

FINNEYTOWN MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2011; 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Penny Sauer, Kelley Hickey, Colleen Grogan, Bill Fessler, Dawn Miklavcic, Jason McKee, Rick Canter, Sue Burton, Brenda Dennis, Ric Towner, Heidi Johnson, Kimberly Kidd, Kim Fain, Angela Murphy, Anita Ruffin.

Absent: Cathy Zimmerly, Jane Elliott, Cheryl Shrider, Mike Kennedy, Steve Jones, Marya Rusinak

SECRETARY'S REPORT: November minutes were approved. Dawn moved; Bill seconded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Penny began by giving thanks for a great year of music in the schools—to our music faculty, to the FMPA board, and all parents, students, administrators and friends that make it happen.
2. She shared her concern for the music programs at Whitaker, that they remain strong. We need to stay in touch with the parents and families, to support the teachers and inspire the students at Whitaker. FMPA must continue to show how music is an important part of the total curriculum. We want to keep strong, large groups coming up from the elementary grades. Rick Canter shared that he was in discussion with Whitaker Principal Dr. Kessling to look at ways of increasing class time for music, without pulling students out of other classes; the outlook is encouraging.

CORRESPONDENCE: FMPA received:

A thank you note from Alina Murphy for helping pay for her participation in All-State Band; a W-9 form that FMPA should complete for the Board office; A bill from JW Pepper; recruitment posters from Oberlin College, a thank-you from Springfield Township to Cathy Zimmerly for her work at Winterfest; and thank you to Cathy from Martha Biederman of the P.E.M. scholarship committee for her help at the December 3 fundraiser. We received a letter from AfterProm requesting the usual donation, which the board previously approved, and Cathy had already sent.

Penny added that AfterProm still has an urgent need for more volunteers; a real possibility exists that this wonderful event may not happen otherwise.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Rick Canter & Dawn Miklavcic (Music Department and HS Band)

- 1) Thank you to Dawn Miklavcic and Kim Fain for all of their hard work so far this year as Band VP's. I am very appreciative of all that they do to make my job easier.
- 2) There will be a meeting coming at the beginning of February to talk about Band Camp 2011 (I know- already!) and next year's trip.
- 3) The Whitaker 5th and 6th Grade Bands will perform at the Elementary PTA Ice Cream Social Concert on March 17th.

4) Steve Jones and I are sharing a student teacher this semester and I will introduce him at our next meeting in February. His name is Adam Depew and he will be graduating from Miami University this spring.

5) The High School Band will play at the Northminster Arts Fair on February 5th at 10:30 a.m.

6) Congratulations to the High School Band students that participated in the OMEA D14 Honor Band on Sunday. Kara Sauer, Kristi Cowen, Megan Zimmerer, Chris O'Connell and Alina Murphy all participated. The band was conducted by Dr. Fred Speck from the University of Louisville. The Honor Band premiered a piece commissioned by OMEA District 14 that was written by Ryan Nowlin. Ryan graduated with me at Bowling Green. His career has taken off from being a high school band director for many years, he is now the staff arranger for "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington D.C.

7) Congratulations to the High School Band students that have been selected to participate in the Bowling Green State University Reading Clinic Honor Band: Ken Bouman, Caroline Michaelson, Matthew Miklavcic and Matt Davenport.

8) HS Solo & Ensemble: Finneytown students will perform at Elder High School this year on Saturday, February 12th. Student registration fees are \$15 for solos and \$20 for ensembles. Students will need to make arrangements for an accompanist and can check with Brenda Hartman. Brenda will play for students for \$25, and we may have another staff member available for accompanying. All fees and registration information is due no later than this Friday. We will need a flow-through check for all high school students attending written to OMEA District 14 Treasurer.

