

May 1, 2013 FoPA meeting

In attendance:

Gale Argentine, Julie Glass, Brett McCarty, Gail Power, Diane McCarthy, Leslie Boyce, Kera Dalton, Alisa Moscone, Molly Welch, Maryann Perry (Assistant Superintendent), Ken Lord (Supervisor for Technology), Amanda Roeder, Steve Black

MHS Performing Arts Administrator/Teacher Update

All administrators and faculty complimented FoPA on a great year with good communication and smooth working relationships between FoPA, administrators and faculty. They thanked us for our financial support and our volunteer efforts which, among the usual performances and events, included hosting Dramafest and Together in Harmony.

Budget and Administration:

- MaryAnn Perry and Ken Lord reviewed the following:
 - o The arts budget covers salaries, supplies, contractor services (which can include royalties for shows, accompanists, registration fees for professional conferences, etc.)
 - o This year the Marblehead Public Schools Arts budget met the needs of the district. For the coming year the budget will be level-funded.
 - o We had a smooth transition with Ken Lord handling ticket sales for performances.
 - o Overseeing MHS Performing Arts has now been written in as part of the MHS Principal job description, in time for Incoming MHS Principal Layne Millington to come on board.
 - o Question was raised as to whatever happened with the Arts Council money that we believe Beth Delforge used to get from the state. Maryann Perry will look into that and get back to us. None of the administrators present were unaware of any Arts Council funding.

Vocal Program:

- **Amanda Roeder** listed the following items she is planning for the vocal program this year:
 - o Participation in NE Voices (was snowed out this year at last minute)
 - o Having the student-run a cappella groups work with a college or semi-pro group to do workshops throughout the year
 - o MICCA festival for Chorus and Instrumental Music <http://www.miccamusic.org/> - the MVMS Select Chorus has participated in this festival and Amanda Roeder would like to get MHS student groups involved
 - o Jewel Tones and Luminescence A Cappella groups compete in The Varsity Vocals International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA). Being able to compete usually means hosting and we will see if that is an option. It has been two years MHS groups were involved in this competition.

Band Program:

- The job for the **new Band Director** has been posted via the usual process for open positions and applications are already coming in.
- Committees comprised of administrative, faculty and parents will be formed to screen and interview the candidates. The goal is for this committee to be formed before Dr. Maass leaves in June.
- It is understood by the administration that there are issues with transitions for band as students move up the grades. The new person coming into the job will use their first year to evaluate the situation and then will make recommendations for a transition plan for the following year.

Performing Arts

- **Steve Black** reviewed the following:
 - o Steve's goal is to broaden the number of students involved in performing arts and this year implemented a shadowing program where tech, makeup and costuming were all run by students with professional mentors – this program will continue in coming years and provide students with leadership and skills as well as build continuity year to year.
 - o In the coming year Steve plans to offer more after-school training programs for theatre
 - o This was the first year for Drama Club and it went well
 - o Joe Boyce is creating a Theatre Department website as part of his senior project – so look for that soon!
 - o The MHS Musical next year will be Beauty and the Beast and it will be the 2nd week of December – Dec 13, 14, 15, the week after Christmas Walk
 - o Due to larger licensing fees and the needs for sets and props, may require some help from FoPA for funding. HOWEVER, they may be able to fund the entire production out of the proceeds from ticket sales and fundraisers that will be run by the performing arts students themselves. Example, the show will be at the PAC which seats 754...but they only budgeted for 300. So if they get more seats filled, they could be fine.
 - o Therefore, Steve asks that FoPA set aside some funds just in case, but they will not require funds up front. Instead Steve and KEn will come to us at show time with requests (complete with specific invoices and details) if needed.
 - o Ideas for a Performing Arts Department fundraisers are
 - A kids tea party with Mrs. Potts (this was a success when Steve did the show at Salem High School)
 - A screening of the documentary of the making of the Broadway show
 - o FoPA will also commit to doing a fundraiser for the show. It was agreed we would coordinate closely together with Steve so we would not cannibalize each other's efforts.
 - FoPA fundraiser idea was to screen Beauty and the Beast movie at the new Warwick Theatre or at MLT with a visit from the students in costume.

Orchestra

- Julie Parsons could not attend but Amanda Roeder says that she thinks Julie will seek funding for similar programs next year. This year we funded a guest conductor and a trip to Symphony Hall to see rehearsals.

