

The Advocate's Plan: Saving and Building Music Programs for Life



Dr. John L. Benham

The mission of education is
not **TEACHING** children –
it is children **LEARNING**



Advocacy Is ...

. . . caring enough to put the
STUDENT FIRST!

3 Keys to Success:

1. The Procedure
2. The Parents
3. The Profession

1st Key to Success:

The Procedure

Understanding the timeline and process by which decisions are made in a school district.

The Model District

- **The Community**
- **The School Board**
- **The Administration**
- **The Educational Community**

All collaborating to focus on
student learning

The Typical District

- Administration & School Board
- Teachers' Union
- Community Excluded

Focused on adult-centered issues such as money and power, with little or no community involvement

Making Decisions

Decision Makers:

- The Law • Normal Practice

Decision Drivers:

- Yearly Schedule • Adult Priorities
- Student Issues

Decision Driver: Schedule

- **Fall:** Initial Budget Discussions
- **January:** Registration (MS/HS)
 - First Public Awareness
 - Excess Levy Votes
 - Threats vs. Promises (Surveys)
- **March:** Pink Slips (Cuts)
- **June:** Budget Decision Deadline
- **September:** Program Reinstatement

Influencing Decisions

- **Get involved in the process**
- **Proactive vs. Reactive involvement**
- **Get organized**

Remember . . .

PROCESS
IS
POLITICS!

“The decision belongs to those who show up!”

Dr. Dennis R. Morrow

Seek Positive Reform

Reform Means Change

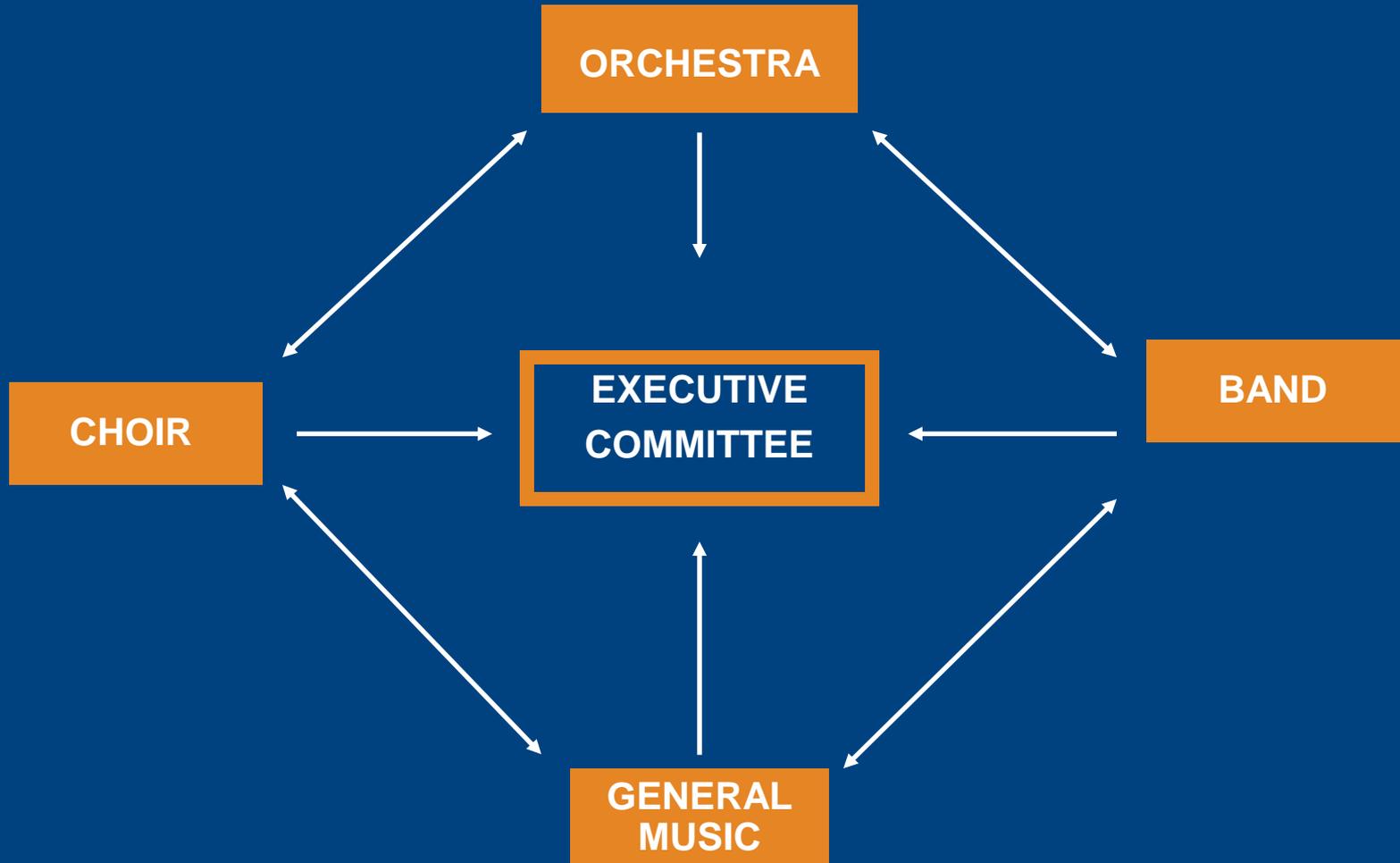
it does **NOT** guarantee
improvement!

