Notes from the FOFA meeting of Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Chris Reeve, Jacob Westerhof, Dante Billeci, Jan Ostrowski, Lynne Perkins, Bill Perkins, and Mary Woods attended the meeting.

The **minutes** from Oct 1 meeting were approved as emailed.

Treasurer's report: Jan is still waiting to hear about the $5,000 Suttons Bay Art Fair grant from 2024-25. Once received, our $4,200 balance will go up to $9,200. The program book ad sales will push that total up further. FOFA has spent $1,750 so far on mentors, with $2,750 budgeted for that program for the rest of the year.

Jan has not heard back from Martha Meek about the time frame for helping pay for music lessons for her piano student.

Bill asked if FOFA is open to giving money to Leelanau Montessori. Helping Montessori students take band could encourage them to attend SBPS post-Montessori. Chris will talk to Casey (Petz) about how that would be expedited (paperwork, etc.)

Chris shared that the Homecoming Parade was amazing. Beautiful day. The band sounded great. (No, we did not win that football game. But we did win the next one!)

Band:

Dante said that at least 2 students will be going up to Charlevoix on November 5 to audition for **Honors Band.**

The **Northport Community Band Holiday Concert** will be on November 30 at 2 pm (in Northport even though they practice in our auditorium). One Suttons Bay student is participating, a sax player, who will receive extra credit (but would probably do it even without extra credit). Dante's hoping more band students will join.

10-15 students, mostly 5th graders, are regularly attending **Thursday After-School Band**. It's been great and productive. Some middle school and high school students are coming in to help.

The **Mentorship program** is really effective. Dante is brining in local musicians every other Tuesday to work with students. Participating musicians so far are: Pete Deneen, Hal Fisher, Jim Koch, Nancy Flanagan and Julie Schleif.

FOFA is willing to provide money, usually about $200, for **private lessons** per student per year. Jan will send Dante the form for students to request the scholarship. He feels

it is better to give the money directly to the teachers, primarily because kids might lose the check.

Dante would like to find more ways to encourage students to participate in the community music scene, which is so rich. “The beginning of a long conversation.” Any ideas??? Visiting Medilodge, and the jam sessions at LIFT were suggested. More ideas welcome!

Jan reported that her No Excuses String Ensemble, which auctioned off a performance at the Movie Music Madness event back in June, had that performance recently, in a private home in Traverse City. It was great fun, and another way to connect with the community.

Choir and Musical:

Jacob’s big news: **the spring musical will be *Little Shop of Horrors*!** *(Beauty and the Beast* was unavailable because there is a touring version going on in Michigan.) Just had their first meeting, 16 students attended. This will probably be a high school show, in terms of performers. Auditions are in 2 weeks. A new pianist will have to be found, as Bobbie Lange is moving to New York (we’ll miss her!). It would be good to have the pianist 4-5 weeks ahead of the performance. Costly, but worth it. And there is $7,000 in the musical fund. Last year, the students in the musical had difficulty following the pit orchestra because they were used to the “track” music. Jacob hopes to train the students early to follow the piano instead.

Also from Jacob, the choir will have 2 pieces ready for the **holiday concert** on Thursday, December 4. (Snow day December 9) “There Will be Stars,” and “All I Want for Christmas is You.”

Art:

Mary was busy in the art room running a HS art club meeting **making ornaments** to sell at the Holiday in the Village event November 29! She did not have time to come over.

Other Projects:

The **Program Book**: Deb Freed is willing to put the book together again this year, THANK YOU, DEB!! We will have less of them printed this year; there were a lot left over last year. Jan, Mary, and Bill are busy contacting businesses since the deadline for artwork is NOVEMBER 7. If anyone reading this is interested in donating $25 to have your name listed as a FOFA supporter, email janowazski@gmail.com by Nov. 7, thanks!

Should there be a **Movie Music Magic** type event again this year? How about in February, when people are looking for something to do? Dante is thinking of making

admission be by donation; there will be some who are willing to donate more. And there could be a QR code for donations. Maybe venmo, too. Maybe this could be a COLLAGE kind of revival or partner up with a Variety Show on Yeti Fest day; Jan will find out when that is. There is another PDQ Bach concert on January 30 in Suttons Bay, it would be good to have these events a few weeks apart.

Mary said that her daughter, Veronica (SB alum!), will again be having her Design Dance Company student winter concert, “Frost,” at the SB school auditorium. Last year, there was a weather-related cancellation that forced her to move the concert to Northport, hopefully this year will work out better!

Mary also said that Leelanau Christian Neighbors is hoping to have a “Tony and Tina’s Wedding” event (participatory theater) next spring or summer, and they need someone like Jason or Fred Szczepanski to (help) manage it – anyone??

Our Next Meeting will be at

3 pm on Wednesday, November 19, when we will talk more about

helping out with the upcoming holiday concerts

Cookies, etc. See you then! Thanks to all!

*Remember these upcoming events, both are **FREE!***

Elementary Holiday Concert

Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm

Band and Choir Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 4 at 6:00 pm

