

Members present: Sue Burton, Brenda Dennis, Penny Sauer, Angela Murphy, Beth Hofferber, Laurie Matzko, Heidi Johnson, Colleen Grogan, Kellie Smoker, Heidi Reeb, Marsha Grubbs, Glenda Esslinger, Renee Keith, Bill Fessler, Anita Ruffin, Jennifer Schmidt, Dan Deitsch

Secretary's Report:

- One addition to the August minutes (added date of Dinner Before Show – 3/1/12). Motion to accept corrected August minutes made by Angela, second by Marsha. Motion passed.
- Correspondence: Thank-you note received from Abby Bolling. She was the FMPA scholarship winner from last year and expressed her appreciation for the money and for us choosing her for her musical abilities.

President's Report: Penny expressed appreciation to everyone doing their jobs so nicely - it has made her job much easier. She reported on the new way that Kroger is handling their community rewards/PTA fundraiser. PTA received their first payment recently and it is significantly less than the previous version. She cautions that the days of this being a major fundraiser for band camp are probably over, although there may be a way to recover any previous balances from each family. **She asks us to please write down any kids who are in any community or other music groups so we can publicize it in the next newsletter.**

Music Department news: Heidi J. - no issues to report. There is good communication among the music staff and they are meeting regularly as a dept.

Orchestra Report. 9/10/12

1. Congratulations to the following students who auditioned for the following groups and were accepted!

Emily Martens, grade 9, cello Northern Kentucky Youth Sinfonia - an award-winning advanced level string ensemble based in Newport, KY

Jeff Grogan, grade 12, violin Northern Kentucky University Solisti Players - a premiere mixed chamber ensemble for advanced string, wind, & percussion students

Jack Ryan, grade 7, string bass Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra's Concert Orchestra - formerly the Blue Ash Youth Symphony Orchestra, now affiliated with the CSO's youth orchestra program. A full orchestra experience for students grades 7-12.

2. FUSION was booked to perform at the Springfield Township Children's Theater performance of "The Sword and the Stone" on Thursday, Sept. 27th--until we realized that

homecoming is early this year and that is the night of the homecoming parade. Hopefully Ms. Flamm will call us again in the future!

FUSION will be performing at Union Terminal Museum Center in the rotunda on Saturday, Dec. 1st at 1:15pm, as well as at the orchestra concert on Wednesday, Oct. 17th.

We are looking for a new T-shirt design for FUSION.

We are also still looking for an electric bass player and a regular drummer for the group.

3. MS Uniform Polo Shirts: The HS students were given a form to fill out and bring back with their gently used MS Orchestra Red Polo Shirt to be donated or sold for 1/2 price (\$7.50)-- since the shirts are purchased by the students, the money will go back to the student's family. A reminder email was sent out last Friday, but no shirts have been turned in yet. There are at least 6 HS students who would still have a shirt from last year, and maybe one or two older students. There are 13 7th graders who will need to obtain a shirt by October 17th if possible. I will get together with my V.P.s about this ASAP.

4. HS Orchestra will need to be fitted in concert black uniforms before the concert on Oct. 17th. I will talk with Brenda Dennis to discuss scheduling this.

5. 4th grade students will be recruited the first week of October.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Johnson

Heidi added that the CYSO Concert Orchestra, of which Finneytown's own Jack Ryan is a member, will be performing in our PAC on Dec. 16.

Discussions about orchestra retention from 4th to 5th grade – they lost many members over the summer. Heidi is considering trying some fun stuff over the summer to keep them playing, or intro guitars in 4th grade, then continue as a guitar club after school, etc. She is strategizing w/others on how to improve retention.

There is a new computer program at Whitaker – Brainware Safari – purchased w/a \$100,000 grant. It involves 90 min/week of critical thinking skills. Those 90 min. this year are being taken from 30 min. each of PE, music, and academic time. This yr. 3rd/4th, next 2 yrs. 3rd only. Steve Jones is rearranging his recorder teaching times, among other adjustments, in order to accommodate this excellent program. Heidi reports it will be a very good program for the kids to experience.