2nd Key to Success:

The Parents

An organized Music Coalition is the most effective way for parents to influence the decision-making process in the school district.

The Music Coalition



ALL SCHOOLS • ALL LEVELS • MUSIC TEACHERS • MUSIC COMMUNITY

The Music Coalition

Teams:

1. **Communications**
2. **Administrative Liaison**
3. **Statistics and Finance**
4. **Philosophy and Curriculum**

1. Communications Team:

- **Recruit/Activate Parent Support Groups**
- **Develop & Maintain Mailing Lists**
- **Establish Rapid-call Telephone Bank**
- **Develop & Publish Music Newsletter**
- **Use the Press to Inform and Educate**

2. Administrative Liaison Team:

- **Establish Lines of Communication with Administration**
- **Acquire Knowledge of Administrative Proposals**
- **Develop & Present Music Proposals**
- **Representation at School Board Meetings**
- **Recruit, Train, Support, & Elect School Board Members**

3. Statistics & Finance Team:

- **Maintain Statistical Data**
- **Work with Administrative Liaison to Develop Proposals**
- **Manage All Fund-raising Activities & Monies**
- **Assist in Development & Presentation of Music Budget**

4. Philosophy & Curriculum Team:

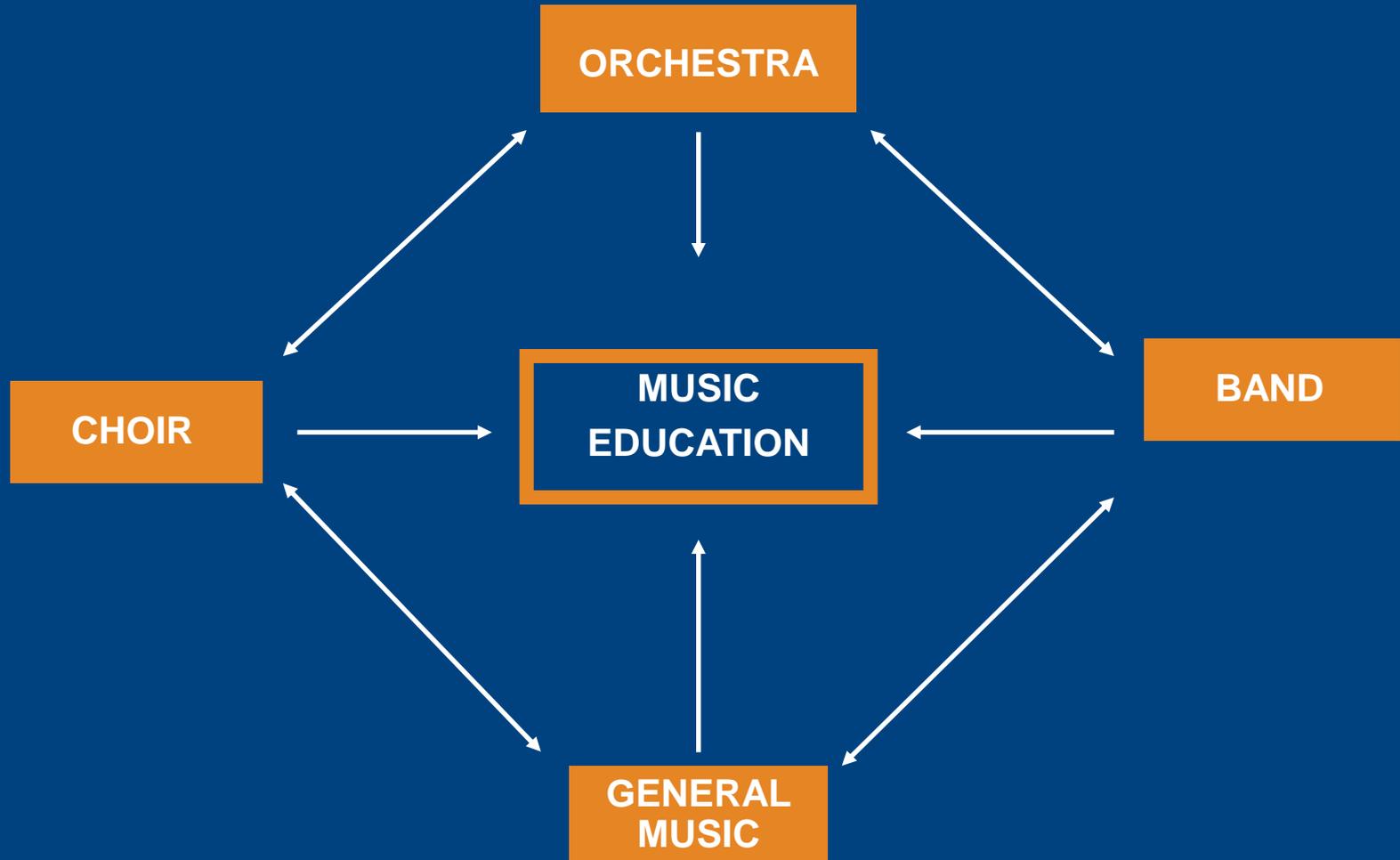
- Assist in Development of District Music Philosophy & Policy
- Assist in Development of Student-centered Curriculum
- Present to School Board for Official Adoption as District Policy

3rd Key to Success:

