

FMPA Minutes August 12, 2013

Members present – Kevin Berlon, Sue Burton, Heidi Reeb, Jenny Jones, Glenda Esslinger, Jennifer Schmidt, Brenda Dennis, Angela Murphy, Penny Sauer, Carl Phlipot, Mike Kennedy, Heidi Johnson, Anita Ruffin, Kelly Hickey

Welcome and Intro – President Kevin Berlon asked us all to introduce ourselves and share something about our music experiences. Comments ranged from what's on our ipods to traumatic childhood music lessons to cool music memories and beyond.

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

Corrected spelling of Marya Rusinak's name in May 2013 minutes. Motion to accept May 2013 minutes with correction was made by Glenda, second by Penny. Motion passed.

Steve Jones' sister recently passed away suddenly, and Bill Fessler's son Robbie is to have surgery 8/13/13. Sue will send a card to each.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

Heidi reports that for 2012-13 school year we had a net income of around \$2,300. She also had not carried forward the \$2,000 in marching band reserves for the uniform fund so she added the \$2,000 to correct that.

We collected \$375 from the marching band preview show.

Flow through accts: Heidi proposed to move \$134.88 from the senior leadership account into the marching band T-shirt account, which would close the sr. leadership flow-through.

Heidi requests that we fill out a deposit form every time we give her money. She passed those forms out and also gave copies of our tax-exempt certificate to use when making purchases.

Our new insurance company has suggestions on how to tighten control of your organization's money, and Heidi is implementing some of these measures. She also has another FMPA member open & read the bank statements before she does, as an accountability measure.

Kevin requested that each monthly report would have a starting and ending balance from the past month to make things more clear.

Kevin, Penny, and Heidi will go to the bank to add Kevin's name to the bank account.

A motion to approve the August treasurer's report was made by Angela, second by Glenda. Motion passed.

President's Report – Kevin met with Mr. Olverson, our new superintendant. He is impressed and encouraged by Mr. Olverson's commitment to music education and reports they've had some good conversations. He presented a handout on his goals and strategies for the 2013-2014 year.

Band Report - Carl Phlipot

Marching band camp was a success this year at Camp Crescendo in KY. Our participation there helps fund this camp run by the Lions organization, so that other kids can go to camp for free.

Band VP's – Jenny brought thoughts about finding more sources of funding for band, including 2 clearinghouses of product donations for non-profit organizations. These are Techsoup and Good 360. This led to wider discussion of fundraising and bulk buying at clubs. Brenda raised that there has been past concern about distinguishing between “band” and “FMPA” fundraisers. We discussed the idea of building a 5 year plan for funding and what elements would be included. A thought that \$6,500 for MB is probably low. Anita encouraged us to keep looking outside the district for additional funding. Kevin would like this discussion to continue at November’s mtg. re: fundraising in general.

Chorus report – Chelsea Lamping not present. Carl says she will be at work tomorrow.

Chorus VP's – no report

Orchestra report – FMPA ORCHESTRA REPORT August 12, 2013

I am excited for the 2013 school year to start. The warm welcome-back that I have received from the Finneytown Community has been amazing!

The new Whitaker Orchestra room has been moved to the basement. After assessing my needs for the students, I discovered that we needed more shelves for the instruments. Members from the Greater Cincinnati Ring Club (Eddie Williams and George Manley) gave their labor for building storage shelves for the instruments free of charge. They were extremely happy to help out for this project. The shelving materials were purchased through the FMPA Orchestra budget; I would like to personally thank the organization for their financial support!

Whitney Moore, the orchestra director for the Northwest Local School district is working closely with me to develop a progressive plan that will allow for sustainable growth. She started with an Orchestra program that had low student participation that has grown into a program with high student participation. My goal is to surround myself with fellow teachers within the Orchestra community that can help us grow. I would like to thank Miss Johnson and Mrs. Hickey for helping me along the way with donating resources and their time to make sure the Orchestra program continues towards growth. Paul Bartel from the Baroque Violin Shop is coming into Whitaker Elementary to help with recruiting students during the first week of school. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students.

My goal is to provide support for my other music colleagues within the district. Carl and I have already been working closely this summer and have developed an amazing teaching relationship. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the High School Band. Carl is doing great things with the students this year. If you have not had a chance to see the show, “The Brave”; please make a point to get to a football game or competition to see what awesome things the students are doing. Although I have not met our new choir director, Mrs. Lamping; I am looking forward to working with such a talented director. She has resounding respect within the choir community.

Sandy Martens, our High School Representative, has been contacting me and helping organize some potential projects that will have a positive impact on the program. Thanks for being so helpful Sandy!

