

Westborough Fine Arts Education Association

January 4, 2021 7:00 PM, Meeting Minutes

In compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions, WFAEA held its meeting virtually, but with all present, visible and with the ability to hear and participate we conclude that members joining the meeting by Zoom are present.

Present: Beth Kinsky, Jessica Crandall, Jen Niece, Kathy Swanson, Chris Martin, Taveena Konakanchi, Lisa Martin, Michelle French, Lisa Chace, Jeannie Chong, Deb Cushman

Executive Board

Co-Presidents- Lisa Chace and Beth Kinsky

Vice President- Deb Cushman

Treasurer- Jennifer Niece presented the following information:

Income during November and December:

6 new members donated a total of \$830, bringing total members to 32 and dues to \$3,575.

\$71 from Center Stage concessions

\$130 from Concert Gowns

\$65.70 from Scrip

\$5.34 from Amazon Smile

\$2.43 in Interest

January (as of Jan 4 - \$300 has come in)

There were no expenses incurred during November and December.

- Beth and Jen will discuss the guidelines for the newsletter shoutouts included with the memberships over \$150 and will reach out to members to select which issue they would prefer..

Secretary- Jessica Crandall

- November 2, 2021 minutes approved (Motion made by Deb Cushman, Seconded by Lisa Chace)

Student Liaison - Taveena Konakanchi presented the following updates:

- Concerts for all groups took place in December.
- Band and Orchestra are currently working on MICCA pieces
- Chorus is preparing for the Choral Collage
- Chamber groups are working on new pieces.
- Taveena felt that, in general, students are happy with mandatory masking and were concerned about rising covid cases and possibly returning to flexible masking.

Director of Fine Arts- Chris Martin

- COVID Updates: 8 teachers and 189 students were absent today at WHS, 60 students at Fales. Per Chis, some families are opting to keep kids at home.
- Theater Productions
 - The Play *Ten by Ten* was held in the fall.
 - The Winter Production will be Eurydice and is February 10th, 11th and 12th. It is a small cast production with a large tech crew. Chris will discuss with Melinda Jaz whether there will be an intermission and whether we will hold concessions.
 - The spring Musical will be at the end of April 28 – May 1, and will be Les Miserables. They may decide to double-cast depending on talent and interest.. Auditions will be held the week before February break.

- The Fine Arts calendar has been updated with these changes.
- CDMMEA Senior District Festival – 43 students were accepted into this year’s virtual festival.
- Massachusetts All State Festival – 23 of the 43 students accepted also received a recommendation to submit a video audition for the All State Festival. All State’s this year will consist of a full day rehearsal at the convention center in Marlborough on March 2nd, followed by a concert at Symphony Hall on March 4th.
- MICCA Choral Festival – April 1-2
 - All sites are reducing the festival to 2 days (Friday night and Saturday all day) due to low enrollment.
- Choral Collage
 - The Choral Collage will be the same format as Band-o-Rama
 - Pizza will be served between concerts and students will be split up in various seating areas.
 - A form opting in for pizza and requesting \$5 per student will go out. Pizza orders will be due by Friday, Jan 14th..
 - It was noted that Lisa and Michelle may want to check the WFAEA closet for unexpired snacks left over from the fall play concessions.
 - Sign up for donations will be sent out by Lisa Martin (for bottled water, etc.)
 - There is a 250 person maximum for the show. Each student will receive one 5pm and one 7pm ticket. (If families don’t need all tickets, they can hand them in to be redistributed.) Any other changes due to Covid restrictions will be decided Friday before.
 - Westborough TV will live-stream the 7pm performance.
- Tri-M Induction will be held on January 25th.
 - 50 eligible candidates received applications which are due on 1/7/22
 - Accepted students will be notified early next week
 - The Tri-M Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, January 25th and will be combined with Arts Honor Society induction.
 - The Art Honors Society is new this year. (Those selected have already been notified, but will be officially inducted on January 25th. To qualify, you must have taken 3 consecutive art semester classes or AP Art, with an A in all Fine Arts classes, at least a B in all other classes and at least a B overall average.)
 - Families are welcome to attend.
 - All will be masked. New inductees will be on the stage. This event is run by student leaders.

General Business

- If you have a question to pass on to Beth or Lisa for the Superintendent’s Advisory Council, send questions / feedback to them.
- There was discussion about the possibility of temporarily changing the senior scholarship eligibility requirement from 2-years of membership to 1 year due to Covid – The group decided to keep the policy “as is” this year and then revisit next year.
- Beth and Deb will make changes to the existing business ad letter (due to reduction of in person performances and ability to allow enough advertising this year). It will be sent out this month
- Pops Night (May 2022)- We will include a brainstorming session as part of our February meeting.
- Uniforms - a discussion was had regarding the possibility of starting to prepare for future fundraisers for gender neutral uniforms. Chris Martin said that he is planning on purchasing a tunic type shirt as a third option for uniforms. When more gender neutral options become available, we will discuss more purchases and fundraising.

Upcoming Activities

- The second issue of the Spotlight Newsletter will go out at the beginning of February. Timing will be appropriate to promote upcoming events. A March issue before MICCA, and a Senior Issue are also planned. The February issue will:
 - Spotlight Jr/Sr Districts-selected students to be honored (Photos of students, if possible)
 - Spotlight All State recommendations (Photos of students, if possible)
 - Tri-M new inductees / Arts Honor Society - Photo
 - Business ad promotion
- Choral Collage - 1/27/22- Lisa Martin, Michelle French & Liz Burow Co-Chairs
- Winter Theater Production - 2/10,11,12 -Concessions to be decided
- WHS Spring Musical – 4/28 – 5/1 (Concessions - Kathy Swanson)
- MICCA Festival 4/1/22-4/2/22
- Pops Night (May 2022)

Adjournment – 8:19pm by Lisa Chace, seconded by Kathy Swanson.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2022 at 7:00pm