

## Westborough Fine Arts Education Association

Minutes - February 1, 2022

7:00 PM Zoom Meeting

In compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions, WFAEA is holding 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, Lisa Chace, Deb Cushman, Chris Martin, Jessica Crandall, Jennifer Niece, Taveena Koakanchi, Kathleen Swanson, Michelle French, Jeannie Chong, Kim Keogh,

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.

### **Treasurer-** Jennifer Niece

- Treasurer's Report
  - Income:
    - 2 new members donated a total of \$450, bringing total members to 34 and dues to \$4,025 for the year.
    - \$40 from a Seat of Recognition
    - \$65 from Concert Gowns
    - \$1 from PayPal Giving
  - Expenses: none
  - Membership update - There are currently 34 members
  - Notes: Total income will likely come in under budget because we are not producing the ad book this year.

### **Secretary-** Jessica Crandall

- Approved January 4, 2022 minutes after one change was made by Jennifer Niece. Correction noted: \*Newsletter Shout-Outs are for those that give \$150+ (not \$100+). (This correction was made in the January minutes.)
- The minutes were approved.

### **Student Liaison Updates/Notes - Taveena Konakanchi**

- Gibbons - choral auditions are next week.
- Ensembles are currently rehearsing for the upcoming MICCA festivals.
- The National Arts Honors Society and Tri-M induction ceremony took place last week.
- Eurydice rehearsals have been taking place.
- Students have not been vocalizing concerns about covid or at-home testing. There have been fewer Covid concerns noticed since the initial omicron spike.

### **Director of Fine Arts-** Chris Martin

- Thank you to Michelle French for the wonderful photos from Choral Collage and Tri-M/Arts induction. Chris may try to find arts students from photography classes to take photos at future events.
- Clinician Requests for Funding:
  - WHS Orchestra - \$300 to bring in a clinician, Jonathan Lam, Springfield Youth Orchestra Director on March 14-15. The goals for these sessions include gaining outside feedback to improve ensemble skills as they prepare for the MICCA festival.
  - GMS Orchestra - \$150 to bring in a clinician, Diane Plouffe, Orchestra Director from Franklin Public Schools, will work with Gibbons Orchestra on Thursday, March 3 from 1:45pm-3:15pm. Goals include gaining feedback to improve ensemble skills as the group prepares for spring performances.

- WHS Bands - \$300 to bring in a clinician, Dr. Eric Melley from Providence College to prepare for MICCA on February 14 and March 3.
- GMS/WHS - \$500 to bring in 1 clinician, Dr. Stephen Paparo to work with the WHS Women's Chorale, Mixed Chorus and Concert Choir on February 16 and March 16, 2022. Dr. Paparo will work with the GMS Chorus on March 16 as well. The guest clinician will provide insightful and inspiring work and feedback in preparation for concerts and the MICCA festival. Dr. Paparo will work with the students during the school day in their class/rehearsal time.
- Per Beth, all fall within budget. (Including a per diem per day).
- Beth made the motion to approve all requests, Lisa seconded. All passed.

### **General Business**

- Feedback for Superintendent's Advisory Committee -changes in testing protocols.
  - Kim Keogh asked for an update about choral groups & masks. Per Chris Martin, the School Committee will meet tomorrow and will vote on 2/16 regarding masking. It is likely WHS and Gibbons will go back to flexible masking as long as the number of cases continues to decline (after February break).
  - Kim Keogh also asked about masking during the MICCA festival at the beginning of April.
    - Per Chris Martin, visiting districts will be adhering to their own masking policies while singing. All audiences will be masked.
- The revised Business Ad letter will be sent out next week. The current year ad offering has been changed to a \$100 suggested donation for the businesses logo on the bottom of the last 2 newsletters and on the patron page of the WFAEA website.
- Pops Night (May 17, 2022)- Discuss ideas and begin planning
  - Per Chris Martin:
    - Discussion of location (Outdoor, Auditorium, use auditorium lobby, indoor/outdoor)
    - We're assuming there won't be food inside at this point due to Covid, but we could have food outside
    - Performances will be by band, orchestra, and chorus ensembles, performing all showtunes, pop or light music. No tuxes / uniforms will be worn and the atmosphere will be casual.
    - Performances will include:
      - Senior showcases
      - Drama - Scenes from Les Miserables
      - Art Exhibits (It will be the week before the district wide Art Show, so we could include a preview.)
    - A suggestion was made that there could be art exhibits and casual performances for an hour outdoors and in lobbies, then everyone would move into the auditorium for the official concert.
    - Other suggestions:
      - Invite the senior center?
      - Do something special for Seniors? (Boutineers for all seniors - Michelle volunteered to get them), Recognition in the program, list post-secondary plans)
      - Use projectors to display Art
      - There will be a full page in newsletter in March to promote Pops Night
      - WFAEA funds will be available for flowers, food and decorations

- Tickets:
  - Decide ticket price by April and if tickets at the door or all advance.
  - Ticket order form; Chris will collect \$, hand out tickets and give to Jen.
  - Pricing for tickets:
    - In advance: \$15 adult /\$10 senior citizens  
\$5 for WHS students sold at lunch a few days before (Chris to organize students to sell)
    - At the door: \$10 students & seniors / \$20 adults

### Upcoming Activities

- Newsletter -
  - Second Issue - going out this week
  - Discussing visual arts issue in March or April
  - Jen reached out to those getting a shout-out. Did not receive much response. Will look for an example to send from an old Ad book.
- Winter Theater Production - 2/10,11,12 -*Eurydice* - No Concessions / No intermission
  - Permission was given for no masks for performers (only 6 in cast)
  - Audience members will wear masks.
  - Posters are now available (Artwork by Ani Chong). Will post on WFAEA Facebook and Newsletter.
- MICCA Festival 4/1/22-4/2/22 - Kim Keogh (Chair) will start coordinating with the Concessions chair.
  - MICCA Overview:
    - Warm up, Performance, Clinic
    - Formal Awards ceremonies will not be taking place.
    - Tri-M kids will direct traffic in the parking lot.
    - Friday 3-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm
- WHS Spring Musical - *Les Miserables* 4/28,29,30,5/1 (Concessions - Kathy Swanson)
  - Beth will invite the Senior Center to attend.
- Reminder - Town Meeting - March 19, 2022
- Senior Recognition Banquet - Date TBD

**Adjournment** -next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2022 at 7:00pm

*Voting privileges- one vote per paid member; membership forms available tonight!*