

Attendees: Kevin Berlon, Penny Sauer, Sandy Tenhundfeld, Sue Burton, Mike Kennedy, Steve Jones, Cindy Rebman, Tyrone Olverson, Therese Hunt, Jack Fisher, Jenny Jones, Sharon Figgs, Brenda Dennis, Angela Murphy, Cindy Brown, Bobbie Sloan, Dan Deitsch, Heidi Reeb, Renee Keith, Jennifer Schmidt, Sandy Martens

Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Berlon

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

A motion to approve the December 2013 minutes was made by Penny, second by Glenda, motion passed.

Correspondence – Sue wrote thank-you notes to the businesses that supported Light Up Finneytown – Buddy Roger's Music, Dr. Warren Gase DDS, and Wesbanco. Kevin wrote thank-you notes to the outgoing school board members.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

Heidi asked if we can consider moving the money currently in the harp fund into a fund for instruments in general. We have the list of donors. No action taken but she wants us to think about it.

After review, Renee moved, seconded by Glenda, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

President's Report – Kevin Berlon

+ We are 25-30% down on our 3 funding sources of membership, cookie dough, and luminaries. Thus, we need to evaluate next year's budget and our expenses (like scholarships). Please hit upcoming fundraisers hard – DBS – and the Scholarship Showcase – is it worth it to do, investment vs. funds raised?

+ Kevin requests info (from Heidi) on # of scholarships for band camp

HIGH SCHOOL BAND - Carl Philipot and Jenny Jones

- 13 jr. high and high school band students participated in the OMEA District 14 Honor Band this past weekend.

- High school solo & ensemble will take place at Elder High School on January 25.

- Mr. Philipot is currently working on the 2014 marching band schedule. The band schedule will look very similar to last years schedule with pre-camp, band camp, and post camp happening at the same time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND - Carl Philipot and Kim Fain

Middle School Band Report

-There was a bit of a disappointment that the band concert did not happen due to the snow day, but these things happen.

-The Honor Band rehearsal was cancelled on Jan 7 due to the 'cold' day, but the 9 kids who were chosen are excited to participate this weekend. More on Monday.

-Several of the middle school students are in the pit for Les Mis and they are excited for this challenge.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Fain

WHITAKER BAND - Carl Phlipot

HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA - Mike Kennedy and Cindy Brown

Honor Orchestra

The district 14 Honor Orchestra will be performing this Saturday at 3 pm in the Walnut Hills Auditorium. Each school is allowed to select up to 4 students and selection was done by teacher recommendation. I would like to congratulate the following 8th Grade Orchestra Students for being accepted into the district 14 Honor Orchestra; Carissa Ruffin, Isis Clack, Enoch Brookins, and Calvin Viola. Please come out and support these students this Saturday.

Middle School/High School Orchestra

The Middle School and High School Orchestras are starting to prepare for their April 8th concert. Please mark your calendar for the event; it takes place in the PAC and will start at 7 pm. A letter will go out a few weeks before the event to remind parents of report times and concert attire.

Whitaker Orchestra

The Whitaker Orchestras will be performing for the Ice Cream Social on April 9th at 7:00 pm. Please come out and show your support for these students.

Musical

Musical is fast approaching and students/teachers will be spending a lot of rehearsal time together over the next 3 weeks. Please make sure students are planning ahead for these rehearsals and managing their time, so they can practice appropriately for the event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Kennedy

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA - Mike Kennedy and Jennifer Schmidt (see above)

WHITAKER ORCHESTRA – see above

HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS - Chelsea Lamping and Glenda Esslinger

- December concert was a success! Obviously, there are many things we can improve upon, but I was quite pleased with the overall performance. Thank you to those who attended the concert!

- The choirs are starting their rep for contest season. Sight reading, more foreign languages, harder repertoire, etc.

- January 25th is Solo and Ensemble for the high school. Please see a director for your child's scheduled performance time and location.

Thank you!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS - Chelsea Lamping and Sharon Figgs

ELEMENTARY MUSIC VP – Sandy Tenhundfeld

Voices of Whitaker students (3-6 grade) performed December 20th at Union Terminal! The kids did an awesome job and really enjoyed themselves. After the performance, they had lunch and then enjoyed a visit to the History Museum and Train display.

