

## Footlights Foundation Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2016

Attendees: Mary Bachhuber, Steve Bennett, Katherine Bensen, Carrie Bowers, Mary Brown, Cathy Carter, Peg Cavanaugh, Mike Dapper, Mike Dorn, John Edin, Christina Erickson, Joel Fischer, Mary Fischer, Dan Grothe, Maryanne Hageman, Mike Kneer, Joy Lehman, David Sailer-Haugland, Annette Huot Link, Becky Nelson, Luann Quayle, Sarah Wille.

### Sound Equipment Enhancements

Steve Bennett shared his recommendations for improvements to the sound equipment for RAHS Drama productions. The advice of Brett Rogers, District 623 AV personnel and local tech equipment vendors informed his proposal.

- Steve explained that approximately \$6000 would provide all remaining 2015-2016 season performances with a sufficient number of: personal wireless microphones, sound conditioners, hanging microphones and floor microphones. Anticipated FCC decisions will likely render non-digital sound systems obsolete. The items he recommended for purchase will function *regardless* of the type of system in which they operate.
- Steve also requested approximately \$1500 for the rental of microphone belt packs and receivers. These items enhance sound quality but will not be compatible with future systems, therefore it'd be best to use but not purchase them.
- It was confirmed that RAHS Drama will have adequate access to the district's digital sound board.
- John Edin motioned for the approval of \$6,000 for sound equipment purchases as well as \$1500 for sound equipment rental. The motion passed unanimously.

### Additional Sound-Related Discussion

- The need to securely house the new purchases will be considered.
- Joy Lehman recommended that sound quality for shows such as *Cyrano* may be improved by the closing of the auditorium's upper pod doors.
- Sarah Wille initiated discussion regarding the benefits of pursuing joint or collaborative purchases between Footlights/RAHS drama and others who use the auditorium and its sound equipment. Footlights is open to this.
- Annette Huot Link suggested that future purchase proposals consider the benefit of personal audience hearing devices, which would better enable the hearing impaired to enjoy RAHS drama performances. Later in the meeting it was suggested that Footlights could partner with ISD 623 Community Ed. to acquire funding for such a purchase.

### Treasurer's Report

Joel Fischer confirmed that Footlight's upcoming expenses (such as the thespian festivals, play stipends, drama award night desserts, and tech dinners) are easily covered by our balance.

Current Balances: Checking \$16,058.98 and Savings \$200.21

## **Fundraising for Sound Equipment**

David Sailer-Haugland designed the program for *Cyrano* and incorporated a specific fundraising request for RAHS Drama sound equipment upgrades. He'll also provide signage and donation boxes that advertise this dedicated request for donations.

## ***Cyrano* and *Sequence***

**Tech week dinners** are organized and have sufficient volunteers.

**Volunteers:** Mary Brown expressed appreciation for the many people who've signed up to volunteer for *Cyrano's* performances. Coverage at this time is good.

**Photography:** Mike Dorn is covering *Cyrano* and Annette Hout-Link is covering *Sequence*.

## ***Legally Blonde***

**Tech Dinner Funding:** Joel Fischer motioned for the approval of \$600 for *Legally Blonde's* two tech night dinners. The motion passed unanimously.

**Tech Dinner Food Options:** Pizza is the least expensive option. Katherine Bensen shared that Subway gives RAHS Basketball a discount. Steve Bennett will investigate the possibility of a Subway discount for Footlights.

**Photography:** Mike Dorn agreed to take publicity photos for the show.

Mike Dorn and Annette Huot Link volunteered to cover photography of the show's cast, pit and crew.

Reminder: You can access thousands of images from RAHS shows via the Footlights *Play Scrapbooks* page: <http://rahsdrama.net/cast-crew/play-scrapbooks/>.

**Programs:** David Sailer-Haugland confirmed that he'll also create this program. He'll again incorporate Footlights's fundraising plea for sound equipment improvements.

**Publicity:** Mike Dapper and Heather Nelson plan to collaborate on this.

**Volunteers:** Carrie Bowers agreed to coordinate the Sign-up Genius site for the show.

It was recommended that any request for volunteers be sent as a separate Footlights e-mail, as such requests are sometimes overlooked when part of a larger message.

## **Thespian Festivals and Membership**

Information about the State Thespian Festival (Feb. 14 - 15), International Thespian Festival (June 20-26) and membership to the International Thespian Society is available

at the following RAHS Drama webpage: <http://rahsdrama.net/cast-crew/thespians-and-festivals/>.

**The State Thespian Chapter Festival:** It will be held at East Ridge High School and the Guthrie Theater on February 14th and 15th, 2016. Bus transportation will be provided to and from RAHS - more info. on this to follow.

- Please have your student **sign up** in Mr. Lane's room ASAP – the deadline is **Jan 22nd**. Apologies, we miscommunicated at the Footlights meeting on how to sign up: do not use the form you were given at Footlights meeting on Saturday – sign up with Mr. Lane instead.
- **Payment** will be made directly to the festival after sign up. Cost is \$60 (or \$50 for students who are Thespian Members) and T-shirts are \$10 additional.
- **If it's beyond the deadline but your child would like to attend** – contact Mr. Lane ASAP to ensure there's room and know that there will be a \$10 late fee.
- You'll find the conference schedule, etc. at the MN Thespians website, <http://www.mnthespians.org>. Additional questions? Contact Erik Lane, [erik.lane@isd623.org](mailto:erik.lane@isd623.org).

**International Thespian Festival:** 18 RAHS students have registered for the June 20-16 International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE. Anyone interested in attending this trip should contact Mary Brown ASAP at [mlbrown4646@gmail.com](mailto:mlbrown4646@gmail.com), so as to receive all trip logistics and fundraiser-related communications. The final payment for the festival will be due **April 1st**. Registrants who withdraw before April 1st will receive full refund of deposit.

**Save the Date: RAHS Drama Awards Ceremony** will Tuesday May 31st at 7 p.m. in the RAHS Auditorium. At this event, new members of the International Thespian Society will be inducted.