

FINNEYTOWN MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, June 6, 2011; 7:00 P.M. at Cathy Zimmerly's home

IN ATTENDANCE: Board members Colleen Grogan, Sue Burton, Bill Fessler, Brenda Dennis, Jenny Towner, Cathy Zimmerly, Jane Elliott, Angela Murphy, Kimberly Kidd, Penny Sauer; faculty Heidi Johnson and Jason McKee; and incoming board members Renee Keith, Glenda Esslinger, Lori Kleiman, Joan Gordon, and Kellie Smoker.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Introduction of new 2011-12 board members

HS Orchestra – Joan Gordon  
HS Band – Kellie (and Jeff) Smoker  
MS Band – Lori Kleiman  
MS Choir – Glenda Esslinger

Thanks to outgoing board members Kim Kidd, Jane Elliott, Dawn Miklavic, Kelley Hickey, and to returning board members and teachers.

Penny listed a number of "firsts" and exciting events this year for Finneytown music:

Band camp at home, five All-State students (most ever), new website, FMPA participation in homecoming parade, straight ones for band throughout the season, 53 beginning strings students, chorale and band both on TV this year, Light Up Finneytown, Finneytown represented at the Grammys, charity band event, Xibus Boston String Quartet, straight ones at district and state for chorale, scholarship concert, straight ones for MS X-period chorus, new marching band uniforms, \$3275 in scholarships. Whew!

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kelley Hickey was absent due to surgery today. May minutes were approved as written. Angela moved to accept; Cathy seconded.

CORRESPONDENCE: none.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

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

June 2011 FMPA Choral Report

1) Thank you's: Thank you to Brenda Dennis for all of the hours she puts in to making sure that students are issued a uniform, outfitted properly, repairing uniforms, and taking inventory when everything is said and done. Thanks to Sue Burton for all of her work in outfitting the middle school choir students and for organizing all of the after-concert classroom parties. Finally, thanks to Kim Kidd for all of the support that she has given to me during her term as HS Choir VP and for always organizing the December pizza parties and choir picnics. I am so appreciative to all of the parents who have helped in some capacity this year and for everyone's support of our students' work. It really has been a fantastic year!

2) The MS Choirs did a fantastic job at Mt. Healthy High School on Friday, May 13th at

the OMEA District 14 Junior High Large Group AE (contest).

- MS Girls Chorus – II in Class C
- MS Boys Chorus – II in Class B
- X-Period Chorus – I in Class A - Straight Superior ratings!!

3) Abby Bolling, Philip Colegrove, and Caroline Michaelson each submitted recordings and audition applications for next year's OMEA All-State Choir. They should be notified by the end of August about the status of their participation.

4) I will be teaching the 6th grade Voices of Whitaker next year in addition to the 6 choral ensembles at the secondary campus. Preliminary numbers show the X-Period Chorus having 50-65 students, and the HS Women's Chorus may be larger next year.

5) I have been in touch with the directors at Lakota West and Taylor high schools about joining forces to perform the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah in December as a benefit concert for local charity. This would be a great opportunity for our students to perform a choral master work with orchestra.

6) The World Choir Games come to Cincinnati next year! I hope to get involved with some of the folks involved in this event in order for our students witness this truly remarkable experience. Cincinnati is the host of the 7th WCG and is the first American city to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason McKee  
Director of Choirs

Jason also gave a brief report on the upcoming Disney trip for chorale and band, tentatively scheduled for Feb. 2-6 (leave Thurs. night, return Monday). Cost TBD, should know within the month and plan to email parents with details once known.

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

Heidi reports a goal for next year of having Fusion perform approx. monthly at various locales. When students were asked how they thought they could grow the program, they replied that they want to get out and perform more. This will help generate publicity for the orchestra program.

National Strings Teachers Conference/ National Eclectic Strings Festival will be in Atlanta the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Heidi would like to bring students to this if possible.

Heidi will be attending teacher training in Pittsburgh this summer for instruction in alternative strings/alternative styles – ie Fusion. She hopes to make contacts about possible used electronic instruments there as well.

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

Richard Canter  
HS/Whitaker Band Report

- 1) Select 5th/6th Grade Band students performed at Brent Elementary as part of their incentive field trip on May 24. Thank you to all of the parents that helped chaperone or transport equipment to and from Brent.
- 2) Our Beginning Band Sign-Up/Fitting Session went very well on May 26. So far, a total of 32 students have signed up for band. We usually get 15-20 more in the fall, so this is encouraging. Many of the students are signed up for Summer Lessons.
- 3) Including our summer percussion program, we have over 100 students enrolled in this year's Summer Band Lessons Program. Summer Band Lessons will begin on July 5th and end on August 12th. Instructors will be contacting their students in the next three weeks to set up schedules.
- 4) Drum Major Camp, AKA "Camp Canter" began today. Caroline Michaelson, Katie Bramble and Brie White are all doing a fantastic job. Thanks to Cathy Zimmerly for bringing us lunch today!
- 5) Information on Disney will be sent out via email in the coming weeks. We are waiting on updated prices, based on our numbers. Jason will fill you in on the details.
- 6) Marching Band begins with Pre-Camp the week of July 11th. A committee of students along with Kellie Smoker are coming up with some great ideas for Band Camp, which will be held at the high school from July 25-29.
- 7) Beginning Wednesday afternoon, I will be officially out of Finneytown until July 11th. I will be checking email periodically.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Canter

