

Attendees: Sue Burton, Cindy Rebman, Kevin Berlon, Heidi Reeb, Angela Murphy, Laura Carroll, Stefanie Schneider, Brad Delaney, Mike Kennedy, Steve Jones, Den Tenhunfeld, Deb Amend, Tina Wuorinen, Jennifer Schmidt, Bill Fessler, Stephanie Kessler, Tyrone Olverson, Dan Deitsch, Glenda Esslinger, David Kennedy

Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Berlon. We all shared a favorite music memory as we introduced ourselves.

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton. A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Jennifer and seconded by Bill. Motion passed.
We received thank you notes from the band and orchestra for helping with their summer activities.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

MK (Mike Kennedy) reported he purchased a sound system with marching band budget to help with the marching band show this season.

We will put on the October agenda how to allocate Kelley Hickey Memorial donations and grant money for instruments.

Angela moved, seconded by Glenda, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

President's Report – Kevin Berlon

- Busy summer – administration and MK hired new staff
- Stefanie Schneider (new Orchestra director) created a music education brochure
- Kevin has discussed fundraising options w/Tina Wuorinen, Sandy Blais, Jenny Jones on how to work beyond our Finneytown borders to support our music programs. Trying to create a fundraising subcommittee to develop a strategy.
- Thank you to building principals for inclusion of music in open houses and on opening day at high school.
- Inventory is going on for instruments and music. Much credit to the Gasts, Lara Walker and others helping with this.

Administration reports -

Superintendent Olverson -

- Admin has moved up buying some instruments, etc. from 2015-16 school year to the 2014-15 year instead. Curriculum revision - added AP Music Theory this year, there are 7 students in the class.

David Kennedy –

- effort to blend support for athletics and music. New ways to evaluate kids in class, incorporate more technology & applications to get good assessments of kids.

Stephanie Kessler –

- Thank you for help with back-to-school events. Added homerooms, now 23 instead of 20, so needed new specials rotation – rotate every 6 days now. Managed to keep time to only 45 min. less per year per subject area.

Band – Mike Kennedy and Brad Delaney with VP's Tina Wuorinen and Deb Amend

- "Wildcat Vision" will be photo/video clips to highlight ALL k-12 music programs. We do pay attention to photo release permissions. Idea is to expose the community to what their tax dollars are going to and build Wildcat pride from K on up.

- Want to create Super Saturdays – plan is January - Bring in professionals who can expose to music education, students come for breakfast and lunch and home in afternoon.
- Start a World Music Ensemble for jazz education, start in Nov. and include choir, band, orchestra all together. Also suggestion of community drumming circles – need to touch all cultures.
- Budgeting: focus on funding scholarships – trips, camps, things that benefit ALL students. 78% at Brent and about 50% at Whitaker are on free/reduced lunch. This past year did 12 band camp scholarships, 9 were full and 3 were partial.
- Committed to transparency and positive thinking
- Increase coordination with athletics – meet on 50 yd. line after football games, celebrate the activities, not just the accomplishments, whether win or lose. Band playing at a soccer game next month.

Orchestra – Stefanie Schneider with VP’s Cindy Brown and Jennifer Schmidt & OPEN MS VP position

- Created a Music Department brochure highlighting all facets of our program

Orchestra:

- We have 22 HS Students in XPeriod Orchestra. 5- 8th graders and 1- 7th grader are “Playing up” as well, for a total of 28 kids.
- We have 34 students in MS Orchestra
- Recruitment is still going on at Whitaker, but we’re hoping to have ~35+ students in 5th grade, in addition to the 21 now 6th graders from last year.
- = ~112 Orchestra Students!!

We have an Orchestra Website! I’ve linked to sites we’ll use for class, and also included a link to the Band and FMPA sites. Would FMPA be able to add links on their site to the Orchestra site?

Orchestra Camp: We had 16 of the 28 High Schoolers attend an all day camp at the PAC on Aug. 11th. Thanks to Cindy Brown for organizing meals for Orchestra Camp, Dawn Gast for coming to barcode and checkout instruments to students, Mike Kennedy, Brad Delaney, and Laura Carroll for stopping in and meeting the kids, the administration for letting us use the facilities, and FMPA for helping with funding and volunteers to make the day successful!

Inventory: Dawn Gast Music Library and Instrument Inventories - We’ve been able to get (all) of the FSC students their instruments checked out and we’ll be getting Whitaker’s done soon.

Reimbursements: x3 for:

- Myself (\$9.52 for purchasing thank you cards to send to those helping with our Orchestra Camp)
- Cindy Brown AMOUNT for the meals, drinks, and snacks that she planned and arranged for the Orchestra Camp so that the students could stay for the full day.
- Cindy Heath AMOUNT for materials needed to create bulletin boards for the Orchestra Rooms at FSC and Whitaker.
- Received a completed PO for MS and HS Method books, rosin, strings, and tuners.

Future Plans:

- To finish barcoding instruments and get them checked out to students
- To begin contacting local businesses about locations that the Orchestra Students can perform at this spring to be visible within the community.
- Cindy Brown is looking into getting extra concert black clothing for students to wear for their Orchestra Concerts.

