra. He stressed the importance of making sure we have your email address so we can communicate with everyone. He introduced all of the board members for the coming year. John Horton, ROBC Treasurer, discussed how the club finances are separate from the school and how the funds are for items above and beyond what the school provides.

Mr. Elizondo announced the student officers and they introduced themselves as well as their positions, service chairs, social chairs, historians, librarians, first VP, and President.

Mr. Elizondo reminded everyone that rehearsals and concert attendance are mandatory and a grade will be given for each event. One absence from rehearsal per semester is allowed with advance notice. Additional information will be provided in the handbook that each student will receive at the beginning of the school year. Communication is required for any conflicts with other organizational events. The student is responsible for ensuring the Orchestra Director's and the other sponsor are aware in advance of any conflicts and they will work it out with the other sponsor.

Concert Attire is extremely important. A fitting will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 8:30 am. Returning students will be allowed to come earlier in the morning and will be allowed to try on the uniform from last year first to see if it still fits. You will receive a page of guidelines that students are expected to follow. Men will receive a tuxedo jacket and pants as well as a green bow tie, pocket square and cummerbund. The male students will be required to purchase a tuxedo shirt with pleats and a French tip collar. Men are also required to wear black dress shoes and black socks (no sport or short socks). Ladies will be issued a long, black dress. He is not concerned about ladies wearing hosiery, but will need to wear black dress shoes with no heels larger than 1" high. Ladies need to wear undergarments (black or nude in color) appropriate to the dress they are wearing (no sports bras or anything that shows the straps). No watches, bracelets, or jewelry hanging from the ear or visible necklaces are permitted. Any headbands need to match the color of your hair. He recommends that girls wear a tank top with leggings to the fitting so the dress can be tried on over clothing to see if it fits properly.

We have 6 concert groups and concert dates will be split into two nights for two concert events (October and February concerts). Winter/Holiday and Spring concerts will have all ensembles on the same night. Concert dates and groups will be listed on the calendars accordingly. Concert chaperones will be needed to monitor the rooms students are in prior to the concert. On concert days, students are asked to wear their Orchestra Polo all day. It promotes our Orchestra program on campus that day.

We are expecting that your student will practice at home. We do not set practice times per day. Students will get a week's notice of upcoming assessments. Formal playing assessments happen both live and recorded. We do not necessarily change seats after every playing test. The section leaders will likely sit in the same seat all year. Every member of every section is as important as the first chair.

Private lessons are strongly encouraged, but not required. In Chamber Orchestra, only one or two students do not take private lessons. In the remainder of the program, approximately 70% take private lessons. It is not an expectation that they take private lessons, but it is very important and beneficial if you can afford time wise and financially. You have a list of private teachers in the Welcome Package and on the website. With 200 students in the program, it is difficult to give feedback to each student individually in class and private teachers fill that need.

Orchestra students are predominately a high achieving group of students and are overall good kids. We expect students to open doors for other people or pick up a book that is dropped. They are expected to grow in character in addition to music. Students are expected to be a model student on campus. Orchestra students are generally very kind, giving and welcoming.

Summer camp this year was great and it was nice to meet new students. Student Officers put together the games and activities and led the students during the events. We worked on Region Music. Fiesta Texas was fun but very hot this year!

Chamber Orchestra will participate in the Midwest Clinic in Chicago this year on Friday, December 18th at 1:00 pm (great spot). This is also a travel year for the program. We will announce the destination during the first few weeks of school.

In the new building, Mr. Elizondo and Mr. Sharplin will have their own office and the ROBC will be helping to provide Mr. Sharplin a new laptop and the old office a new music filing system.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am and parents were asked to drop off their forms at the various tables in the lobby.

Next General Meeting: Next General Meeting will be on October 7 and 8, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ella Terhesh
ROBC Secretary