

FMPA Minutes October 14, 2013

Members present –Sue Burton, Mike Kennedy, Heidi Reeb, Cindy Brown, Jennifer Schmidt, **Unknown person sitting next to Jen, maybe starting with the letter L or C?? – sorry, can't read the signature and don't remember who this was – not a sig. I recognize,** Renee Keith, Kevin Berlon, Bill Fessler, Kim Fain, Dan Deitch, Brenda Dennis, Penny Sauer

**Welcome and Introductions** – a number of board members and staff could not attend tonight, but reports were handed out by Kevin (see below).

**Secretary's Report** – Sue Burton

A motion to approve the September 2013 minutes was made by Brenda, seconded by Jennifer, motion passed.

No correspondence was received or went out from Sue. Kevin plans to apply for the Honor Project Trust, something sent to all non-profits in the State of Ohio. There is potentially (though not likely) some future settlement money available from a lawsuit at the state level.

**Treasurer's Report** - Heidi Reeb

After review, a motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Renee, seconded by Kim. Motion passed.

**President's Report** – Kevin Berlon

- ***Kevin asks that we all please try to get our written reports in on the Friday before our Monday meetings so he can circulate them to the whole team. Also, please expand your reports to include more details – what are your upcoming events and dates? What needs do you have? What do the next couple months hold for you and your area?***
- Thanks to everyone involved in all of the Marching Band activities in the past month! Congratulations to the Marching Band for their success thus far with “Best in Class” recognition at Springfield Northwestern & Marion Local. Best Wishes for continued success at Harrison this weekend and at State (UD Welcome Stadium, 4:45pm, Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- Monthly meeting held with Mr. Olverson. We discussed potential partnerships with UC's CCM Preparatory Department. Also discussed some world class standards and what that might look like in the future.
- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Homecoming Weekend festivities, both in the parade (Jenny Jones, Penny Sauer, and Jennifer Schmidt, and me) and the tailgate activities (Brenda Dennis & daughter)..

During the president's report, discussion started about how we'd like more veterans to see the marching band show. Various ideas were discussed. Mike reminded us that the students have a lot going on and we should not try to ADD any performances at this point in the season. Rather, checking w/Dave Wolferst and Shawn about publicizing free admission for veterans to the remaining football games would be in order.

Also, there is no update on the status of PAC remodeling tonight. Seats are supposed to be started on 10/28, after the roof is determined to be completely weatherproof.

Kevin requested a motion to approve the FMPA bylaws as revised at the September 9, 2013 meeting. Motion to approve changes made by Heidi, seconded by Sue – motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP - Angela Murphy

**I will not be able to make the meeting, but here's my report for Monday.**

**We have 12 new family memberships, giving us a total of 47**

**3 new patron donors, giving us a total of 19**

**2 new alumni members, giving us a total of 10**

**no new memorial donors, leaving our total at 3**

**A membership reminder article, as well as an additional membership form, have been submitted for publication in *Music Notes*. Additional membership forms will be dropped off at the central office Monday morning.**

**Thanks, Angela**

Sue asked how these numbers compared to last year – at this same time, we had 69 family memberships and had 81 by the end of the year.

## **HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

Jenny Jones

Carl Phlipot (unable to attend)

- State Marching Band Finals:  
Date = Sunday November 3rd

Time = 4:45pm

Location = University of Dayton

Agenda for this event will be passed out the week of contest.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

Kim Fain

## **HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

Cindy Brown

Mike Kennedy

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

Jennifer Schmidt

## **HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS**

Glenda Esslinger

Chelsea Lamping (unable to attend) - I will not be at tonight's FMPA meeting as I have a commitment with D14 Honor Choir. Here is my report:

1. The following students will be participating in the D14 Honor Choir this

Friday:

Amber Boardman, Sarah Fessler, Heather Gamble, Becca Huff, Tara Keller, Colleen Sauer

The concert is free - 7:00pm at Sycamore High School

2. The following students will be participating in the NKU Honor Choir in

mid-November:

Belinda Baty

Allison Gast

Jordan Girdler

Jair Harris

Amy Hughes

Krista Lee

Aaron Palmer

Sam Osterwisch

Thomas Steel

Alissa Wuorinen

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS**

Sharon Figgs (unable to attend)

I will not be at the meeting tonight as my husband just found out he has to leave for London for work tomorrow for 1 week; therefore, our family is spending time together this evening. I do not have anything to report for MS Chorus.

