Notes from the FOFA meeting of January 15, 2025

Jan Ostrowski, Dante Billeci, Mary Hall, Kathy Angier, Mary Woods, Bill Perkins, and Lynne Perkins attended the meeting.

The notes from the December 11 meeting were approved as emailed.

Jan reported that we currently have $3,374.44 in our account, with a few checks still to receive for ads in the program book. She also stressed that the program books must be given out at events, since that is what our supporters are paying for.

Dante let us know that the administrators would like to come to our meetings, but they have a conflicting meeting. We agreed to change our **next meeting to Tuesday, February 11 at 3:30.** Perhaps our meeting could always be the second Tuesday of the month?

Dante updated us on **Band News:**
Money:

- Just over $1,000 was raised at the winter concert (Minute to Give it, and cookies).
- There will be a Century Resources Fundraising (selling candy, etc.) campaign March 31-April 14.
- Re: the June 14 Fundraising Event, Dante reserved the VI Grill for $200. He will reserve the school auditorium, the Bay Theater didn't work out. Tickets would automatically include a set number of drinks at the VI. Students can attend concert free, but no VI for them. Dante is reaching out to musicians who will perform for free; he plans to invite the Backroom Gang, the Northport Community Band, and maybe others.
- The VI part will include a silent auction. We asked Kathy if she would lead the effort to obtain auction items (baskets, etc.), but we should all see if we can think of people who might be willing to donate something.

Band events:

- There will be a Band Council meeting on January 22 to finalize the band logos.
- Dante is doing a lesson on music related to MLK on January 20. He is offering extra credit to those who attend the Alluvion Big Band performance on January 26, featuring civil rights music, directed by Chris Glassman. ($ is free will donation.)
- The first Pep band performance is on January 17, at the boys' varsity basketball game. (the next one will be at a girls' game.) Students are learning music from *Grease*. They will also play the National Anthem and the fight song.
- MSBOA Festival is either February 22 or March 1 in Elk Rapids, still waiting to hear.
- 9 students will attend the concert featuring students from Kingsley and St. Francis High Schools jazz bands, at the Bay Theater on January 19. FOFA will pay for tickets ($99 total)
- Blue Lake Scholarship auditions are February 6.
- Not OUR students' band, but the Dave Sharp World Quartet will be performing at the school on January 24th, with their Building Bridges program (Jeff Haas).

- Students got to vote for some of the music they will be playing at the Spring Concert. 5th graders chose *Star Wars*, 6th graders chose music from *The Avengers*, and 7-8th graders chose "Sweet Caroline" and a version of Gustav Holst's *The Planets*. The concert will be April 24th. Mary Hall will put some art in the atrium.
- Band mentorship program will start up again next week.

The pit orchestra for the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* has been hired, and will include Pete Willis (reeds), Ann Marie Jones (violin/viola), Andy Evans (bass), Fred Szcepanski (piano), and Jim Koch (percussion). The total cost will be $4,400, some of which will be covered by the musical budget. We told Dante to see how much he can come up with from various sources and let us know what he still needs.

Dante pointed out the newly purchased music chairs and stands, thanks to the Northport Community Band (especially Steve Gilreath), which is rehearsing here.

In a recap of the Holiday Concert: it went really well! Not planning to have all grade levels on one night again, it's too long an evening. And because of this year's snow day cancellation, Dante has already booked a concert day and a snow day concert date for next year.

Dante will be teaching choir next year. There is currently no middle school choir and no elementary music this semester – a replacement for Elizabeth Richards was not hired. Scott Miller incorporates some music in his cultures class, and Libby Wadsworth helped out with the Holiday concert; many thanks to them!

Mary Hall gave us the **Art News:**

- The Exposures deadline is in February. There will be less artwork from Suttons Bay schools this year, as a bunch of her art powerhouses graduated last year. She has only one high school class this year, last year there were two.
- She is also collecting work from K-12 for the Crooked Tree Arts Council event in March.
- Not as many seniors this year, so less students will be receiving FOFA merit scholarships.
- Spring field trips are up in the air.
- Mary is on the board of the Michigan Art Educators Conference which will be held at Grand Traverse Resort on November 13. Does FOFA want to participate in some way?

In FOFA biz and related news:

- Our nonprofit status expired (having taken over from SB Community First which dissolved in December). Dave Faught has generously offered to help us regain that, for free. Thank you, Dave!
- We paid out $666 for dinners for the MSU Jazz performers, $75 to Ryan Memberto for mentoring the holiday concert, $225 to Julie Schleif for mentoring classes Dec 16 and playing in the holiday concert; and $249 for an EIN number for FOFA.
- New curtains are on order for the auditorium, because their fireproofing has evaporated.

- Mary Hall suggested FOFA folks could attend “Doughnuts for Grownups,” parents of kids in middle and high school, to try to recruit new members. PTO is primarily elementary school parents. Event is Feb 13 from 8:25 to 9:40 am, contact petzl@suttonsbayschools.com if interested in coming!
- Bill Perkins suggested that event posters could be advertised at the recycling bins.
- There is a middle school talent show before Spring Break – another opportunity to give out the program booklets.

And that’s about it!

See you at the next meeting, which will be on Tuesday, February 11, at 3:30 pm in the high school band or art room!