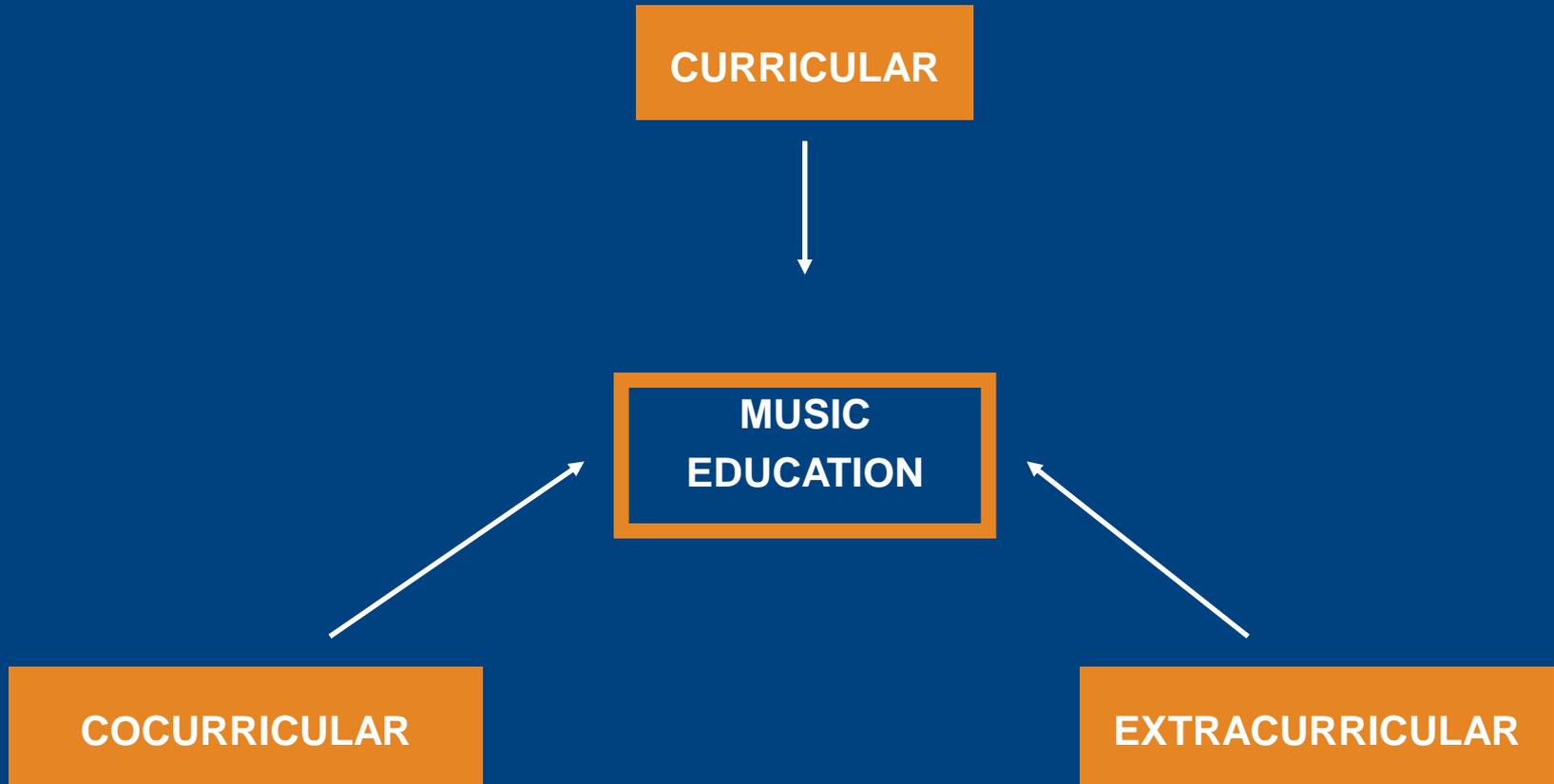
The Profession

Teachers and advocates need to work together for the benefit of the students.