Kellie Smoker asked for ideas on keeping food/catering costs down this year for band camp. Want to decrease food budget to \$5/meal from \$8/meal. Ideas given on places to ask for donations, etc.

Mike Kennedy & Angela Murphy (MS Band)

Contest results – both bands received excellent ratings (2). 7<sup>th</sup> grade band was the only 7<sup>th</sup> grade band to compete in class B, all other 7<sup>th</sup> bands competed in class C.

Steve Jones, Marya Rusinak, Kim Fain (Elementary Music) not present – Heidi reports that Mr. Jones will be bringing back the select choir for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders next year along with Voices of Whitaker for grades 3,4,5.

Uniform Report: Cheryl Shrider and Brenda Dennis: nothing to report

Newsletter: no report.

Colleen Grogan (Membership): no new members ☺

Ric & Jenny Towner (Fundraising): Ric has new job responsibilities and will no longer be able to attend mtgs. Jenny reports Savory Sweets cookie dough kickoff week of Oct. 3-7, with order collection last wk. of Oct., due to company Nov. 1, and delivery on Thurs. Nov. 17 at 9 am.

Bill Fessler (Webmaster): no report.

Anita Ruffin (School Board Representative): not present, no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Zimmerly):

Extra money (\$500+) spent on awards this year, no one present is sure of the reason – speculation that more letters/pins/plaques ordered than usual. Rick C. has that info. Motion to approve June treas. report by Angela, second by Jane.

Proposed Budget for 2011-12:

Adjustments made after recommendations from last month – these include stopping support of afterprom and yearbook ad, and not reinstating any theater support. Discussion ensued that esp. afterprom and theater are good programs worthy of support but that our current finances aren't able to support them. We will keep these programs in mind for future support as funds become available. Proposed budget accepted as presented, Glenda moved and Bill seconded.

BUSINESS:

General discussion of theater program and how FMPA can be supportive. Heidi mentioned the expense of the lightbulbs in the PAC, that they are \$40-\$60 each and theater pays for that while music programs use them also. Also discussed future musicals, live vs. digital orchestra, costs vs. benefits.

Approval of new board for 2011-12:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| President – Penny Sauer                 | Treasurer – Cathy Zimmerly              |
| Secretary – Sue Burton                  | Membership – Angela Murphy              |
| Cookie Dough fundraiser – empty         | Bid N Buy Fundraiser – Ric/Jenny Towner |
| Uniforms – Cheryl Shrider/Brenda Dennis | Newsletter – Renee Keith                |
| Webmaster – Bill Fessler                | Elementary music – Kim Fain             |
| MS Chorus – Glenda Esslinger            | MS Band – Lori Kleiman                  |
| MS Orchestra – Dawn Gast                | Choir – Colleen Grogan                  |
| Orchestra – Joan Gordan                 | Band – Kellie/Jeff Smoker               |

Motion to approve new board – Colleen, seconded by Angela

Scholarship Committee report: met 5/31, 13 students approved for summer lesson help and 9 families for band camp help, total summer financial assistance of \$1,714.00

Summer fundraising ideas:

- 1) Springfield Twp. Concert on 8/4 at 7pm, FMPA to sell food/drinks for 100% profit if get donated goods. General agreement to move ahead with this.
- 2) Cheryl passed along that FMPA can sell food at one of the Brentwood Swim Club Moonlight Swim events. Can do hotdogs, burgers, etc., corn on grill, baked goods, cannot do drinks, chips, candy as swim club sells those. Can invite non-swim club members. Cheryl willing to organize this and wd. like proceeds to go toward marching band uniform closet storage changes. General agreement to move ahead with this.
- 3) Decided against a cookout at the end of band camp – kids will be tired and want to go home
- 4) Idea about paying \$ to sponsor a message on the electronic message board – mixed reception to the idea, some wonder if Shawn will want the hassle of approving messages and determining which groups could raise \$ this way.
- 5) Should we mail brochures to graduated seniors to solicit alumni donations? Discussion centered on perhaps we could mail to parents of recent graduates but wait a couple years for students since most in college don't have extra cash.

Polo shirts for FMPA Board: These will likely cost \$21 for those who want one.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00; Jane moved, Kim seconded.

Next meeting: Second Monday in August at the HS, room TBA

Respectfully submitted by Sue Burton, incoming Secretary