As we move forward towards the new school year, if you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to mkennedy@finneytown.org<<mailto:mkennedy@finneytown.org>>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Kennedy

Addendum: The Whitaker orchestra room had a bad leak so the ceiling is falling. There is no carpet there now, likely until the leak is repaired.

There was also discussion of exploring offering a music technology class for non-performing students as a way to incorporate music into their education.

Orchestra VP's –

1. We are excited that Mr. Kennedy has returned to Finneytown and will be working with our orchestra students this year.
2. We are looking for volunteers to help with some administrative tasks and behind the scenes needs for orchestra. Some possible responsibilities would be:
 - Assist with feeding Whitaker students during monthly Saturday workshops.
 - Help with organization of school instruments (thanks to Cindy Brown and Emily Martens for their help).
 - Parents to help back stage and in the audience during concerts.
3. We are in need of an Elementary Representative. Mr. Kennedy has a lot of great ideas for this group and it would be helpful for him to have a contact for this group. Please Email Sandy Martens with potential candidates.
Here are my ideas for the program in general:
 1. Strongly encourage students (require?) to participate in OMEA Contest or other contests/ performance opportunities.
 2. Small chamber group(s) for strong HS students. Have this group play one or two pieces at each concert. This would showcase Finneytown's talented orchestra players.
 3. When possible, include the HS students as helpers for the Whitaker orchestra students.Thanks,
Sandy

Jennifer – She and Aimee Collins and others painted the Whitaker orchestra room this summer.

Elementary Music – Heidi Johnson

Heidi wants to do a piano lab in general music. Wants to increase keyboard and/or guitar skills.

Whitaker students will have a new music schedule – general music for all 3rd/4th, only for those 5th and 6th graders who are NOT in band or orchestra. Band and orchestra will have 2 solid teaching times per week, not during recess or lunch.

Membership - Angela – has received 4 memberships thus far. She will go to the Whitaker open house and possibly other times also to publicize FMPA.

Uniforms - Nearly all the marching band uniforms were fitted during two days of post camp. The 8 or 10 remaining will be taken care of at rehearsals next week. Deep thanks to Penny Sauer, Jennifer Singleton, Ona Brown, Tina Wourinen, Linda Deitsch, Kelley Hickey, Sue Connell, Angela Murphy, Felicia Sorrels, Vickie Stump, and Dawn Gast for their fitting and hemming expertise.

Tuxes were cleaned by Clean Getaway Dry Cleaners. They gave us a great deal, and welcome our return business.

During a heavy rain while roofing was in progress, the remaining old uniforms stored above the chorus room closets became wet and were sent out for cleaning. As far as I know, the cost was covered by the school, even though the uniforms were donated to FMPA for our use.

*when donating the uniforms back to FMPA, it was stipulated that they not be simply thrown away

*are we finished with making mementos with them? Shawn Maus is willing to take them for theatre.

There are 24 jackets and 39 pair of trousers. If we intend to keep them, they will need to be safely stored somewhere.

Glenda Esslinger and Brenda Dennis

Uniform Chairs

Newsletter - Renee – Newsletters will be stuffed on 8/15 from 9-2 at the Media Center.

Website - Bill absent, no report.

Fundraising – Penny reported on cookie dough gear-up. Our 9th year with Savory Sweets. Tubs will remain at \$12 each. Sale will run 9/30-10/18 with delivery on 11/14.

School Board Representative - Anita reports that the superintendent is super. He has a commitment to the arts and recognizes sometimes the only reason a student wants to come to school is for arts or athletics. The board is discussing a "rebranding" since we are "excellent" already. Board members whose terms are expiring are Laura Horn, James Wright, and Eric Rice. None are seeking re-election. Michael Matzko, Cindy Rebman, and Scott Haarlammert have all filed to run. Some question as to another candidate's filing, Anita later told us that candidate would not be running.

New Business –

- Boosters are proposing that Boosters, PTA, and FMPA fund water bottles for the HS staff. Motion to take \$200 from savings for water bottles made by Kevin, second by Jenny. Motion passed.
- By-Laws – look at proposed changes (see handouts or his email of 8/9/13) and we will discuss at next meeting.
- QZAB funding commitment – see handouts. The district is looking at different ways to subsidize needed funding in the district. This program is proposed by David Oliverio, treasurer, to qualify FLSD for a lower interest-rate bond. It would quantify the dollar value of the donations in kind provided by support organizations like ourselves, PTA, boosters to FLSD. We would examine what we already do to support FLSD, and make a commitment to document same for 10 years. It is not a financial commitment by us, and is not in conflict with our by-laws. The

recommendation is to document at least a \$10,000 value but we can do more. Motion put forth by Sue to authorize Kevin to enter into this match funding agreement with FLSD regarding QZAB after discussion with Heidi to determine amount, and communicate same to board. Second by Jennifer. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm. Next meeting is Monday September 9 at 7 pm.