HS/MS Orchestra VP's have nothing to report.

Choral report: FMPA Director's Report – MS/HS Choirs September 10, 2012

- ✚ THANK YOU! Equipment and Supply Needs that have been reimbursed:
 - Acoustic Piano and Keyboard (donated from community) – moved and tuned
 - 3-ring Binders (Music folders) and other classroom/office supplies
 - All-State students registration fee (1/2 reimbursed by FMPA) – THANK YOU!
- ✚ Administrative:
 - Middle School Class Sizes → Boys = 13, Girls = 29, X-Period = 22 (only 3 boys)
 - Recruiting needs: middle school boys!
 - High School Class Sizes → Men = 25, Women = 50, Chorale = 31
 - Voice Lessons → We've had four voice teachers from the area come in to visit with the students and encourage lessons. A fifth teacher will be coming this week. I've heard that 5-6 students have signed up for lessons (maybe more?)... encourage ALL to do the same!
- ✚ HS Choir Officers
 - Chorale: Katie Connell, President; Jeff Grogan, VP
 - Men's: Nile Ross, President; Sam Osterwich, VP
 - Women's: Brie White, President; Jessica Wobig, VP

We will have an Office meeting this week during lunch to brainstorm ideas for recruiting, forming productive relationships within and among the choirs (Choir Picnic?), and calendar/other opportunities for singing in the community.
- ✚ Updated Calendar
 - Changes: I would still like to hold an after-school rehearsal for Fall Concert -- maybe need to be pushed to a WEEK before the concert - TUESDAY 10/16.
 - Looking into having after-school rehearsal for Winter Concert as scheduled (Wednesday, 12/12) but since that's an "early release" day, we would rehearse immediately after students are dismissed (instead of 3-5 p.m. as originally planned).
- ✚ Longer-term/Facilities Needs
 - Music Library – Wenger Storage Cabinets
 - HVAC in choir room → air conditioning not working + no windows = poor instructional environment (especially in the afternoon!)
 - Rehearsal space – Risers on flat floor – more flexibility

Discussion about transition from 6th to 7th choir and improving retention, esp. among boys. Ideas include an auditioned 6th choir, improved communication w/rising 7th parents and students about scheduling/opportunities at middle school, etc.

HS/MS choir VP's have nothing to report.

Band report: Read by Beth in Carl's absence.

- Congratulations to All State Band/Orchestra
 - o Janelle Bouman –Flute
 - o Kara Sauer – Horn
 - o Maureen Hickey – Horn
 - o Kristi Cowan – Horn

- The whole marching band show is on the field!

- Mr. Phlipot currently has three 7th and 8th graders willing to be “Band Aid Helpers” for props. We could still use more help. Helpers do not have to be 7th and 8th grade band members. The following three have expressed interest.
 - o Denver Humphries
 - o Damoni Robinson
 - o Rick Pollington

- Mr. Phlipot would like to do a full run of the competition show after the homecoming game. This would be a great practice run with all parents and student helpers.

- Props and uniforms looked great at last Friday's football game!

- We are in need of donated instruments for the 5th grade band. We have around 20 students that can't afford an instrument. Please let Mr. Phlipot know immediately.

Band VP's: Kellie – picnics going great. 3 more (Osterwich/Kleiman, Hartman, Earlywine), then October contests. Band T-shirts are still available for \$15.
No report from Kim for MS band.

Elementary Music:

Laurie has nothing to report for elem. music. However, see above under Orchestra & Choir for info on Elem. music issues.

Membership: \$110 behind last year at this time – so far have \$2,250 in memberships. This is good considering the music concerts are now free admission, which was historically a benefit of membership (free admission instead of a cost for non-members). Mailed out 53 letters to alumni, had a small response – 2 alumni & 1 family/patron.