MY STAGE GRANT UPDATE

- Our new grant program launched very late in the year and we knew it would be tough for students to get applications together. But we're really pleased we got one application.
- Grant submitted by Geoff Selden, Ben Thorne, Tyler Foley and Cameron Woodrow. Request for \$1000 to help fund the 2nd Annual Ham Jam Music and Arts Festival.
- The goals of Ham Jam are:
 - o To put on a free, day-long, charity benefitting music festival that promotes a family-friendly environment
 - o To allow artists, musicians, and comedians to express themselves.
 - o The event will offer music, artwork, comedy food vendors, t-shirts, and more.
 - o Specifically they are looking to help fund rental of sound and music equipment (\$500), stage rental (\$400), police detail (\$704) and Tshirts (\$200) as well as various other items that bring their budget to \$2104.
 - o We have approved \$900 for this grant contingent on the following:
 1. The \$900.00 in grant funding will be paid by FoPA directly to the vendors for the cost of music equipment rental and stage rental. If the cost of these items is less than \$900.00 then FoPA will limit its funding to the actual rental fee incurred, not to exceed \$900.00. Payment requests for the funding must be forwarded to FoPA directly at least 2 weeks prior to the date payment is required and requires an invoice with detailed cost description.
 2. Fliers, announcements and inclusion in the MHS daily bulletin should be made prior to school year end in order to promote the event and audition information in order to engage MHS students in the August event.
 3. We ask that you provide an information meeting to take place at MHS prior to school year end for those MHS students who are interested in participating in Ham Jam.
 4. A listing of all performers participating at the 2013 Ham Jam with notation for those from MHS and total number of event attendees should be provided to FoPA to be used for a follow-up article about the My Stage grant to be published in local media.
 5. All event publicity (in print or online) must include listing of FoPA as a funding partner under the My Stage Grant program funded by FoPA to ensure continued and additional donations for FOPA and MHS Performing Arts programs in the future. The FoPA logo and approved text will be provided to you via email. Copies of publicity should be provided to FoPA following publication.
- Ham Jam will take place in August – look for details by email and in local media
- FoPA will re-open grant applications for next year in the fall.
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OTHER FUNDING REQUESTS and APPROVALS

- Up to \$100 for MHS Senior Sonya Rosen – to help her cover the cost of dry cleaning of costumes she is borrowing and makeup supplies for her Senior Project play (Sherlock Holmes) which will be performed on May 23
- \$255 Scholarships for Drama Club trip to NYC
- We voted to earmark \$3000 for Beauty and the Beast for 2013 – this funding may not be required. But we agree to commit to do a fundraiser to cover the potential cost.
 - o This funding is contingent on us having a Beauty and the Beast themed fundraiser and coordinating schedules with Steve Black’s fundraiser so they do not cannibalize each other.

FOPA SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE

- We have had 13 scholarship applications and all are eligible to receive funds.
- The scholarship committee will deliberate on the final amount per student. Each student will receive the same allocation amount.
- The committee will work with the treasurer, but we are OK to fund up to \$500 per student and we’d like to go as high as we can.
- FoPA scholarships are a great way to help students cover college supplies costs and recognize students who often do not receive any other scholarships.

Friends of the Marblehead Public Schools

- Brett McCarty reported that while the Friends had not received any grant requests from MHS Performing arts this year, the Friends did fund items that will benefit MHS Performing Arts in some ways:
 - o Saw stop for woodworking group
 - o Tech drawing software
 - o Remote control camera for TV workshop
 - o Display boards for art - Talk to Tammy Nohelty if we want to use these for displaying cast photos, research, etc.
 - o Art Smart Boards
 - o Ukeleles
 - o Electric piano on a rolling cart in the PAC

FOPA GOAL SETTING for 2013-14

We reviewed a few goals that we’d like to undertake together with Administrators/Faculty/Parents. Some of them we can do on our own or we can help through funding or other efforts.

We welcome feedback from the FOPA community.

1. Communication – Programs to keep Parents and Kids informed on the MHS Performing Arts Programs and what the opportunities are, how they can help and when things happen.

- Create a comprehensive Calendar that includes auditions (for drama, jazz band, dance, etc), MAC and Tri-M meetings, Gospel concert, Dance team tryouts, Acapalooze, strings concerts etc etc. to help k
- Student-Parent Night for MHS Performing Arts (Sept or May or both?) – Administrators, teachers and FoPA get up and talk about opportunities in MHS Performing Arts and answer questions, help to get parents and kids informed and involved.

2. College Prep Night for Performing Arts

- Interested in majoring in or doing performing arts in college? - get tips and resources, ask questions
- Team up with Swampscott and Salem?
- Invite an expert like Leah Myles to meet with Guidance and come to this night.
- Provide handouts that are relevant and with links to sources

3. Holiday a Cappella Concert

- Modelled on the successful Nassoons concert this year, this would be an annual holiday fundraiser

4. Recording Equipment

- MHS and the PCO have invested in a lot of professional recording equipment
- FOPA would like to help with funding if needed, so that a cappella and choral students have professional recordings each year
- Can we go back to producing a cappella CDs? – Maryann Perry and Ken Lord to check on any issues with doing that – a cappella groups used to sell them to raise money but that doesn't work now.
- Recording of band/strings?

FOPA ROLES

- We are continuing to look for and welcome new officers and volunteers in the coming months
- We are specifically looking for PR and Treasurer, but all positions are open
- We are also thinking of ways we can break down the jobs that need to be done so more people can be involved – we welcome all ideas and we need your involvement!

END OF THE YEAR DINNER

Our last “meeting” of the year is a casual dinner out on a Wednesday night to celebrate all we've accomplished. Look for an invite and we hope you'll join us!