Whitaker General Music/Voices of Whitaker Chorus – Heidi Johnson

Voices of Whitaker - Thanks to Sandy who helped out at Union Terminal on Dec. 20th. It was a successful performance and field trip, especially due to the 18 parents who helped to chaperone! We are now working on music to sing at the Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 31st, including "Scales and Arpeggios" from the Disney movie "The Aristocats" and a really fun version of the American folk song "I Bought Me A Cat". (FYI – if any students would like to join Voices for the 2nd semester, they are welcome to sign up.) Also, I will be contacting the HS Community Service program about finding a couple of students that have 1st bell community service that might be willing to come and help with Voices—doing some sectionals, helping with leading various parts, etc.

I would like to request a 6pm performance time at the Spaghetti dinner if possible. I think that will give the parents more time to get home from work to bring their children. Also, we need to discuss if there will be a free dinner for the students (approx. 75, I think) and/or if we should present it as a discount to the families of Voices of Whitaker students.....

General Music - I will be attending a couple of Orff Workshops this spring, and am continuing to work with Lissa Ray (a retired General Music teacher and current president of local Orff chapter) to learn different ways to teach general music. I am continuing to enjoy learning new techniques and skills!

On Thursday, I am planning to attend the Science and Sound workshop being offered by the CSO. This is very timely as the 5th grade curriculum is covering science and sound in the next month or so.

As for the scheduling proposal: Teaching grades 3-6 general music at Whitaker (40 classes per week) + 2 before-school choruses is a FULL-time job. If I were to teach any Strings during the 8:00 time slot, I would not be able to have the grades 3-5 choruses before school. Having Voices after school for those grades would conflict with the many wonderful opportunities offered by Elementary PTA and other after school groups. Just my 2 cents....

UNIFORMS - Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger

FMPA Newsletter Report - Renee Keith

Newsletter Report:

1) Thanks goes out to Angela Murphy, Glenda Esslinger, Ian Esslinger, Tina Wuorinen, Brian Keith, Evan Keith and Kevin Berlon for coming over during the holidays and helping to assemble 1200 copies of the newsletter.

2) Everyone should have received their newsletter by now. They were mailed out on December 30th. They also went home in the Thursday packets from Whitaker.

3) The post office is changing some requirements and I need to check into the new rules and regulations. The required weight of paper has increased and we are not using the correct weight. They are also requiring bar coding or else the price to mail each piece increases, not sure how much. I talked to an independent service contractor and he suggested that his company could save us money because if we used them we would no longer need to purchase a mailing permit and since we only mail out 4 times a year he thought that they would be a more economical solution. His company does the bar code printing. So in short, I have not investigated this as of yet, but I need to look into our options for the future newsletters. I am not sure when the post office will be requiring the bar code and neither did the Post Office worker that served me. It was supposed to take place January 17th, but she said that has been postponed. I will be contacting the appropriate personnel very soon.

4) We may want to consider switching to some form of electronic newsletter which was originally suggested by Kevin earlier this year. Kevin, not sure when you would want to discuss pros and cons, but keep it in mind for a future meeting. This year (through the summer mailing) I have sold advertisements to businesses that are expecting the newsletter to be mailed out to Finneytown families, so I think we need to honor that commitment.

Dinner Before the Show Ticket Report:

1) The tickets have been printed and are ready for the Dinner. Tickets purchased in advance will be held at the door. They are \$1 cheaper than tickets sold at the door, so get yours now!

2) I received my first order for dinner tickets in the mail just a few days ago. So far we have sold 4 tickets.

Sincerely,
Renee Keith

Savory Sweets Cookie Dough –

There still remains some cookie dough left in Jennifer's freezer from the fall fundraiser. She can give you the exact numbers of each on Monday, but I do know that I overestimated the popularity of white chocolate macadamia, which has always been one of the more popular flavors in the past, so there are 10 or so of those left. At this point we will be trying to sell the remainder off at any upcoming events that you know of (Dinner Before the Show, etc.), probably at a somewhat reduced price.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Sauer

2013 Light Up Finneytown Luminary report

Total income \$945

Total expenses 142.84

Net income \$ 802.16

We had budgeted to make \$1,200, up from \$1,000 last year.

