

FMPA Minutes September 9, 2013

Members present – Kevin Berlon, Sue Burton, Heidi Reeb, Jenny Jones, Glenda Esslinger, Jennifer Schmidt, Angela Murphy, Penny Sauer, Carl Phlipot, Mike Kennedy, Chelsea Lamping, Anita Ruffin, Renee Keith, Sharon Figgs, Joanna Eberhardt, Bill Fessler, Dan Deitsch, and guest Cindy Rebman

**Welcome and Intro**– Cindy Rebman is attending tonight as a candidate for school board. Her children have graduated from the district. Joanna Eberhardt is attending and has children currently in the district schools.

**Secretary's Report** – Sue Burton

A motion to approve the August 2013 minutes was made by Penny, seconded by Bill, motion passed.

No correspondence was received or went out from Sue.

**Treasurer's Report** - Heidi Reeb

After discussion, a motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Angela, seconded by Glenda. Motion passed.

**President's Report**– Kevin Berlon

- Thanks to everyone involved in all of the activities at the start of the school year! I helped briefly at the FMPA booth at Whitaker & MS/HS back-to-school events.
- Welcome to our new VP Orchestra Cindy Brown.
- The joint effort with the Boosters and the PTA to provide staff with water bottles never materialized. We will consider again for next year.
- The Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) is pleased to show our ongoing support of the Finneytown Local School District by entering into the QZAB Match Funding Agreement. Over the next 10 years it is our intention to provide the District with at least \$130,000 of in-kind financial support, including the marching band uniform replacement which we are currently escrowing funds. We are proud to partner with the District in this effort to ultimately save the taxpayers of our community interest money on the funding required to repair our school buildings and other related projects. Mr. Oliverio will keep our organization apprised of the reporting requirements so that we can be properly credited with our commitment.
- Clarification on Senior Marching Band Banners: Boosters had approached Penny Sauer about this project whereby Boosters had budgeted to make Senior Banners for Senior Athletes and Cheerleaders. Since this was not in our approved budget, Penny sought approval from all senior marching band parents who agreed to self-fund at a cost of \$27.39 each. We will keep in touch with Boosters regarding Winter/Spring sports orders and making same offer to Orchestra/Chorale families.
- Kept apprised of orchestra scheduling issues:

After a week of wrestling with the orchestra schedule I think we have a solution. I want to thank Dr. Kessler and her teachers for being willing to adjust their times.

Mike and Carl will rush down to Whitaker and start at 9:10. They will finish at 11:30 and Mike will rush back up here to start orchestra by 11:44. This will allow HS orchestra students to eat with their HS peers. We will all try and be aware of coverage issues if someone is running a couple of minutes late.

Again thanks to all for making sacrifices and being flexible.

Jack

- Monthly meeting held with Mr. Olverson and Mr. Fisher. We discussed potential partnerships with UC's CCM Preparatory Department. Also discussed areas of improvement in communication with respect to scheduling.
- Mr. Olverson referred me to OMEA, who then referred me to Bill Thomas, recently retired Lakota East band director and current OMEA adjudicator. We discussed small music program strategies and he was very complimentary of Finneytown's programs and how unique it was to maintain band, orchestra and chorale in our district. Potential opportunities to discuss "best practices" may be at annual OMEA convention or to arrange a district/regional gathering. Also highly complimentary of Mr. Phlipot based on previous experiences together at Marion Local.
- Finally, started work on developing a working database/spreadsheet to track music student participation (and FMPA memberships).

#### **MEMBERSHIP - Angela Murphy**

- Here are the numbers for membership: 35 family memberships= \$875.00
- 16 patrons = \$535.00
- 8 alumni memberships= \$175.00
- 3 memorial donors = \$150.00
- Our total to date= \$1735.00

#### **HIGH SCHOOL BAND - Carl Phlipot and Jenny Jones**

- I don't have a lot of new information to report. The marching band is off running strong as we prepare for our first contest on the 21st.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND – Kim Fain**

- Nothing to report. Classes have started, 15 or so marching up this year! The show is looking good!

#### **HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA – Mike Kennedy and Cindy Brown**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA - Jennifer Schmidt**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS - Chelsea Lamping and Glenda Esslinger**

- Chorale and Women's Choir have started out great - all others are really focusing on basic note reading, vowel formation and singing with solfege.
- X-Period Chorus started last week but attendance is low.
- For Brenda: Choir uniforms will need to be fitted at some point. This is only for Chorale. All other choirs will be in concert black.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS** - Sharon Figgs

#### **WHITAKER BAND** - Carl Philipot

- 5th graders are being fitted for band class, and should be playing instruments within a week.
- We have around 60-70 kids in each 5th and 6th grade bands at Whitaker.

#### **VOICES OF WHITAKER CHORUS** - Heidi Johnson

- There isn't much to report right now. Voices of Whitaker starts tomorrow morning!

#### **UNIFORMS** - Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger

- Marching Band will be in full uniforms for the first time this year at the home game on September 20, followed by their first contest at Tipp City on September 21. We'll be inviting the band parents to assist with uniform distribution and collection.
- Up next, concert wear. We'll be in contact with the teachers to determine what's needed.
- One bit of old business: tuxes that were backordered from last spring have arrived, which will hopefully take care of some fit issues for Chorale guys this year.