Music Teachers



Music Curriculum



Music Curriculum

_____ Written, sequential teaching objectives
with student outcomes that are . . .

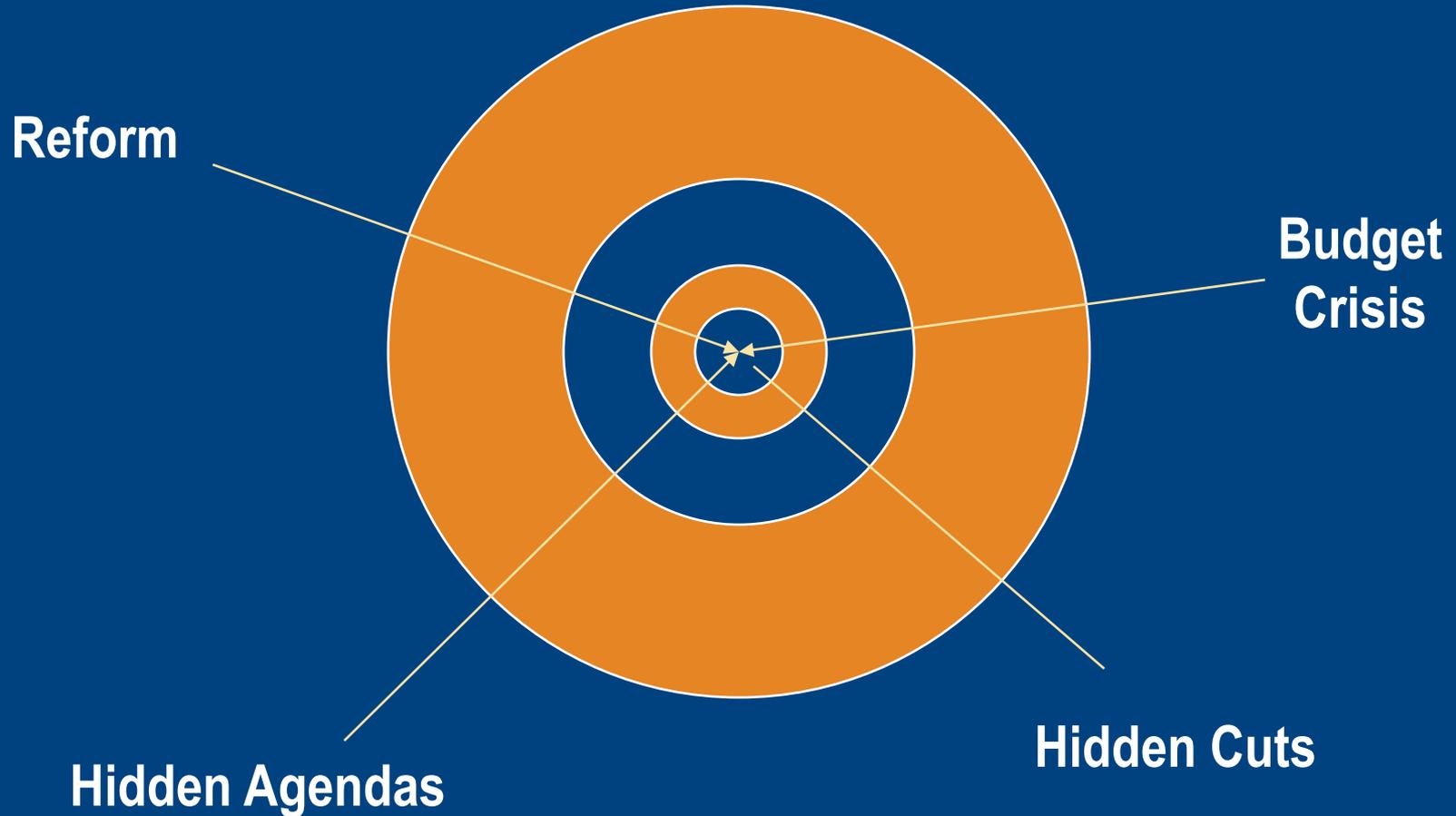
- Specific
- Achievable
- Measurable

Crisis Management

 In any crisis . . . Identify the issues first!

- Faculty Issues
- Curricular Issues
- Student Participation Issues
- Economic Issues

Target the Issues



The Financial Crisis

Strategies for the most
common school issue—

Full Time
Equivalent (FTE)

Average Student Loads Comparison (Music/non-music)

FTE Load	Classification	Classes x Students	Student
1.0	Non-music Classroom Teacher	5 x 30	150
<u>1.0</u>	Music Performance Teacher	5 x 40	<u>200</u>
2.0	Teachers		350
1.0	Non-music Classroom Teacher	5 x 30	150
1.0	Replacement Teacher	5 x 30	150
<u>.4</u>	Replacement Teacher	2 x 25	<u>50</u>
2.4	Teachers		350

1.0 FTE Music Teacher = 1.4 Classroom Teacher
Music Teacher Financial Value = 1.4 FTE

Reverse Economics

5.2 FTE Cut

Projected savings - \$156,000



**ANNUAL BUDGET
MISCALCULATION**

\$534,000

New Classes	29	50	63
New Classroom FTE	6.4	10.0	12.6

Action Strategy

**Never suggest cuts or
compromise!**

**Make Impact
Statements!**

Where Do You Stand?

- In Denial?
- Helpless?
- Apathetic?

Be an Advocate!

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