9) After a long process, we decided to not split the high school band this year for a few reasons. After hearing the placement auditions, we found that a number of students in the 2nd band were capable of playing harder level music. We also found that, while we had good support from parents and students, it was in our best interest to keep the students together. The Finneytown Band is one very large family and we did not want to split up that family. Ultimately, as a band, we do not feel the need to participate in the OMEA Large Group Contest (we have plenty of contests in the fall...) and could use our concert season to do more educational and meaningful activities. At this time, our plans include:

1) Hosting a clinic with three other guest bands and two clinicians in March. Each band would perform three pieces for the clinicians. Following their performances, the two clinicians would get to come up on stage and work with each band, giving them live feedback and even rehearsing sections of the music. We will open this concert/clinic to the public and families of each band. Instead of charging admission, we will collect items to be given to community organizations to be given to the homeless or others in need. We will list specific types of donations prior to the concert/clinic so that the items are somewhat specific.

2) Perform at VA Hospitals, much like we did in Chicago last year on our trip. Many of the band students will tell you that was the most memorable and meaningful band experience they have ever had.

10) All-State Band: Good luck to Zack Stump and Alina Murphy as they prepare to perform with the All-State Band on Friday, January 28th at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati.

11) Tomorrow we will have someone from Stanbury Uniforms coming to fit some students for additional uniforms we will need to order for marching band next year. We may potentially have

as many as 151 students in Marching Band next year (potentially the need for 137 total uniforms minus the color guard). Thank you to Cheryl Shrider for coming in these past few weeks and beginning the fitting process to see where we stand with our current supply. Rick added that the added uniform money would be coming from the school, not from FMPA.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Canter

Jason McKee, Kimberly Kidd and Sue Burton (HS and MS Chorus)

Choral Report for January 2011 Minutes

1) **Thank you** to Sue Burton, Brenda Dennis, and Kim Kidd for all of their hard work in the first half of this school year. My job would be much harder without your support! Jason added that the pizza party runs so smoothly now! Kim expressed her appreciation to the parents who helped out with the party.

2) **Anything Goes** is going well! The cast is very strong this year, and we are very pleased with the first week of rehearsals.

3) Congratulations to **Chorale** for appearing on STAR64's Holiday Carols show! Thank you to all of the parents who showed up on Fountain Square to support them during the filming. A cameraman was overheard saying that our Chorale was "the best-looking group here." The Chorale was supposed to perform at Northminster in December but was canceled due to snow; they will perform for the Northminster Arts Fair on Saturday, February 5th.

4) **OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Choir** will be held at Reading High School. The number of participating schools is significantly down this year and put the event in jeopardy of not happening. We will be sending up to 10 students depending on if they turn in their forms this week, so we'll need a flow-through for each student (\$30, so up to \$300). This year's honor choir is Saturday, February 26th and will be conducted by new CCM music education professor, Dr. Eva Floyd.

5) **HS Solo & Ensemble:** Finneytown students will perform at Elder High School this year on Saturday, February 12th. Student registration fees are \$15 for solos and \$20 for ensembles. Students will need to make arrangements for an accompanist and can check with Brenda Hartman. Brenda will play for students for \$25, and we may have another staff member available for accompanying. All fees and registration information is due no later than this Friday. We will need a flow-through check for all high school students attending written to OMEA District 14 Treasurer.

6) **HS Choir Contest:** Harrison High School is now hosting the entire contest, with one major detail: choirs will perform at the Methodist Church nearby. Logistics are still being worked out, but for now we can confirm that we have a site and that all 3 high school choirs will be attending on the weekend of March 18-19. This will require \$510 from the contest budget. Chorale will perform in Class AA, Women's Chorus in Class A, and Men in Class B.

7) **Overture Competition:** Tim Ovia and Danielle Chatman sang in the first round of the Overtures yesterday and will find out today if they will move on to the semi-finals. Finals winners receive scholarship money, so we wish the two of them luck!

8) **All-State Choir:** Good luck to Danielle Chatman, Tim Ovia, Kody Sexton as they prepare to sing in this year's All-State Choir on Saturday, January 29th.

9) **Grammy Jazz Ensemble** participant Tim Ovia will be in California February 4-14 to perform at the Grammy's and around the Los Angeles area. The literature that he is practicing is extremely challenging, and we're so proud of his being selected for this prestigious honor!

Respectfully submitted,
Jason McKee
Director of Choirs

Outfitting the MS Choirs: Sue expressed difficulty collecting forms and money for the purchase of MS Chorus shirts. The result is that 21% are "scholarship shirts." Our population is needier than before. Providing shirts to the needy is not a problem, but accountability is (kids forget to bring the money, parents don't know or believe they need it, etc.). The question was raised, could not the price of the shirt be built into school fees? Jason will present this to Principal Jack Fisher.