#### **FMPA Newsletter Report** - Renee Keith

1. Articles for the Summer Newsletter were collected by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles to me!
2. The newsletter was submitted to the Finneytown High School printer (Sandy Camden) on Aug 6, 2013. 1100 copies were produced. Sandy also printed the envelopes for mailing. Envelopes were purchased by FMPA.
3. The newsletters were assembled along with PTA, Foundation, and Booster materials on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. There were representatives from each organization. Myself, Penny Sauer, Laurie Matzko, Sandy Haskins, Joanna Eberhardt, Janet Cobb, Mark Besserman, Sherry Enderle, Tina Wuorinen, Glenda Esslinger, and Mary jo Berlon among others. Sorry if you are not listed my memory isn't the best!
4. Approximately 600 copies were sent in the mail on August 16<sup>th</sup> to all MS/HS families as well as last year's families that had Seniors. Only one letter was sent to each family, as labels with the same address were eliminated by hand to save costs. Approximately 500 copies were distributed to Whitaker Elementary, as well as to FHS staff, and Brent Teaching Staff.

5. The total cost for mailing the summer packets was \$109.25.

The breakdown was:

Envelopes - \$38.21

Postage - \$71.04

Divided 4 ways that is **\$27.31 per organization**. We share the cost with, Boosters, PTA and the Foundation. So we will be reimbursed \$81.93. Each organization has been notified.

6. I have started to contact advertisers for the 2013-2014 school year. I have verbal agreement from SilkRoad Textiles, Finneytown Civic Association and Forrest Lytle for placing an ad in our newsletter this school year. I need to get at least 4 other advertisers to meet a goal of \$560. The cost is \$80/year – 4 newsletters are published a year with a circulation of ~1100 families. If anyone has suggestions please let me know, as some previous advertisers have cut their budgets and cannot advertise with us this year.

7. The next newsletter will be sent out near the end of October. **Need articles by October 11<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **FALL SAVORY SWEETS FUNDRAISER - Penny Sauer**

- The dates of this year's sale will be September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- VP's must pick up the order forms for each group they represent from my house (944 Butterfly Ct.) sometime during the week prior to this. I will email you when the forms are sorted and ready for pick-up.
- VP's should arrange a time, preferably early in the week that the sale begins, to visit the classrooms and kick-off the sale. You will need to stress the importance of this sale (50% of our budget), what the money is used for by teachers and how it benefits them, what to say and how to fill out the forms, price (\$12 each) collect money with order, turn in date, incentives, delivery date. We will go over this information in more detail at the meeting.
- If it is impossible for you to get to the classrooms yourself during this week, please try to contact another parent to do it, or let me know if you are unable to find someone else.
- I am arranging a time to meet with the Whitaker band, choir and strings students either all at once or in two groups, and a representative from Savory Sweets is going to talk to them.
- I will send out emails before, during and at the end of the sale. It is so important to keep the parents in the loop so that they will know details and deadlines to keep their student on track. These emails will be sent out to the teachers, and teachers should please forward them to their email lists. If you want to give your VPs access to your lists and have them send these out, that is fine too.
- Also, if teachers can talk this up with your classes at some point during the sale, that is so helpful so that the students understand how this money helps you provide resources for them, and that it is important to you.
- We will try our best to interrupt your class time as little as possible with this sale, teachers, but we will need a little of your time to make this work and raise these needed funds.
- Turn in dates are October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, with delivery on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss procedures for both of these at the October meeting.

**WEBSITE** - Updates were made to the website this weekend with everything received to date. I apologize for the delays (especially Renee... just couldn't get that Newsletter out there in August). Robby's surgery schedule and the home situation thereafter just didn't permit any time to concentrate on this. BTW, he is doing fine this time and back to school already. I noticed I was missing a couple of updates for the current year that I made Kevin aware of late Saturday night.

- 1) 2013-2014 scholarship info
- 2) 2013-2014 FMPA budget

If anything else looks weird, please let me know.

Also, there is talk of the PayShools on line store changing to the current DBS (Data Business Systems) product. PayShools was acquired by DBS about a year ago. I told the sales staff that it would make sense for us to make the switch at the same time as the district. It was agreed that we will remain with PayShools until then.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE - Anita Ruffin**

##### **New Business –**

- By-Laws – Changes to Bylaws were discussed and revisions made. We will vote on final revisions at a future meeting.
- Savory Sweets fundraiser – Penny handed out an information form for VP's to discuss the process of publicity and ordering. Note the date change: Forms/money will be collected on Oct. 21 and 22 as it works better with the school calendar. Also discussed incentives – will keep the same as last year (see back of cover letter).
- Band hoodie sweatshirts – ordering info got missed earlier in the year. Bill will send info to Carl for distribution to parents/students.
- Goals and objectives – be thinking about these in light of our own role within FMPA – related to the three prongs of funding, advocacy, and volunteerism. Will discuss at a future meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Angela, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm. Next meeting is Monday October 14 at 7 pm.