I’m excited for the school year to get underway!

Choirs – Laura Carroll with VP Glenda Esslinger & OPEN MS VP position

- I first want to thank FMPA for providing financial assistance to the choral program this year. Because of your dedication to the music program here at Finneytown, we were able to purchase a brand new, state of the art electric piano and speaker system for the choir room along with several new scores of music for both the Chorale and Women's choir!
- This year, we are so excited to be able to offer 6 different choirs at the Secondary Campus. These include: Middle School Men's and Women's choirs, High School Men's and Women's choirs, X period choir, and Chorale. The total number of students involved in choir this year exceeds 100 students!
- I am excited to announce that both the Chorale and the High School Women's choir will be competing in the OMEA district contest this spring.
- Exciting things to look forward to include a combined men's ensemble piece and a full choral program piece to be sung by all choirs in the spring. I am overwhelmed with the amount of talent your students possess, and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence here at Finneytown.

Laura Carroll, Director of Choirs
Finneytown Secondary Campus

Elementary music – Heidi Johnson with VP Sandy Tenhundfeld

Whitaker General Music – Heidi Johnson

This will be a wonderful and interesting year! First, I attended a 2-week Orff workshop at CCM this summer and got lots of great new lesson plans and activities to do with the students. (FYI: Orff-Schulwerk is a method of teaching music through movement, singing, and instruments like the xylophones and metallophones.) In addition, there are 4 local workshops on Saturdays during the year that I'll attend to learn even more! ☺

Second, we are now on a 6-day specials rotation at Whitaker due to adding an additional section of 3rd grade (We have 5-6th grade sections, 6-5th grade, 5-4th grade, and 6-3rd grade). That means that your children will have their music classes on different days each week—this may prove to be a unique challenge for the instrumental students who struggle to remember what day(s) to bring their instruments. Some weeks we will see a class twice a week and some weeks we will see them just once a week, so it is vital that they have their instruments on class days. This will apply to General Music students as well as we will be starting recorder lessons at the 5th & 6th grade levels during 1st Semester and 4th grade during 2nd Semester.

A daily calendar with the A-B-C-D-E-F days has been posted around school, but Whitaker parents will probably need to help their children remember!

For example: This week starts on "D" day. Monday-D; Tuesday-E; Wednesday-F; Thursday-A; Friday-B. The following week starts on Tuesday (after Labor Day): Tuesday will be a "C" day, etc.....

Voices of Whitaker Chorus - Jeff Holmes, who played piano for the last Voices of Whitaker concert last year, will be taking over the Voices of Whitaker this year! He was at the Orientation meetings at the FMPA booth, but if you didn't get a chance to meet him—he's going to be awesome! More info. Later about when they will be starting, etc.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Thursday, October 30 is Finneytown Night at the Symphony this year! Again, thanks to the generosity of Dr. & Mrs. Newell, we have 200 tickets for this very special concert. Each FREE ticket includes a light buffet dinner before the concert (6-7pm) and the concert: "A Russian Hallows' Eve" featuring Moussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain", a violinist playing Prokofiev's Violin

Concerto, and the Tchaikowsky Suite No. 3. To get tickets, please email me at hjohnson@finneytown.org. More information will be sent out to the students later in September.
Sincerely,
Heidi Johnson

Membership - Angela Murphy

If you have not yet joined FMPA yourself, **please join** via check/form or via website (we pay a small fee for electronic transactions). Please reach out and invite others to join FMPA or volunteer. We have 15 families, 6 patrons, 1 harp fund and 1 memorial fund donor at present.

Uniforms - Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger – no report

FMPA Newsletter/Communications - Renee Keith

The summer mailing is at the printer.

Website - Bill Fessler – no report

Fundraising – no report

NEW BUSINESS -

- Jenny Jones needed to step out of band VP role but will stay involved in fundraising aspects. Kevin motioned and Sue seconded that Tina Wuorinen be voted in as new HS band VP. Motion passed.
- Cookie Dough – We will begin passing out order forms to secondary students on 9/29 in music classes and at Whitaker by the end of that week. End date is 10/17 – collect forms 10/20 & 21, provide final count to Savory Sweets by 10/29. Delivery day is November 20 – truck arrives 9 am, pickup starts 3 pm. Price increased to \$13/tub or 2 tubs/\$25. Our profit is \$6.75/tub.
- Open positions – please think of who we can recruit for these – Communications (including newsletter), VP's for middle school choir and middle school orchestra.

For the benefit of new staff and new FMPA board members: For future meetings, staff and VP's please submit a written report in advance of meeting day by email to all FMPA board members. Include such things as how the year is going, past activities, upcoming plans, new ideas, thank you's, requests for fmpa assistance, etc. That way we can all read and be current on relevant news and needs. These reports will be included in the minutes and will allow us to discuss new business more efficiently. Bullet points or paragraphs both work, whatever you like best.

Kevin motioned, and Cindy R. seconded, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next meeting is on Monday October 13, 2014 at 7 pm in MP conference room.