

Attendees: Sue Burton, Tina Wuorinen, Cindy Brown, Glenda Esslinger, Heidi Reeb, Angela Murphy, Kevin Berlon, Mike Kennedy, Brad Delaney, Stefanie Schneider, Cindy Rebman, David Kennedy, Joanna Eberhardt, Jennifer Schmidt, Heidi Johnson, Bill Fessler, Steve Jones

Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Berlon

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

A motion to approve the August 2014 minutes was made by Angela and seconded by Jennifer. Motion passed.

There was no correspondence in or out this month, other than routine bills/mail.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

- We are over half-way to budget on memberships
- Heidi had questions about newsletter line items – advertising, postage/publishing expenses, etc. We will need to renew the post office mailing permit by the end of Nov. for the 2014-15 school year if we will still be publishing a paper newsletter. It is about \$220. Kevin requested a list of prior advertisers in the newsletter – he will reach out to them re: this year.
- All-State scholarships are a budgeted line item – after discussion, a motion to reimburse students 50% of All-State participation fees was made by Glenda, second by Kevin – motion passed. (The full fee is \$250/person). Janelle Bouman is in All-State band and Ben Burton is in All-State choir.
- Chorus expenses of \$1800 + this month included technology upgrades – new electronic piano/mixing board, etc.

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

President's Report – Kevin Berlon

- Fundraising meeting held on 9/29/14 to discuss strategies – Laura Carroll, Stefanie Schneider, Jenny Jones, Kevin Berlon.
- FMPA has been present at "We Are Finneytown" post-game celebrations and Homecoming Parade. Special thanks to Sandy & Anna Tenhundfeld, Jennifer Schmidt, and Tina Wuorinen.
- Proposal to use the Kelley Hickey Memorial funds to offset the cost of orchestra camp each year. In 2014 costs were \$90-100. We can call it the Kelley Hickey Orchestra Camp. Heidi R. will move the Hickey funds to a reserve account from which to draw in the future. Bill F. will follow up with Dawn Bouman and Penny Sauer on how to word this for the FMPA website, so donors know how the money will be used.
- Kudos to chorus/music dept. for organizing the singing of the National Anthem at athletic events. It has been a nice addition. We should get Shawn in the loop for PR purposes.
- PEM Memorial concert on Sat. Dec. 6 – mark your calendars. FMPA helps by serving hot drinks. Discussion of PEM usually buying 3 luminaries from FMPA, general consensus that we can just give the luminaries instead as the PEM scholarships benefit music students each year. (Ed. Note: 2014 PEM award recipients were Will Young (band) studying stage management at DePaul Univ., Katie Connell (band, choir) with a voice minor at Kenyon College, and Nile Ross (choir) studying digital media (I think!) at CCM.

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

From Tina: Marching band is going well. We are not providing meals before football games this year, but instead are allowing the students time to go home, eat dinner, and rest before they have to come back for the game. It makes for a long day when they go from 7 AM to 10:30 PM. They have rehearsal after school on Mondays and Fridays.

The band has completed 3 contests so far – Tipp City, Hamilton, and Harrison. Anderson is in 2 weeks. They qualified for state on October 11 at Harrison! They also received 1st place in class B, and got 1st place for percussion as well as color guard. Congratulations to all for working very hard. State competition will be in early November. We are providing lunch on contest days, with the entrée being paid for by the food fund, and the rest being supplemented by parents. We have had pizza, ham or turkey and cheese sandwiches, and macaroni and cheese. Other meals are to be determined, and will probably all need to be supplied by parents, as the food fund is out of money. Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped with uniforms, chaperoned, provided food, helped with the meals, and helped with pit and props for the performances. The directors are working very hard to make sure everyone is doing their best.

We are using a mass email system as well as the band web site to communicate to both students and parents. We are also using the remind system, which can send messages per text or email. This seems to be working well at this point. Respectfully submitted, Tina Wuorinen

From Deb: I think it would be good to expand membership to younger families as someone else mentioned. In addition to that, I'm not sure all the families with kids in the music program understand the importance of FMPA. For instance, Saya came home with two cookie dough sales sheets because her friend just handed hers to her and said, "We already sell stuff for soccer." I'm wondering if we sent a note home that was short and sweet but explained what FMPA pays for etc, if that would help and that we need more members, etc, emphasizing the need for families to participate. We've probably tried that before... The other thought is to do another big push for members after another month or so. I know with five kids, we are still paying off all our school fees for the year. Can we set up a table to take memberships at the holiday concert? Is that an option? Sorry I can't make it tonight! Deb

From Mike Kennedy:

5/6th Grade Band:

- * The students are off to a wonderful start!!!!
- * We have begun an after school lessons program from 4:30-6 pm offering free private/group lessons for all students who can attend.
- * Students who were in need of instruments are going to receive those before the first concert. Thanks to Ty Olverson, we have now purchased a large number of school owned instruments!!! The support from Mr. Olverson and David is overwhelming awesome!!!! Now all kids can be served.
- * Our Winter Instrumental Concert is on Tuesday Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm. We are so excited!!!!!!
- * Whitaker Basement, large area rugs, carpet has been removed, tested negative for lead, work is coming along nicely, Thanks to Jack Fisher for all his work on this, we appreciate it!!
- * I am looking forward to working with our new Whitaker principal Lisa Tenberge, she has been checking in on us periodically to see how things are going. Her visibility is in the music wing is so awesome!!!

