

FMPA Minutes February 13, 2012 MP Conference Room

Members present: Glenda Esslinger, Cathy Zimmerly, Angela Murphy, Kellie Smoker, Renee Keith, Ric & Jenny Towner, Joan Gordon, Jason McKee, Colleen Grogan, Sue Burton, Marsha Grubbs, Bill Fessler, Anita Ruffin, Brenda Dennis, Penny Sauer, Heidi Johnson

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept the January 2012 minutes made by Angela, second Bill. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Thank You's received from Fleming Road UCC and the widow of Tad Lasonczyk for our donation to his memorial, and also from After Prom for our donation.

**President's Report:** A reminder that some of our members will be attending the statewide OMEA conference on Friday in Columbus to accept the award for Outstanding Support Organization.

**Band report:** Rick Canter

1) Thank you to the students and chaperones for an outstanding trip to Florida last week. Mr. McKee and I could not have been happier with the behavior of the students.

2) Congratulations to all of the students that participated in Solo & Ensemble contest on Saturday at Elder High School.

Kristina Cowan: Horn, Superior Rating in Class A  
Finneytown Horn Ensemble (Cowan, Sauer, Inman, Hickey): Superior Rating in Class B  
Kara Sauer: Horn, Superior Rating in Class A  
Heather Gamble, Flute, Superior Rating in Class A  
Janelle Bouman, Flute, Superior Rating in Class A  
Colleen Sauer, Alto Sax, Excellent Rating in Class A  
Maureen Hickey, Horn, Superior Rating in Class A  
Cameron Owens, Marimba, Superior Rating in Class A  
Benjamin Burton, Piano, Superior Rating in Class A  
Finneytown Flute Trio (Zimmerer, Bouman, Gamble), Superior Rating in Class A  
Alex Brown, Trumpet, Excellent Rating in Class A  
Alina Murphy, Tenor Sax, Superior Rating in Class A  
Noah Stump, Alto Sax, Good Rating in Class C  
Eddie Reeb, Bassoon, Superior Rating in Class B  
Sarah Fessler, Trombone, Superior Rating in Class B

3) Best wishes to Kristi Cowan as she heads to Columbus this week to participate in the OMEA All-State Orchestra!

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Canter

Kellie Smoker: Thanks to all the Disney chaperones – it was a great trip. The charity band concert in March will have organizing help from Phil Reinhart. He will help coordinate the logistics of the donations that come in.

**Choral report:** Jason McKee

Jason reported that the music department has been meeting w/Mr. Fisher, Dr. Kessler, Dr. Robertson, Dave Wolferst, and Shawn Maus to find ways to improve calendar conflicts among the various curricular and extra-curricular activities. He and Heidi both feel these meetings have been very productive and will greatly improve the communication and means through which to resolve schedule conflicts.

- 1) Thank you to all of the parent chaperones for their hard work on the Disney trip! It is such a comforting feeling to know that we have such outstanding parent support when we plan trips. Every chaperone was diligent and made the trip flow flawlessly! Special thanks to Kellie Smoker for all of her work in organizing forms and preparing first aid kits for chaperones and to all of the other behind-the-scenes parents who worked to make the trip successful!
- 2) OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Choir: Congratulations to Keir Adams, Maddie Baker, Molly Brown, Tess Enderle, Ian Esslinger, Alex Geiger, Katherine Germann, Mathieu Hall, To'Lisa Hinkston, Krista Lee, Jalynn Lunsford, Aidan Matzko, Jacob Stevens, and Olivia Williams for their participation in this year's honor choir!
- 3) HS Solo & Ensemble: Congratulations to Tara Keller for earning a Superior rating in Class A!
- 4) HS Choir Contest: The 3 high school choirs will attend the OMEA District 13 choir event on either Friday, March 16th or Saturday, March 17th at Lebanon Junior High School. Chorale will be singing in Class AA; the Women's Chorus in Class A; and the Men's Chorus in Class B.
- 5) Auditions: All high school choir students have been informed that auditions for next year's Chorale will occur in March after the contest season. Students will sign up for a time after school or will make arrangements to audition in class with Mr. McKee. Auditions must be completed in time for the Scheduling Fair in April.
- 6) Congratulations and best wishes to Abby Bolling and Philip Colegrove as they participate in the 2012 OMEA All-State Choir in Columbus on Friday.
- 7) Congratulations to the Finneytown Music Parents Association for being honored this Friday before the All-State Choir concert for being named the 2012 OMEA Outstanding Music Support Group! I'm very proud and excited to see you receive this award!
- 8) The next choral concert is March 6th, and the high school choirs will be performing their contest repertoire with Chorale sight-reading for you on the concert... hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason McKee

Marsha asked for an update on the possible acapella group mentioned at last month's meeting. Jason said he is still looking at how it will fit with other choir activities. The feasibility is still under consideration.

MS Choirs: Glenda Esslinger – no report.

**Orchestra Report.** Heidi Johnson

Concert - This Thursday, 7pm in the PAC! Performing groups: MS Orchestra, HS String Ensemble, FUSION

This is not going to be a typical concert--it will be presented in the form of a radio talk show a la "From The Top" which airs on WGUC 90.9 on Saturday mornings at 9am. The students have been writing the script, interview questions, etc. to prepare for the show.

The MS students have been working on a unit I like to call "Non-performing careers in the music industry". As part of that unit, last week we went downtown for a behind the scenes tour of the classical radio station WGUC and national public radio talk station WXXU. The students were given a tour of the studios and watched the announcers at work, spent time with a sound engineer (who does recordings of the Symphony as well), and learned about the technology being used by these stations.

