

FMPA Minutes October 10, 2011 MP Conference Room

Members present: Sue Burton, Marsha Grubbs, Jeff Smoker, Joan Gordon, Lori Kleiman, Glenda Esslinger, Jason McKee, Renee Keith, Brenda Dennis, Penny Sauer, Bill Fessler, Cathy Zimmerly, Duke Ellington ☺, Angela Murphy, Anita Ruffin. Guest Laurie Matzko. Late arrivals Ric and Jenny Towner.

Secretary's Report: Discussion of Sept. minutes, question of whether or not the corrected version was sent out to members. Sue will check again at home. Motion to accept the corrected minutes made by Glenda, second Angela. *Later note: While Sept. minutes were corrected, they were inadvertently not distributed electronically to members in advance of the Oct. meeting. They were sent out on 10/16/11 separate from these October minutes.

Correspondence: One thank you from Children's Hospital donation remembering Rebecca Archambeault. One thank you written to Bob and Kathy Keith, for the split-the-pot donation to FMPA recently.

President's Report: Thanks to Jeff, Kellie, Angela, Marsha for marching w/Penny in the homecoming parade; thanks to Joan, Lisa, Cathy for selling cowbells and beads at the homecoming tailgate and to Colleen for the cupcakes used in the cupcake walk. Thanks to Bart and Ron Hartman for selling beads, and for all the VP's for starting the cookie dough campaign in the classrooms.

Penny will attend the school board meeting next week at their invite to showcase all the support organizations at the school.

She welcomed Laurie Matzko as a music parent attending the FMPA board meeting for the first time.

Band report: HS/Whitaker Band October, 2011 Submitted in absentia by Richard Canter

- 1) Thank you to all of the parents that have hosted picnics and for all parents that have chaperoned the contests for Marching Band so far this season. A special thank you to Jeff and Kellie Smoker for coordinating everything with our band families. The pre-contest meals have been fantastic as well.
- 2) The information is in for Honor Band- students will be receiving information regarding the audition process and rehearsal schedule tomorrow. We are looking for another great showing from both our Middle School and High School students.
- 3) The Marching Band has had an extremely successful season so far. They qualified for State at their first contest (Tipp City), received second place overall, Best General Effect, Best Percussion and Best Auxillary (Color Guard). At their second contest, the band received best overall Auxillary (Color Guard), best overall drum majors, best overall visual performance and, for the second time in school history, Grand Champion. Our band will perform at 3:00 at the Forest Hills Band Expo at Anderson High School this Saturday. We have a tentative performance time of 5:00 PM for the OMEA State Marching Band Finals on Sunday, October 30th. That time is subject to change.
- 4) Things are going extremely well with the new 6th Grade music schedule. We have several new band students in 6th grade, and all are making incredible progress. I am excited about the potential for the group. Many of the students are benefitting greatly from their choice to be a part of Mr. McKee's Choir on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

each week. All of the students enjoy an extended recess of 40 minutes each Friday with their music teachers. This has been a great opportunity to build rapport with the students.

Jeff Smoker: Thanks to all who continue to help w/band activities. He and Kellie appreciate all that others are doing.

Choral report. Jason McKee

1) **OMEA District 14 Honor Choir:** Choir directors met at the District 14 meeting in September and are trying to quickly put together a non-auditioned honor choir based on director recommendations. The cost this year is \$45 per student, and the conductor is Dr. Ray Wheeler, the director of the new NKU Youth Chorale.

2) **NKU Honor Choir:** A list of interested Chorale students was sent to the NKU folks a few weeks ago. We are waiting to see how many were accepted. Students were ranked by class (seniors and juniors getting first priority) and by whether or not they have had an opportunity to be in an honor choir this year. Cost is \$35, and this year's honor choir is doing something a bit different: in addition to a few standard choral selections, they will be performing Vivaldi's *Gloria* with a chamber orchestra!

3) Thanks again to Brenda Dennis for fitting all of this year's choir students! We are so blessed to have her help each year.

4) The first concert of the season is October 25th! Hope to see you there!

MS Choirs: Glenda Esslinger – reports that uniform fittings are still to come. The question of how to handle students who don't bring money to order a shirt is not yet answered. Suggestion for Jason to announce again to all HS choirs that it would be helpful if they are willing to donate their MS choir shirt back to the program.

Jason reports that the other choir directors involved in the Dec. Messiah production at MSJ wanted to rent a truck for \$100 to transport risers. Bill F has a trailer available if needed measures 6'W 7'H 14'L. The goal for this production is to raise \$9,000 for Alzheimers funding.

Orchestra Report. Submitted in absentia on 10/11/11 by Heidi Johnson

FMPA Orchestra Report – 10/10/11

1. The new 4th grade Strings class has been recruited and over 50 students will be starting Strings this week!
2. 5th grade Strings are working on note-reading skills and 6th grade Strings are focusing on counting rhythms this year.
3. Four members of the MS Orchestra will be performing as a string quartet at the Diamond Oaks Open House this coming Wednesday between 5:00-7:00. They are Keir Adams, Luke Brueggemeyer, Stevan Rademan, and Sam Rice.
4. The FUSION group will also be performing at the Diamond Oaks Open House Wednesday between 5-7.
5. The first concert of the secondary campus groups will be held Wednesday evening, Oct. 19th at the PAC, 7:00pm. The concert will feature the first on-stage performance of the

FUSION group and the MS Orchestra. The SH String Ensemble may or may not perform, since our rehearsal time has been reduced due to preparations for the Diamond Oaks event.

