

FINNEYTOWN MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, May 9, 2011; 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Board members Penny Sauer, Cathy Zimmerly, Kelley Hickey, Brenda Dennis, Sue Burton, Angela Murphy, Colleen Grogan, Jane Elliott, Anita Ruffin, Bill Fessler, Kimberly Kidd, Cheryl Shrider, Jason McKee, and guest Lisa Lennon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: March minutes were approved with attendance corrections: Spelling of Ric and Rick in attendance; FMPA sold pop at the event known as Summer Blast. Angela moved to accept; Cathy seconded.

CORRESPONDENCE: none.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Penny shared a message from Shawn Maus about the Finneytown Hall of Fame induction ceremony to be held Sunday, May 15 at 1pm in the PAC. Of particular interest to us is Performing Arts inductee Allen Boxer, a Finneytown 2003 graduate who excelled in music and theatre, and has become a successful opera singer.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

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

HS/Whitaker Band Report

Richard Canter

Sorry I am not in attendance tonight. It is my wife's birthday and I am spending the evening with family.

1) All bands are performing tomorrow evening in the Band Festival, despite a week of no rehearsals last week for 5th and 6th Grade Bands, due to OAA Testing.

2) Select Whitaker Band students that completed the Silver level of their Scale and Rhythm Chunks will travel to Brent to perform for students on May 23 and will also go out for lunch and ice cream on that day to celebrate their achievements this year. They will end the day with a performance at Whitaker for the 4th grade students.

3) Sign-ups for next year's 5th Grade Band and the Beginning Band "Fitting Session" will take place on May 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm.

4) The High School Music Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 7:00 pm. Just as in the past, High School VP's will need to get parents to provide desserts and drinks for after the ceremony.

5) Jason and I have submitted a proposal for the May Board of Ed meeting for a Disney trip for Marching Band and Chorale next year. The trip proposal is for February 2-6, 2012

Some items of note:

The Board Office will reimburse FMPA for \$325 of the total contest fees for Middle School Large Group Contest to be held this weekend.

Cathy: I will need a check for \$318.50 to "76 Awards and Apparel." I will send the invoice home with Caroline.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Canter

Director of Bands/Music Dept. Chair

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

1) Congratulations to the Finneytown Chorale for achieving school history by receiving Straight Superior ratings at the OMEA State Adjudicated Event on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>!!! After getting in touch with Theresa Merrill to get some of the contest history, it appears that the Chorale has been making history since 2008 since they never attended state in Class AA before then! It turns out that they were the only AA mixed chorus at the

Lakota East site to receive straight I's from the judging panel, and that's saying a lot because, in my opinion, this was probably the most difficult panel we've ever had!

2) A special thank you to Colleen Grogan and all of the parents who contributed to honoring the Chorale students on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>! I cannot tell you how much the Chorale students and I appreciated this!

3) Good luck to the middle school choruses this Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at (the new) Mt. Healthy High School. The performance information is as follows:

- MS Girls Chorus – 4:30pm in Class C
- MS Boys Chorus – 5:40pm in Class B
- X-Period Chorus – 8:00pm in Class A

4) Auditions materials for next year's high school All-State Choir must be postmarked by May 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered. Students must record a Class A solo from the High School Solo & Ensemble lists and a vocalize that demonstrates range.

5) The Choral Festival is scheduled for Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We have a fantastic senior class who would like to perform special music in addition to the choirs, so it will be a true "festival." We hope you can join us!

6) I am working with Kim Kidd to secure a date for the high school choir picnic. Details to follow soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason McKee Director of Choirs

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

1. The Boston String Quartet's residency and "Xibus"\* concert: First, I must express my profound gratitude to Jane Elliott for organizing the food and helping to find the host families and welcoming the quartet into her home Easter evening when they arrived, etc.... She was awesome and I couldn't have done it without her!!!!

My deepest thanks go to Cathy Zimmerly and Cheryl Shrider, who were fantastic hosts for the members of the quartet, their tour manager, and conductor. They were especially grateful to have a place to go during the day when they were not rehearsing (it was the end of a 10-day tour and they were tired).

In addition, thanks to Colleen Grogan & Dawn Gast and everyone else who brought in food and/or helped out in any way. The timing of the residency (right after Easter and Spring Break, same week as the play) made the organization more complicated and I can't say enough about the volunteers who helped make it happen.