* We would like to thank Den for coming in to speak with our classes about the Cookie Dough Sale.

7/8th Grade Band

- * The students are off to a wonderful start!!!!
- * We have an after school lessons program from 3:15-4:30 pm that offers free private/group lessons for all students who can attend. These free lessons take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- * We have switched over 13 students in the 7th Grade Band to new instruments so that we can balance the instrumentation for the future of the band program, these students are doing awesome!!!
- * Our Winter Instrumental Concert is on Dec. 4th at 7:00 pm--We are so excited!!!!!!

High School Band

Harrison Contest: Congratulations are in order for the Finneytown Marching Wildcats! The FT Marching Wildcats received 1st place in their class, best percussion, and best color guard. The stellar performance by the band earned them a Superior Rating and qualification for the O.M.E.A state contest! I would like to thank all the parent volunteers that have helped throughout the year; we are truly lucky to have such a large support group.

This young band (majority of the band is 8th Grade and 9th Grade Students) has been a pleasure to work with. I appreciate the work ethic that this group has displayed all year. We have one more regional contest on Oct. 25th at Anderson High School. The band will be working hard over the next few weeks to add more visual and musical excitement to the show; our goal is to be a superior band for the rest of the season.

I appreciate the staff's efforts with the students as well, and look forward to working as a team for the remainder of the year. The teamwork atmosphere that we have among the music staff is spectacular.

Principal David Kennedy has been awesome and I particularly enjoy the positive atmosphere that Mrs. Gerber and Mr. Kennedy bring to the secondary campus, their support is welcomed. Thanks for all you do Finneytown, I appreciate all of your support!

Contest Season in Review:

We have received all excellent (II) or Superior (I) ratings in every category this year at each show we've performed at. The band has received best percussion and best color guard awards, and we have placed consistently in the top 5 at every contest. We have beat bands that more than 4/5 times the size of our secondary campus population. Our current school enrollment has us placed in a class C, we opted to go class B to continue challenge our excellent music students. Our band is comprised of mostly underclassmen.

Continued Show Design 2014

- * We have added 2 minutes and 30 seconds to the current competition show. You may ask "why so many changes?" The arrangements we were left were not complete and lacked the design qualities for achieve a superior rating at contest. We also added drill and other important visual impacts.
- * Sound effects and solos were designed by the music staff.
- * We implemented a whole new marching style this year. Our drum majors have the most intricate conducting patterns for a marching band show. They are doing a great job.

Current High School Band

* 66 % percent of the band are 8, 9th, and 10th graders. This is youngest band I have seen in a long time and they are doing a great job!

Current Financial State

- * We cut 5 pre/band camp and post camp staff; this was a savings of over \$2000
- * FMPA supplied over \$1700.00 in scholarships and the students who received scholarships were only charged the cost to attend camp (that does not included the overhead cost).
- * We designed our own Flags and Color Guard Uniforms and Brenda Dennis made those instruments for Free, this saved us over \$1200.00
- * We cut the Friday Dinners provided by the band for students and reduced the rehearsal time during football game rehearsal days.
- * We hosted the Leadership Campus here on campus and saved over 1000 dollars.

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

- Overall everything is progressing well for the new year
- Doing bi-weekly video playing tests on the computer for their grades; that’s going well

Purchases:

- Anticipated purchase of new instruments for students at both the FSC and Whitaker
- New bass! Right now kids are playing on a ½ bass because we need another ¾
- Add'l strings for violins, cello, and basses, shoulder rests
- Ipad mini for playing test video-ing, music apps
- Will look into SmartMusic for Orchestra if it will be fair with the grading
- More boxes for inventory
- Looking forward to purchasing music for the spring concert, contest, etc.
- HS Orch to go to OMEA State contest

FMPA:

- Cindy Brown and I need to discuss getting extra concert black clothing for students to wear at concerts.

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

To date, I have nothing to report.

Glenda Esslinger

Elementary music – Heidi Johnson with VP Sandy Tenhundfeld

- I will look to the teachers for their updates.
- Cookie dough order forms were distributed to the kids via band, orchestra or voices classes.
- Anna said she had a great time helping with the banner at the parade.
- On another note, We had a scheduling mix up in our house and there is a distinct probability that Denny or I will be there Monday night.
- I do think we need to try to reach the younger classes more for membership. I have been approached a few times asking what we are about and how to join. A couple of parents wanted to join, even though their kids aren't old enough to be in band etc. I think some people may get the idea we are only about the older kids.

Just my thoughts for tonight.... Thanks, Sandy

Whitaker General Music – Heidi Johnson

Heidi reminded us and brought forms for Finneytown Night at the Symphony Thurs. Oct. 30. Heidi is currently teaching music from a cart while music room renovations continue. She reports that Jim Skoog has been hired to be Whitaker Dean of Students now that Lisa Tenbarga is principal with Dr. Kessling's resignation.