Marching Band Uniforms: The band is dressed. Just a couple things remain (alterations due to weight change, etc.) but all is well.

Concert Uniforms: choral – 20 of 50 red dresses done. All of chorale ladies are done. Tuxes to come.

Newsletter. Went out on Aug. 24th. Will change the timing for next one to 3rd week October. We want it in people's hands BEFORE Oct. 22nd. **Need articles by Oct. 10. Hard deadline is Oct. 12 NO LATER. Seriously ☺** Renee and Donna considering sharing a bulk mailing permit btwn PTA and FMPA in order to split the \$190ish permit fee. They will discuss implications with each other.

Website: Bill thanks us for prayers and thoughts for Robbie's recent surgery. That has left not much time for support work for the organizations he does. Bill wd. be happy to have someone else help him w/website stuff for awhile...but will keep working on it. Contact w/PaySchools: site demo done. Thinks will meet our needs. Vague enough we can pretend to be a "school" as other categories don't really fit us. 3½ % charge per transaction, no monthly fee or maintenance. Need to determine who will have access to set up and control the account. Global administrator, also give others access to people in diff. areas. Discussed who will hold which positions for PaySchools - Bill will be global administrator AND website administrator. Angela (Membership position) will be the business administrator and will have access. Every PaySchools goes to a separate account, so each support group will be separate. 1 yr. contract renews for 3 years. Bill will fax forms back.

School Board Rep: Anita reports that work will begin on buildings from money from state House Bill 64 – roofing, security, more cameras, infrastructure. Levy question – not yet decided on how to best message it. It is a bond issue for capital improvements, not general fund expenses. Some people have been identified to help but very low-key. Signs, public mtgs.through the Civic Assoc. No chairperson for the campaign that Anita is aware of.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion/clarification of various line items. Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Angela, second by Glenda. Motion passed.

New Business:

- All-State fees: FMPA has historically paid half of the \$225 fee per student, with the money often coming from memorial contributions. We have never had 8 students in one year before! This year it will cost FMPA \$900. Penny proposed we fund this with a combination of funds from various line items. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Sue to contribute up to \$900 toward All-State student fees (112.50/student) through the following: \$302.50 from memorial membership reserves, \$150 from All-State Scholarships, and \$447.50 from the Undergraduate scholarship fund. Second by Glenda. Motion passed.
- In the interest of time, other new business was tabled in order to hear Dan Deitch's fundraising ideas. These include:
 - a date for Graeters – We settled on 12/6, the day of the elementary choral concert.
Dan requests help promoting this date.

- Applebees – new management is open to a partnership w/the district. ***They desire vignettes with FT memorabilia, old varsity letters, photos, etc.*** They will do a dine and donate, no weekend date restrictions, 10% off w/coupon.
- Tailgate table at homecoming – we agree to do this. This will include asking the marching band to come march out and through the crowd to build spirit/excitement.

Motion to adjourn made by Angela, second by Glenda. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

VP's who were able stayed to discuss cookie dough form distribution process. Forms distributed October 1 or 2 (week of), and collected by 10/22. Delivery day is Thurs. Nov. 15 and help is needed all day. New this year: 2 new flavors, one of them gluten free. Also Savory Sweets is adding their own incentive – free cookie if you sell 10 tubs, free tub of dough if you sell 15, etc.

Lastly, a comment was made after the meeting had adjourned about one way we can try to stay in our time limits (each person really only has about 5 minutes to report). **The suggestion was that all who submit a written report do so by 3:15 pm the day of the meeting, then others can read the report in advance and comment as needed during the meeting.** That way each item should not need to be read individually out loud and discussed during the meeting. We would ask that **each person bring a few copies of your own report to circulate** among anyone who might not get the chance to read the electronic version. We will try this for the October meeting and receive feedback and further comments.