Did You Know: the announcers stand up when talking, because it gives their voices better resonance?? (news to me!)

After that, we walked across the Central Parkway bridge to Music Hall where we met Alex Mendelsohn--a former student from Cottonwood Elementary who now works for the Symphony. We ate lunch in one of the dressing rooms while the Symphony finished their rehearsal on stage, then went to the Green Room to meet the person in charge of taking care of the "talent" (soloists & visiting conductors) taking care of transportation, hotel, food requests, dressing room requests, etc. She showed us the Autograph Book where all the "talent" sign their names and usually write a comment or two. The students wanted to see Yo-Yo Ma's signature! Next on the tour: the music library where they store and prepare the music for all of the concerts. It's a very involved process, getting the right markings in each part for every concert. They showed us music they were working on for May already..... The tour ended with a backstage tour of the actual stage area and the students had a chance to stand on the stage looking out into the audience. Quite a view!

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Solo & Ensemble Contest results

Congratulations to Jeff Grogan - Superior Rating (I) for his violin solo, and Abby Bolling - Excellent Rating (II) for her violin solo

Also Congratulations to Abby Bolling - she will be participating in the All-State Choir event in Columbus this weekend (so she'll miss the concert...), and she has welcomed her new guide dog into her life: Jada (a beautiful 1 1/2 year old black lab).

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Congratulations to the following MS students who participated in the OMEA District 14 JH/MS Honors Orchestra at Princeton High School on Jan. 28th.  
Keir Adams, Luke Brueggemeyer, Stevan Rademann, Heather Gast, & Sam Rice.

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Secondary Campus Conferences are next Thursday, Febr. 23rd from 4:00-7:30

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FUSION will be performing at the Dinner Before the Show at 5:15. Pieces will include - "Tuxedo Junction", "Crocodile Rock", and "I Feel Good" (James Brown)

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Elementary: Whitaker Elementary Instrumental Concert with Elem. PTA Ice Cream Social (YUM, YUM) will be held Tuesday, March 13

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Heidi M. Johnson

Heidi also reported on some of the 5<sup>th</sup> advanced strings and band students who have formed an ensemble to play pop music. They meet Thursdays at lunch under Heidi's direction and are learning that all their instruments don't all easily play in the same keys! However, they seem to be having fun.

**MS Orchestra:** Joan Gordon - Nothing to report.

**MS Band:** Lori Kleiman sent word about how nice the Disney trip was – she was a chaperone.

**Elementary Music:** There will be a music education presentation the 3/13 concert and ice cream social. Penny requests an FMPA presence with our signage and flyers to piggyback on to this. Towners and Kellie volunteered to help w/this.

**Uniforms:** The women's choir has increased by 4 transfer students. Brenda sought input about spending the uniform budget –after Dinner and a Show results are in Brenda will begin using uniform budget to replace old pants, etc.

Marsha - for Disney, the cymbals players needed hats but available sizes were not right so Stephanie Inman bought black/red bandanas with her own money. Sue will send a thank you note to her for doing so.

**Membership:** Angela - 3 new members reported.

**Newsletter:** Renee Keith – Sent this the day after our meeting: I want to update my statement about the spring newsletter. I told advertisers that the newsletter would go out the 1st week of

April. In order to do that I need to receive articles no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> because we are leaving on spring break and I will need to take letters down to the post office March 28th for mailing. This is about 2 weeks earlier than I stated last night.

Glenda suggested to include all middle school honors groups in the newsletter.

**Website:** Bill Fessler - website up to date.

**School Board Rep:** Anita Ruffin reports that the current focus is on scheduling for next year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cathy Zimmerly

See hard copy passed out at meeting. The donation from the BOE for the marching band's participation in the Back To School activities at Brent/Whitaker will be earmarked for marching band.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Colleen, second Angela. Passed.

Cathy reports she will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of this year.

### **New Business**

**Dinner Before the Show planning** – Ric/Jen gave a Bid-N-Buy update and they request all items by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> if possible to their house.

Kitchen – Joan will help w/drinks. Angela still needs help w/serving line & clean up. Salad – Midwest Fresh fell through, Glenda has a lead on possible new supplier.

Set-up/Décor/Clean-up – Kellie will help.

Tickets – Renee - 50 sold thus far. 110 kids will get complimentary tickets. Last year's totals per Angela were 377 (231 were pre-sale, 71 at the door, 75 complimentary).

Desserts/2L – Marsha to send out email for solicitations. Laurie Matzko & Glenda to help.

Entertainment – Heidi will be stage manager. Penny has scheduled Jazz Band, Fusion, 2 Whitaker choirs, MS strings, Rachel & Tim if needed, and FMPA Jazz Ensemble. Heidi will also add 6<sup>th</sup> advanced strings.

Ticket table workers – Kellie, Sue. We give out the complimentary ticket at the door to the student performers at arrival. Jason has cashbox, Cathy will provide us w/change.

Emcee - Jay Valerio has agreed

Sound and Risers – Heidi to ask Dr. Kessler about borrowing speakers from Brent to help the sound. Electric piano to come over. Shawn knows about risers, Jason to text him again.

Coffee – Dawn M. is still a maybe.

**Theater Dept. donation** – discussion re: past yearly donations of \$300 but not in this year’s budget due to tight funding. We have funds not yet budgeted that could be used. There is talk of Finneytown Area Summer Theater coming back this year also. Motion by Renee to donate \$300 to the theater dept., second by Jenny. Motion passed. Penny will take the donation to Shawn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Colleen, second by Bill. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Burton

Secretary