Heidi Johnson & Jane Elliott & Dawn Gast (HS and MS Orchestra)

1. Congratulations to Keir Adams, violin; Luke Brueggemeyer, violin; Stevan Rademann, viola; and Sam Rice, cello. They were all selected to represent Finneytown Middle School at the OMEA District 14 JH/MS Honor Orchestra being held February 4-5 at Winton Woods High School. The concert is at 3:00pm on Saturday, Febr. 5th in the Winton Woods HS Auditorium.

2. Members of the 4th, 5th, & 6th grade Strings classes will perform at the Whitaker Open House this Thursday between 7-8pm in the cafeteria. Their next performance is March 17th, the annual Elementary Instrumental and Elem. PTA Ice Cream Social, held at the PAC.

(I am looking into the possibility of a 5th & 6th grade field trip on Friday, Febr. 18th when we are out of school--performing at a couple of senior citizen centers, having lunch someplace fun and then doing something special in the afternoon).

3. I will be attending the OMEA Music Education Conference Jan. 27-28 downtown.

4. The February Orchestra concert at the PAC is cancelled due to scheduling issues. Instead, I plan for the MS & HS Orchestras to perform at different venues during February and March.

5. State Orchestra Contest for the HS Orchestra: Since the dates for Southwest Region conflicted with the musical, we requested a change of region and will be attending the contest in Columbus this year, Febr. 25-26. I am looking into the possibility of making this a short "Tour", leaving earlier on Friday and performing somewhere along the way; perhaps even staying overnight in Columbus if we are scheduled on Saturday.....all tentative at this point.

February 24 is Finneytown Night at the Symphony. Thanks to Susan Hopp Newell and Bill Newell, at least 200 tickets will be given to Finneytown families for the Thursday night all-Tchaikovsky concert. Dinner at Music Hall is included, as well as round-trip bus transportation from Finneytown High School. Those who wish to attend should notify Miss Johnson by Feb. 16.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Johnson

Mike Kennedy & Angela Murphy (MS Band)

Mike was absent due to illness. Angela and Kelley expressed Congratulations to the 11 members of Jr Hi Honor Band: Alex Zeller (5th Chair Clarinet), Hannah Heath (6th Chair Clarinet), Heather Gamble (1st Chair Flute), Janelle Bouman (2nd Chair Flute), Maureen Hickey (1st Chair Horn), Sarah Germann (2nd Chair Percussion), Aidian Matzko (5th Chair Percussion), Matt Oakman (7th Chair Percussion), Charlie Payne (1st Chair Trumpet), Alex Brown (5th Chair Trumpet), and Luke Steimle (4th Chair Tuba). Finneytown had the most students selected out of any school within District 14.

The following MS band students also perform in District 14 MS Honors Orchestra February 5 at Winton Woods: Heather Gamble, Janelle Bouman, Alex Brown, Maureen Hickey, Sarah Germann.

Steve Jones, Marya Rusinak, Kim Fain (Elementary Music) Kim shared that the chorus has huge numbers, and she hoped that the next day's concert (cancelled due to snow in December) would not be cancelled again. Update: it was:(

Colleen Grogan (Membership)

Things have been pretty quiet for Membership. We received 18 new memberships from the last concert of 2010. An email to the faculty does not seem to have brought in any memberships, but at least they know we exist and why. We are up to 114 members and 39 patrons, for a total income of \$4,571 from membership (under our budgeted \$5,400). No surprise, given our economic conditions.

Uniform Report: Cheryl Shrider and Brenda Dennis:

Cheryl reports: I will not be in attendance tonight due to my 7 year anniversary. We are currently in the process of ordering uniforms. Tuesday, January 11th the gentleman will come and place the order. I have prepared by measuring 8th grade students, placed as many into available current uniforms. After using all uniforms components except the very large components left, we will order uniform components for those students who do not have pieces. We will also need additional components for students who will grow out of their current size.