\$130 was online sales, about half the online amount last year.

Shawn said it was submitted to the Hilltop but I never saw an article.

The cancellation of the instrumental concert certainly hurt sales as we do a lot of walk-away business from concerts. Also the 10 or 12 families on Pineglen did not participate this year but hope to again next year.

Kevin promoted the event in the St. Vivian's publication and we got some new community sales in that way.

Corporate financial donations came from Warren Gase, DDS, Buddy Roger's Music, and Wesbanco.

Corporate material donations were sand from Bushelman's Supply in Woodlawn, and paper bags from Kroger.

THANK YOU to Penny for assembly help.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Burton

MEMBERSHIP - Angela Murphy

To date we have: 60 Family memberships

24 Patrons

12 Alumni memberships

3 Memorial donations

Last year at this time we had: 80 Family

32 Patron

16 Alumni

4 Memorial

NEW BUSINESS -

- Membership Update – Angela reports 2 new families since her written report (above), so 62 total.
- Dinner Before the Show – Away basketball game same night, may affect attendance.
 - Discussion of providing a discount to Voices of Whitaker kids & families rather than free coupon just to the kids. We agreed to give a 50% off coupon for all family members of Voices singers, which does not apply to online sales.
 - Suggestion to incorporate "LaRosa's spaghetti" in future publicity, both to thank LaRosa's and be a hook for those attending.
 - Details of various areas discussed: LaRosa's not yet confirmed. Jenny to recruit for desserts and drinks. Linda Deitsch will cut, plate, etc., Penny will help (? and Glenda?). Last year had 30-2L's, and 35 desserts. Dan will bring his money box. Chelsea has the sound system, Penny will get with her about it.

- BidNBuy – goal of \$3000. Dan and others reviewed some of the current offerings including Kevin's car detailing package. Suggestions include a selfie photo booth, an "early release day" package w/appeal to kids, parking and athletic passes, in addition to "experiences" offered like dinner evenings, etc.
- Discussion/Feedback on 5th/6th grade music proposal
- **Fine Arts / Performing Arts**
- **Summary:** In our quest to enhance our program we are proposing changes for next year. Changes in the department mainly revolve around scheduling and logistics. It is our desire to turn what has been traditionally known as "travel time" into instructional time. Our **proposal** at this time includes:
 - 6th grade band and choir students will come to the Secondary Campus from approximately 7:45 – 9:20. We would offer breakfast and run two sessions so kids could be involved in both programs if this is something they wish to take part. We will accommodate students who only want to be in one program with some type of structured study hall. Students can ride the bus with middle school students to the secondary campus each morning.
 - The Secondary will continue to offer Orchestra to 7-12 students within the confines of the schedule.
 - Heidi will teach 5th and 6th grade orchestra at Whitaker from approximately 8:15-9:00AM. Students should be able to ride the SOS bus to Whitaker in the morning. There is also an option to create an orchestra/choir rotation in this time slot. This is a Whitaker administrative decision.
 - If Heidi's work day is 7.5 she is still available most of the day. Heidi will also teach general music to grades 3-6 as the schedule dictates. She will not have to travel under this scenario.
 - Steve Jones will continue to provide music instruction at Brent as the schedule dictates.
 - We will continue to work on a K-12 curriculum plan so that the necessary skills can be developed.

In discussion surrounded this proposal, it was understood that the primary driver behind the proposal is to decrease travel time for music staff, allowing for more actual instructional time for them, and allowing for more flexibility in scheduling academics at Whitaker when not locked into the mid-day times available currently for music staff to be on-site.

Among some concerns raised were: how likely it will be for kids to actually get up and get on the bus early, whether all parents will be responsible and motivating to their children for same; implications for future numbers of students involved (likely decreased numbers), how to deal with sporadic attendance; no 5th band (but more time as 6th graders – daily); whether one person (Heidi) is physically able to teach elem. orchestra plus Voices of Whitaker before school in addition to full regular day schedule; large instruments on the bus – currently not allowed.

The stat was given that there are currently 42 5th graders who are not involved in ANY special music groups, general music only.

The discussion was ended in order to adjourn the meeting.

Heidi R. motioned, and Cindy B. seconded, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm. Next meeting is February 10, 2014.