Notes from the FOFA meeting of Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Jan Ostrowski, Dante Billeci, Bill Perkins, Casey Petz, and Lynne Perkins attended the meeting.

The **minutes** from the January 15 meeting were approved as emailed (except for the correction below).
Treasurer's report: Jan reported that we currently have $7749 in our account, thanks to receiving $4,000 from the Suttons Bay Art Festival. Casey suggested looking into grants from the GTRCF. Since our last meeting, we paid $200 each to Jim Koch, Julie Schlief, and Laurie Sears, for mentoring band students.

Casey Petz gave us an administrative update:
We reported in our last minutes that there was no **middle school choir or elementary music** this semester. That was incorrect: Lauren Petz is still teaching choir, but in an "advisory" period on Wednesdays – it's not every day. She started with 9 and now has 16 with the addition of some guys. Elementary specials teacher, Scott Miller, incorporates singing into his cultural expressions classes, so they are getting some music.

The admin is working toward having a **full-time elementary music teacher** for the next school year, to fill Elizabeth Richards position. Her resignation last summer did not come at the most opportune time for finding a good replacement, the position will be posted in March this time. It's a bit complicated, but Suttons Bay Public Schools is changing from an in-formula district to an out-of-formula district. There will be about 2 years of flux/shortfall, then there should be a windfall situation. This will help pay for the music teacher's position.
Casey said that the **facilities use form** is now online. He emphasized that the students of our district will always come first.
He also told us that Jason Peplinski is working on a community choir, and a **community performance** that would be open to students, adults, anybody. SBPS would be the host location for rehearsals and performances. It would be a fundraiser for the school's arts programs.

Dante gave us band updates:

1. Events (it's busy!)

- In the last week of January, the Dave Sharp Quartet came to SBPS. They performed for the middle school and high school, and talked about Greek, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean cultures. It was funded through Building Bridges. Casey told us that community members are welcome for events like this, but they must check in through the office and sit in the mezzanine.
- High School Pep Band played February 7. It went well. The students had fun and showed noticeable improvement from last year.
- High School Solo and Ensemble was February 8. 4 students participated. 3 earned Division II, 1 earned a Division III.

- Middle School Band and Orchestra Festival will be February 21 at Elk Rapids High School. The 7th and 8th grade band will perform, the 6th graders are invited to watch, for extra credit. The performance will be at 8:15 p.m.
- MSBOA High School Band and Orchestra Festival will be February 22 at Elk Rapids High School. Our band will perform at 11:55 a.m. Both middle and high school students will travel on buses.
- Middle School Honor Band performs in Kalkaska on March 11. Dante has nominated 6 students. 2 are guaranteed, he's waiting to hear back on the others.
- Middle School Solo & Ensemble is April 12. 3 students have signed up.
- The Spring Concert will be at 6 pm on April 24. This will not be an all-school concert but rather grade 5-12 band and choir.

2. Other news:

- Dante presented to the School Board on February 10. His presentation was well received. He discussed student growth, the importance of a band program in our school, and his vision for the future.
- The orchestra pit for the musical is hired. Rehearsals will begin in late April.
- The Band Council voted on the best logo. Now waiting for the logo to be finalized and digitized.
- Hal Fisher worked with students on February 10, on their festival music. Thanks, Hal!
- Dante surveyed the Northport Community Band about the June 14th concert, he is still waiting for responses.
- Also last week, students auditioned for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.
- Two 5th graders and one 6th grader are taking private percussion lessons with Jim Koch.

Art Updates from Mary Hall (not in attendance):

- We had about 46 submissions of art to Exposures Magazine!
- The next big art submission/event is the Crooked Tree Art Center Youth Art Exhibit. Installation is March 3-8, the show runs from March 11-April 5. Awards and Reception on March 16. Last year we had 2 high school students win scholarships, and one elementary student won an award! **Mary may appreciate some help with setting up the art. She did it solo last year, but an extra pair of hands would be helpful.**
- Mary is still looking into some spring field trips for the HS and MS art clubs, to be determined. She is not sure what kind of budget she has to work with beyond the Art Club budget, which has about $2,000 in it.
- Mary is co-chair of the Michigan Art Education Association Conference for this year, and they will be welcoming Lynne Perkins as one of the keynote speakers. Awesome!
- There are several younger students who are really into sewing machines in the studio. If anyone would like to come to help with threading the machines and assisting with basic sewing projects (usually pillows and bags), Mary would love an extra pair of hands! Generally, the classes meet 10-11:25 every day except Wednesdays, and are 2nd to 5th grade students.

We have not recently heard from the Cultural Club.

<u>Auditorium Updates</u>:
Zack was not at the meeting, but Casey told us they are involved with the logistics of moving the soundboard.
There is also a whole bunch of stuff in the auditorium wings that needs to be organized and consolidated, hopefully during Spring Break. He would like to set guidelines for this next year and develop a docent program for caretaking of the auditorium and for theatre etiquette during concerts. The new music person will have a role in this.

We agreed to reimburse Jan $99 for band kids attending the jazz concert at the Bay Theatre on January 19.

About 100 students went to see a matinee of *WICKED* at the Bay Theatre last week. Jan tried to negotiate popcorn for them, but it was out of FOFA's price range. Still, really cool that they went!

And that's it!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, at 3:30 pm in the high school art room.
The April meeting will be Tuesday, April 8.
See you there!