Joan Gordon: Parade went well, trailer and truck loaned by Paul Bartell. There will be an event in Atlanta that the orchestra students will be fundraising for. Joan will ask Kim Fain to add Orchestra to the Kroger card applications. If that is possible, then Kim will need to email Bill the new Kroger card application that has orchestra info added, for website posting.

Questions were raised about the Children's Hospital studies and how to be placed in the database for future studies. Jeff S. will ask Kellie since she had the phone number needed. Later in mtg. the name of Jane Tidwell at 325-1748 was given as the contact person.

MS Band: Lori Kleiman – no report. She thanks Penny for doing cookie dough kickoff in her place.

Elementary Music: No report

Uniforms: Fittings are nearly complete for all three high school choral groups. Four Women's Chorus dresses were purchased due to size needs (from Southeastern Performance Apparel), totaling \$252.52.

Middle School Strings shirts have been purchased for incoming 7th graders. They are requested to pay \$15.50 for their shirt, unless the student or parent discusses financial need with Heidi. Purchase total for 9 shirts (from Hometown Threads) was \$137.25. *Later note: Shirts were only \$15.25 but \$15.50 was collected. Last year we ran the shirt payments as a flow-through to the "other uniform" budget, allowing us to pay in a timely manner and simply own the shirts we loan out. I suggest we do the same this year (and also for chorus shirts), as it seemed to be a good solution.

Tux pants are becoming more challenging to fit, due to larger performing groups (both in numbers and larger physical sizes), and the oldest tuxes simply wearing out. Many have Velcro at the waist (adjustable zippers worn out or missing), and the most common sizes are in short supply. I'd like to dispose of some of the smallest & oldest tuxes (we don't have many guys wearing size 30 jackets or 26 waist trousers) and invest in the most needed sizes (30-34 waist size). I can purchase a few pairs as needed immediately, and wait until after the major fundraising to see how the budget stands for a more extensive upgrade.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Dennis

Marching Band Uniforms: Marsha will discuss w/Cheryl the idea of telling the kids the cost of the uniforms to hopefully help them understand the importance of treating them properly. Renee will publish the thank-you list from Cheryl re: the MB uniforms in the newsletter.

Membership: Angela Murphy

Current membership 63 families, 23 patrons, 7 memorial, 3 alumni, 1 harp fund

Angela will send names to Renee to publish in newsletter. She will contact Dawn Miklavic re: possible help w/ticket table at concerts. 6:15 arrival needed to catch families as they come in. Jason has a cashbox that FMPA can use for ticket sales rather than borrowing from drama program.

Newsletter: Renee Keith

We have 4 paid advertisers totaling \$295, probably 7 more to come. She will add the etiquette write up that typically goes in the fall edition. Someone requests we add a line about parents not texting their student until a break in the program. Any newsletter items to Renee by Oct. 14 please.

Idea raised that the TriM society should usher each other's concerts as service hours. We will get Heidi's thoughts on this.

Website: Bill Fessler

Bill will continue working on the link to luminary photos.

School Board Representative: 10/17 board meeting support group reps. invited.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Zimmerly

Deposits to be done 10/11.

Scholarship money: Perhaps change the process of how senior scholarship money is transferred to a student, so students will be motivated to cash the check promptly rather than holding it indefinitely. Discussion about giving the check once the student submits paperwork showing the expense. No motion presented about this.

Still waiting for reimbursement from Boosters for summer mailing. Boosters say a check has cleared. Cathy will look into it further.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Angela Murphy and seconded by Bill Fessler. The motion passed.

New Business

Cookie Dough collection – notes handed out for VP's on process for collection. Laurie Matzko and Glenda offered to help Kim as needed w/collection for elementary students. Sue will let Kim know of their offer. *Final* count of order will likely be on 11/4 per Towners.

Scholarships – 20 students granted scholarships by the committee. The majority who applied got something. \$1,540 granted, with \$710 left for future requests. No money was given for the Disney trip, all was for lessons and program fees.

Brass instrument room shelves – Jeff Smoker & Jeff Hershey have a plan, estimate \$175 materials needed. Motion to approve up to \$175 to be taken from “Other/Donation” receipts for building of shelves in the brass room, on an as needed basis beyond any funds remaining in the Marching Band budget. Motion put forth by Bill, seconded by Renee, passed.

Dinner Before the Show date – discussion continued re: when to have this fundraiser in light of no musical this year. Penny will check w/Shawn Maus on the possibility of tying it to Casablanca on March 2, 2012. Related discussion as to the decision-making process of why there is no musical this year and how we can best advocate for one yearly in the future. It was suggested that Penny and perhaps Ric T. together could approach Shawn to discuss this.

A motion to adjourn was made by Angela and seconded by Glenda. The motion passed. Adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Burton

Secretary