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West Boylston Arts Foundation
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www.wbaf.org

West Boylston Arts Foundation, Inc. Commits Funding for School Music Teacher

February 24, 2009: The West Boylston Arts Foundation, Inc. (WBAF), a non-profit charitable organization, has pledged \$12,000 toward hiring a band and instrument teacher next year for Major Edwards Elementary School. The commitment of funds matches the contribution that the WBAF provided for the 2008-2009 school year.

The WBAF was established in June 2007, following budget cuts which threatened to eliminate art and music classes in the West Boylston school system. The organization has raised approximately \$60,000 since it was founded, and has used the funds to pay for the band and instrument program over the past two years. The WBAF also funded the commission of the Bicentennial Mosaic Mural Project with Artist-in-Residence instruction for elementary school students' participation. The WBAF is currently planning additional fundraising efforts including performances, workshops, and promotions to expand community support.

“With the current uncertainty looming over next year’s school budget, the WBAF wanted to commit now to the elementary band and instrument instruction to ensure continuity for the students,” explained Mark Baldi, WBAF President. “We hope that the WBAF’s contribution will help alleviate some of the pressure on the school budget to allow the administration to better focus its efforts to maintain other school and town services.”

The WBAF anticipates additional funds may be needed to maintain other art and music programs that are currently offered in the Middle and High School or to provide needed supplies. The Foundation will continue efforts to prevent or mitigate further arts education cuts in the West Boylston school system. Additional information may be found at www.wbaf.org

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