

FoPA NOTES January 9, 2012

In attendance –Karen Campbell, Lynn Modell, Genae Johnson, Ben Whipple, Roberta Udoh, Sue Sturman, Herb Hough, Nancy Wagman

The minutes from the December 12th FoPA meeting were approved.

Discussion was had on the TD bank fund raising opportunity.

- ✓ It was agreed not to get involved with TD Bank

Performing Arts updates by Lynn Modell:

- Winter Concert was packed - all the programs printed were used. Student word of mouth may have helped, as there were a lot of students in the audience. The performance was great! The orchestra was present with the musicians in front. The placement put the performers on platforms, which were preset – allowing very smooth transitions. The orchestra has grown to 59 members (up from 35 three years ago. Ben gives much credit to John Ferguson’s strong work with the grammar schools.) The audience was very attentive. All ran very smoothly. This was the mostly highly attended Winter Concert in the committee’s memory.
- Decided to do bookmarks, even though we are nearly at the half-year mark. Plan is for Herb to get Paul to print 1000 bookmarks to keep in Lynn’s box for distribution at concerts as well as other venues (Art Barn, PALS, senior centers, libraries, etc.) Jeanine will design wallet size cards to laminate for eighth graders as performance passes.
- PA money is largely committed, which was Lynn’s goal to avoid leftover money being reappropriated. For example, Mike Driscoll has a new piano, has commissioned a cover.
- Christmas Carols were sung in the Atrium by Camerata and others. The acoustics were amazing and it was expressed unfortunate that not more concerts could be offered in the Atrium due to scheduling and possible interference with gatherings in MLK and other meeting rooms.
- Freshman play was a success, many sold out performances. Great group of kids in freshman class.
- Winter Musical (to be performed 2/8-2/11)
 - ❖ is well into rehearsals
 - ❖ The Volunteer needs are great and will require a large effort. Lynn was going to check with Ezra Flamm to ensure the lead volunteers are in place
 - ❖ There is no intermission for Winter Musical. It was decided a sign should be displayed at the box office and/or entry indicating that there is no intermission (so plan accordingly!).
- State Drama Competition: also in rehearsal for last weekend in January.
- 8th graders will be coming to BHS to learn about performing arts in February. This is the first time that the students will be coming to the high school rather than the performing arts “ambassadors” going to the individual elementary schools.
 - ❖ Lynn inquired as to whether FoPA could pay for ½ of the cost of the bussing of the students to the high school.
 - ✓ It was proposed, seconded and voted that, yes, FoPA is authorized to provide \$800 toward the bussing of the 8th graders

- ❖ Lynn will help Karen and Sue set up a meeting with Chris Thoft-Brown, the coordinator of the 4-8th grade performing arts, town wide. It was discussed that communication between the elementary schools and the HS for transition purposes (8th to 9th grade) has improved a great deal, but could be strengthened. (At one point, Chris formed a parent advisory committee which developed a model for improving the orchestra and band which seems to produced great results. Conservatory periods in grammars also an improvement.)
 - ✓ It was decided by the committee that an email should be sent to FoPA members requesting their input regarding constructive ideas relevant to the transition from 8th grade to 9th grade and that these ideas could be used in discussions at the meeting with Chris.

Volunteers:

- Discussion was had regarding recruiting of Lead Volunteers. There is a tab on the website where volunteers can sign up.
 - ❖ *ReVisions* volunteers are all set
 - ❖ The handbook on the website should help now with tasks, but could be effectively streamlined and simplified, as it can seem a little overwhelming to volunteers
 - ❖ If concessions will be offered before the performances, then 4 cash boxes will be required. Lynn mentioned that 4 boxes exist so no need to purchase any.
 - ❖ Box office diagram set up (which Sarah Kianowsky drew and Lynn is tweaking) should be kept in cash box

Communications:

- Photography: Lynn has arranged for two student photographers. They are each to be paid \$15 for each photo that is used for promotional purposes, whether the website or Tab etc. Currently, \$30 is owed as two photos were posted on FoPA website.
 - ✓ It was decided that student photographers should bill monthly, as necessary.
- Karen stated that the deadline for getting photos or information to her for publication in the Tab is NO LATER than one week before the Tab Thursday issue date in which it is desired to publish. It should probably be submitted sooner than that to ensure publication in the correct issue.
- Lynn's assistant, Jeanine is working out great! She will learn to help with the upkeep of the website.
- Sagamore on-line (the school newspaper) does not seem to be devoting sufficient space to the performing arts. There needs to be more articles and photos reporting on the arts. Karen will talk with them about increasing and sharing coverage
- Sandwich boards:
 - ❖ Discussion had regarding font size of key information (date time)
 - ✓ It was determined that the font size for such information should be large enough to read from a distance.

Volunteers report:

- Handbook was posted on the FoPa website
- Discussion was had regarding how much should be charged for tickets and who is allowed to get in for free. It was stated that, as a rule, only 8th graders and faculty should be admitted for free. In some instances, exceptions are made for very young children, at discretion of volunteer working the box office, and that is ok.

Program Book:

- Ben mentioned that there should be encouragement to families to purchase "greetings" in the program

- Last date to get major items/sections/pages a place in the program for the musical is Friday, January 27. All submissions should be emailed to Ben Whipple. Ben will be laying out the program on January 28.
- Is an insert going to be included or does _____ wish to have Ben incorporate that section into the main program? _____ Will follow up on this issue.
- Mike Driscoll purchased a template for programs, compliments of FoPA.
- Reusing and recycling programs – for multi-night performances, there should be boxes set up to collect unwanted programs. Karen contacted the BHS Green Team to ask them if they will make these boxes with appropriate “signage.” We (volunteers) should be responsible for placing them near the exit doors. After the last performance, we need to get someone from the Green Team to collect and recycle. (We need to get the word out on this, so if there is an MC or someone speaking prior to the show’s start, that person should mention this initiative.

Next meeting: February 13, 2012