## **WHITAKER BAND**

Carl Phlipot (unable to attend)

## **VOICES OF WHITAKER CHORUS**

Heidi Johnson

## **UNIFORMS**

Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger

## **FMPA Newsletter Report**

Renee Keith

## **Fall Savory Sweets Fundraiser**

Penny Sauer

There is one week left for the Fall Fundraiser. Collection of money and order forms will begin next Monday. Again, VP's of the various groups are important to getting these collected with as few issues as possible. Here are the details-

### **VP Instructions for Fundraiser Collection**

- Turn in dates are Monday and Tuesday Oct 21 and 22. If possible, pick up orders both days so that the teachers do not have all that money sitting in their offices, or arrange with another board member for them to pick it up.
- If you can pick up the forms for each class at the beginning of class time, that would be best. You can then check the orders to make sure the amount of money recorded on the order form matches the amount of money turned in, and speak to the student directly if it does not. Even if you pick up all order forms at the end of the day, please do this. If there are mistakes, try to resolve the issue by calling the student before turning in the forms. Keep the money with each individual order - do not combine it into one bag or envelope.
- Turn in the forms and money to Penny Sauer (944 Butterfly Ct.). Call first to make sure someone will be home to receive them (521-8896).
- If you can go back on Friday Oct 25 to pick up any remaining order forms, please do so. If you cannot, let Penny know ([bpsauer@fuse.net](mailto:bpsauer@fuse.net) or 521-8896). The final count has to be in to the company by Oct. 30th.

**Thank you so much for your help with this sale. Your involvement makes a huge difference in giving the students motivation to sell, and making sure that orders and money are collected efficiently and effectively!**

I will also need 4 - 5 people to help with counting the money and checking the order forms next Monday and Tuesday nights at my house. Please let me know if you can help with this either night.

### **New Business –**

- Veronica Bishop contacted us about the AfterProm fundraiser on **Nov. 16** from 10am-3pm. There is a craft show at Xenos. Do we want to sell anything there? Heidi R. will sit at a table there, and perhaps Jennifer. We will sell cookie dough, scarves, earrings, whatever we have available.
- **Oct. 27** there is a Trick or Treat for the Cure fundraiser in honor of a Whitaker student who recently passed away. Heidi R. and Penny will sit at a table there at the track – this is like a “Trunk or Treat” event, admission charged and proceeds go to pediatric cancer research.
- Cookie dough – 1 week left before collecting orders. See Penny’s guidelines in her report. Heidi and Jennifer can help with counting. The Savory Sweets representative said we are their biggest sale in the Cincinnati area. A comment was made about coordinating fundraisers (FAA is also selling cookie dough apparently). We will discuss this in Nov. during our fundraising focus topic.
- **What makes Finneytown Music Parents Association a world-class organization?**

Background: Superintendent Tyrone Olverson is pushing a “world-class district”. FMPA has been recognized by OMEA as an outstanding support organization – how can we continue to deliver quality results with our changing demographics of parents, students, and community?

The board discussed and wrote down many ideas, and Mike Kennedy was very helpful with insights from a staff perspective.

To be world class, we need to:

- reach the **whole population** of students – including all the kids who DON’T take the music programs we have. Examine current programs/offerings, compare to other world-class programs, expand our efforts so class sizes don’t shrink.
- be **balanced** and **far-reaching**. Examples – music technology, music industry related skills like recording, composing, video editing, music marketing, film studies, sound tracks. Ex: Lebanon schools have 70 in marching band, and 347 in music technology, plus 200 in another section.
- Identify ways to prepare students for a college education and for music-related jobs.
- Improve our **feeder program** - We must keep educating the younger kids and can’t start in middle school/high school. Whitaker needs to be world-class. We must have a k-12 commitment. At the elementary level we need to prioritize:

- **Improved facilities** – soundproof, etc. More improvements to Whitaker music space.
- **Increased minutes of instruction** - A dream would be 50 min. of instruction 3x/wk. – example orchestra is currently around 25 min. 2x/wk. Must not be viewed as leftover, afterthought, or extra-curricular. See thoughts below on integration in curriculum.
- Every world class organization has **team teaching** – bcs. of all the different ensembles required in music programs. Without team teaching, our teachers will suffer burn-out and we will have high staff turnover.
- We need an **interdisciplinary approach** to learning of music – ex: acoustics/physics, literature/music. Music is not extracurricular, it is an integral part of the curriculum.
- Need access to the tools and staffing for this. Need a strong advocating support system – how can FMPA help with these areas?
- Consider how we can maintain a wonderful program like marching band yet not burn out kids academically or those also involved in sports, or burn out families. Look at creatively reorganizing schedules? Ex. – if band was 7<sup>th</sup> bell with flow right into after-school instruction 2x/wk, then start sports at 4?

We will revisit this discussion in January 2014 and start designing improvements to our support.

Motion to adjourn made by Brenda, seconded by Jennifer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm. Next meeting is Monday November 11 at 7 pm.