

Westborough Fine Arts Education Association

Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2020 Zoom Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Beth Kinsky, Kelly White, Alyssa Dver, Chris O’Keefe, Katrina Banks-Binici, Chris Martin, Connie Hastings, Jennifer Niece, Lisa Chace, Michelle French, Jessica Crandall, Pauline Sciarappa, Lisa Martin

Treasurer’s Report – Chris O’Keefe

Expense

- \$750 paid to the accountant for filing taxes
- \$5810 in checks for Mr. WHS – the total amount raised \$550 for Mrs. Gormley organizing and the balance to WHS to cover expenses and for donation to Food Pantry

Income

- \$105 Membership dues - 2 memberships

Meeting Minutes – Jennifer Niece and Katrina Banks-Binici

Minutes from the September 22 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Fine Arts Director Report – Chris Martin

Mill Pond:

- Ensembles start this week with faculty visiting each homeroom to speak to students. Forms and letters explaining the program went home to families today. There will be no rental night but rather an instrument pick-up night at French’s music at the end of October.
- 6th grade orchestra and band will be held during activity period, starting the week after Columbus Day.
- Band will be held remotely so students will have band on their day at home, which allows all kids to play because there are too many restrictions on in-person playing.
- 5th grade will start the following week – same format as 6th grade, and then 4th grade.
- Instruments – teachers will have instruments in school so they can demonstrate posture and technique.
- Chorus is difficult with all the restrictions. They will hold virtual workshops after school, such as how to audition, how to make a recording, group sing-a-long.
- Mill Pond SLRP can access the fine arts classes seeing that they are being held remotely.

Gibbons:

- Band is playing outside.
- Chorus has been split into 2 cohorts taught by J. Stillitano and A. Greer-Espinoza.

High school:

- Chris Martin announced that they hope to offer an Art Honor Society this year. It would have comparable grade and recognition requirements to Tri-M. Seniors could be awarded a capstone project to paint a mural in WHS. The induction ceremony will be combined with Tri M.
- Band is playing outside in the parking lot by the tennis courts.
- Chorus hand chimes have arrived.
- Orchestra is running every day.
- Marching band is starting by Cohorts, 10 feet apart outside with masks. They can only play for 30 minutes, so there will be hour-long rehearsals for October and November with 30 minutes of playing and 30 minutes of socializing. They will participate in the football season in April.
- After-school activities and auditions require approval from the DESE, and they have not released guidance surrounding this. So, groups such as acapella and jazz band can't be held yet.
- Clubs can be run virtually, including holding workshops like preparing for auditions.
- High school SLRP students can participate in band, orchestra, and chorus as an independent study for full credit.
- Disney refund checks will be issued in the coming days.

Tri M:

Chris Martin suggested engaging Tri-M students to update WFAEA at their monthly meetings on news, ongoing programs and new events in the areas of Music, Drama and Art. Students would rotate in order to allow more people to participate. It was discussed that having more than one student presenting at a time might make them feel more comfortable. It was also suggested that WFAEA/Chris Martin draft an outline of the Tri-M rep role and what is expected.

Staffing:

- A new digital art teacher, Francis Blaschke, was hired to cover Carolyn McGrath's position at the high school. Carolyn is teaching in the remote program this year. Mr. Blaschke was the director of photography programming in the MFA outreach department.
- There are a total of 27 fine arts faculty.
- The Fine Arts Department has developed conceptual priorities for each arts program in each school.

Website

- New President's Letter has been uploaded.
- New volunteer form for this year will be updated to include opportunities to volunteer with the newsletter, ad book, restaurant fundraising, and community outreach.
- Alumni "where are they now" page will be added.
- Alyssa would like to find a junior to be involved with the web site.

Fundraising/Volunteering

- Kim Keogh has agreed to lead the restaurant fundraising effort, and Shona Plunkett may also help. Tri M students can also help with the restaurant fundraisers.
- WFAEA will periodically email fine arts families with information on how to get involved in the arts with volunteering opportunities.
- Beth has sent out invites for an ad book planning meeting with Connie Hastings and Judy Brown.

Newsletter

- Colors have been changed to align with WFAEA logo.
- It was suggested to not call this a newsletter but something more “in tune” with the arts. It was decided to call it (Westborough) Fine Arts Spotlight. (Need to determine whether to include Westborough based on space.)
- Chris M. will send live links to the opening plan and video content.
- Chris M. will send out the first newsletter (10/15) and then get WFAEA a distribution list for future newsletter distribution.
- Include links to Instagram accounts and use photos:

<https://www.instagram.com/wboro.singingrangers/>

<https://www.instagram.com/westboroughorchestra/>

<https://www.instagram.com/rangerbandstagram/>

WFAEA Facebook page

Connie will also link Instagram info to WFAEA Facebook page.

Motion to adjourn; seconded; all approved.

Adjournment: 7:59 pm