This is what I am estimating for ordering:

3 small hats?? (I have medium hats, but we will have to put foam in hat to fit them)
1 tuba hat to match 3 same color we have 10 hat cases (we have hats, but no available cases)

10 pants for students without + 6 pants additional for growing students
15 jackets for students without + 6 jackets additional for growing students

I am keeping to the minimum I believe we need. I estimated 20 uniforms total...so this would put us at

10 + 6 pants = 16
15 + 6 jackets = 21

Cheryl Shrider

Brenda reports: She will be writing a thank-you letter for the newsletter for those who helped her with the band and choruses during the month of December. Also, we undercharged \$.75 a shirt from Hometown Threads, shorting our budget by about \$50. An additional \$217 is needed to cover the cost of scholarship shirts. It will be covered by the remaining \$300 in Other Uniforms line item.

Bill Fessler (Webmaster)

Bill reported that Shawn Maus has removed the link to our old (now defunct) website. He has recommended a free Word Press blog as a good option for Penny's blog. Both Bill and Dawn offered their help to Penny in setting it up.

Anita Ruffin (School Board Representative): Anita announced that she will stay on as the school board's FMPA representative. She shared the school board's three main goals for 2011: Excellence, Achievement, and stewardship. This last item is tricky as we face a possible 15-20% cut in our state funding (possibly \$500,000 cut for Finneytown).

Anita told us how her own kids were delighted by the Men's Chorus rendition of "Little Saint Nick" in December. Her daughter had sung the same song with her Whitaker group, and to hear it sung by the older students was inspiring.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Zimmerly):

The treasurer's report was presented, with Ric complimenting Cathy on a great job. The report was accepted: Angela moved; Sue seconded.

BUSINESS:

Luminary Kit Fundraiser (Cathy): Penny reported for Cathy that with 183 kits sold (and 152 complete kits left over), it is absolutely worth doing again next year. Cathy is willing to do it. Thank you, Cathy, both for bringing the idea to the board AND for executing it!

Kroger Card: Kim Fain reported that Beth Mizelle will hand off this FSPTA chairmanship to Kim, but that the elementary kids' use has not been approved yet. Penny will speak with PTA president Tina Wuorinen to see where this stands.

Newsletter: Kelley reports that there will be a newsletter this month. Aside from having a lot of congratulations and exciting news to share, we have sold ads, and have a Dinner/Bid-and-Buy to publicize! Kelley distributed the "page 8" calendar for corrections, and will send out a draft to the board in the near future.

Dinner Before the Show: March 4, 5-7 preceding "Anything Goes"

Penny reports that Anything Goes tickets will be available to the cast & crew in January, and to the general public in February. Dawn Miklavcic is helping Cindy Heath and Laura Horn with the box office.

Various areas were assigned, similar to past years.

Publicity & reservationist Kelley:

Bid-and-Buy Rick & Jen Towner: Has distributed couple things for you to review for our Dinner Before the Show planning.

1. "Donor Letter" for Bid and Buy Items solicitation that Kelley Hickey drafted a couple years ago and that I've updated for this year. Please review and we'll discuss any improvements that could be made. Emphasis on "SOMETHING YOU'D BE PROUD TO GIVE A FRIEND."

2. List of items from 2009 and from 2010. Please review and begin to think about items for 2011.

We need to start the solicitation process this week - I'd like for the entire board to be involved in recruiting donations this year - give some thought to where you'd like to recruit and Jen and I will keep a list and distribute regularly so that we avoid hitting the same places.

Kitchen Angela: Will be rounding up the usual suspects!

Drinks & Desserts: Jane E. and Colleen

Decorations & Setup: Penny and Jane Kennedy!

Entertainment: need a coordinator, accompanist, performers.

Master of Ceremonies: A few names were put forward.

Ticket Table:

Other notes:

- LaRosa's is definitely on board again, and Linda Wright will be back with us!
- Kelley will contact Mike Bell about procuring Midwest Fresh salad
- Penny has secured the use of the MP.
- Sound: Amplification to be mostly confined to the corner of the room with the round tables.
- Instawares is the online source of inexpensive red-checked table covers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58; Colleen moved and Dawn seconded.

Next meeting: February 14, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kelley Hickey, Secretary