The quartet worked with the HS and MS Orchestras on Monday and Tuesday mornings, rehearsed with the HS Orchestra (including winds & brass who were recruited basically at the last minute) Monday & Tuesday afternoons, gave an improvisation workshop to seven students Monday evening, performed for all of the Strings students and the 3rd grade classes at Whitaker on Tuesday, AND performed a fantastic concert Tuesday evening in the PAC. I was very impressed with the way they worked with all levels of students, and their musical selections really impressed the elementary kids.

They have indicated that they are willing and interested in coming back to Finneytown again in a couple of years, which I think is great news. In addition, when I was talking with the 1st Violinist about the "Fusion" class concept for next year, he said that he is willing to share some of their arrangements for us to use!

\*We learned the correct pronunciation of "EX uh bus."

2. Orchestra Festival is Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00pm in the PAC. The program will start with Michael Jackson's "Beat It" and feature Tim Ovia playing the violin solo "Mother and Child" from William Grant Still's "Suite for Violin and Orchestra".

3. Summer lessons: students have been asked to return their forms by May 16. Cello lessons will be offered by Jenny Friedhoff, a member of the HS orchestra. Heidi is recruiting violin/viola teacher from Miami University.

Heidi M. Johnson

Orchestra Director, Finneytown Schools

Mike Kennedy & Angela Murphy (MS Band)

Angela reported that the Band Festival is tomorrow night and Saturday is MS Band contest at Mt. Healthy HS. 7<sup>th</sup> grade band performs at 1:15 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 3:15. No chaperones are needed for buses, but parental presence is requested for crowd control at the contest site.

Steve Jones, Marya Rusinak, Kim Fain (Elementary Music) not present

Uniform Report: Cheryl Shrider and Brenda Dennis:

Brenda reported that the band has been notified to turn in their uniforms at the end of the band concert (unless they are needed for the choral festival). Women's Chorus will not be using red dresses for their final concert; they can be turned in now. Help is needed for uniform collection at all three concerts. She has the P.O.'s for uniform dry cleaning, so there will be no delay.

Cheryl is improving/expanding uniform storage for next year's bigger band! She and Brenda traded some space for consolidation & efficiency. The new band uniforms will require minimal adjustment; they are pre-hemmed to fit our kids: 150 pants & 150 jackets. The disposal form (for the old uniforms) is in the treasurer's office so that we can make room. Cheryl also distributed an order form for a fundraiser to pay the cost of a new uniform closet and storage for hats/hat boxes. People can support this effort by buying old uniforms (\$10), pillows made out of old uniforms (\$27.50), and additional photo pins (\$5. Each band member still gets one for free). Deadline to order is May 31.

Newsletter: Kelley Hickey: no report.

Colleen Grogan (Membership):

Ric & Jenny Towner (Fundraising): not present, but sent an update.

Ric reports, I have signed a contract with Savory Sweets for next Fall's fundraiser - the current delivery date for the cookie dough is November 17th. The sale will take place between October 7 and 24 (roughly) and we'll need to have the final count in by Nov 1.

Bill Fessler (Webmaster): Bill is taking a class in PHP programming; building a blog site is his final project, so he will do this for FMPA! Bill will post the corrected April minutes once he receives them.

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Anita Ruffin (School Board Representative): no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Zimmerly):

The treasurer's report was distributed and accepted. Colleen moved; Dawn seconded.

BUSINESS:

Penny reported that next year's FMPA board was fairly filled out, with the exception of the three MS VP positions, which are especially vital to the success of the fall fundraiser. Sue Burton has accepted the position of Secretary, Colleen Grogan will move to HS Chorus VP, and Joan Gordon will join the board as HS Orchestra VP.

Polo shirts for FMPA Board: We are moving closer to getting FMPA shirts for the board which incorporate the Finneytown music logo, a treble clef inside an "F."  
Meeting adjourned at 8:45; Colleen moved; Dawn seconded.

Next meeting: June 6 (a week earlier than originally scheduled!) at Cathy Zimmerly's house, 8788 Woodview. Bring food! This is also Sue's birthday.

Respectfully submitted by Kelley Hickey, Secretary