There will be a Veteran's Day celebration at Whitaker on Sun. Nov. 9, 1-4 pm.

Brent General Music – Steve Jones spoke of some of the lessons he is teaching our youngest musicians at Brent, and the positive change of Superintendent Olverson being more visible in the building. (Ed. – I've just added this "report" – in the past we've not asked for Brent updates per se, but in keeping w/our desire to emphasize K-12 music support, Steve, we will gratefully receive a written report from you each month even if you cannot attend personally.)

Voices of Whitaker Chorus – no report

Membership - Angela Murphy

So far we have 42 family memberships: \$1050

19 patron donors: \$635

9 alumni memberships: \$225

7 memorial donors: \$300

1 harp donation: \$50

Of the memorial donations, \$200 is in memory of Kelley Hickey

I will be writing 25 thank you notes to those who have made patron donations \$25 or more, alumni, memorial and harp donations. I'll let you know when I've sent those out.

Thanks,

Angela

PS. I've also attached a volunteer roster with contact information. (See end of minutes for same- ed.)

Uniforms - Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger – Last spring's order of choir (chorale) dresses arrived – a few more might be needed for proper sizes. Women's choir will wear the red dresses, new dresses for chorale.

FMPA Newsletter/Communications – OPEN POSITION

Website - Bill Fessler – Bill will post info re: Kelley Hickey memorial funds to website.

NEW BUSINESS -

Savory Sweets -

Cookie dough order forms were distributed to students the week of September 29th. This week is the final week to sell. I will need VPs to collect order forms on Monday and Tuesday, October 20th and 21st. When they are picked up, please check asap to reconcile each student's orders with the money collected. If there is an error, the parent should be called immediately. Please remind your students that orders need to be picked up on November 20th from 3 - 6 pm in the back of the gymnasium.

I will be asking for volunteers after the order forms are picked up to help count and reconcile the money and orders.

Thanks! Jennifer

Light Up Finneytown - After discussion, we set the date for the luminary event to be Sunday Dec. 14. It is before the Whitaker instrumental concert, but the following weekend is after school is out and families may be traveling and not wanting to do this, which would hurt sales.

Mike Kennedy Report – (Ed. – I placed other parts of this report under the band dept. report, and left the “new business” and general info here.)

- * FAA has already sold cookie dough and some students have been told by their parents that they can not sell cookie dough.
- * The high school cheerleading team has also sold cookie dough, this has hurt the ability to reach the community in an efficient manner.
- * → We expect Cookie monies raised to be much lower. Please understand we are not backing down on our efforts, there are challenges we are facing this year, that have not been the case in past years.
- * Elementary PTA market day sale is also selling cookie dough this month as well.

Our challenges to raise scholarships for students continues to increase.

List of additional Instruments Purchased by the District:

4 Baritones	1 Vibraphone
8 Double French Horns	1 String Bass
3 Tenor Saxophones	1 Bass Amp
2 Sousaphones	1 Bach AB 190
8 Trumpets	5 Mapex Bell Kits

Thanks for the support Ty Olverson and David Kennedy!!!!

2014-2015 High School Band (*Ed. – I believe this is in ref. to 2015-16 season*)

- * I am writing an original composition for next year’s marching band show. Savings of \$5,000
- * Brad is writing the drill for next years show, savings of \$3000.00.
- * We will not be having any additional staffing for Pre-Camp, Post-Camp, and Band Camp. Savings of \$3000.
- * Brad, Stef, and I will be doing all the teaching for Pre-Camp, Band Camp, and Post-Camp; no other program does this.....
- * Because of the current music department staffing (Brad, Stef, Laura, and myself) we are able to service all students. This was made possible by Ty hiring appropriate music staffing for the district.

2014-2015 High School Band Situation

- * We have an increased financial burden and as we look to the future (78 % of students are currently on free and reduced lunch at Brent) we need to reconsider how we do business.
- * Traveling to band camp at an off campus site is extremely expensive, we spent \$15,000 this past year for one week; plus gas expenses and travel expenses.
- * Students will need more supplies provided such as mallets, sticks, drum heads, lyres, flip folders, marching shoes and gloves, dry cleaning of uniforms cost, etc.....

2015-2016 Marching Band Proposal
Projected Marching Band Season Budget

Color Guard Choreographer: \$3,500.00
Percussion Music Arranger: \$3,000.00

Mallets/Drum Heads/Drum Sticks: \$1,500.00
Gas, Supplies, Materials: \$2,000.00
Drill Books/Copies: \$1500.00
Color Guard Uniforms/Flags: \$1,000.00
T-Shirts: \$1,200.00
Leadership Camp: \$500.00
Technology: \$500.00
Props: \$650.00
Band Camp Food and Entertainment: \$2,500.00
Total: \$17,850.00
FMPA: \$8,000.00
Total Left to Fund: \$9,850.00

Band Camp Cost Per Student \$150.00

Band Camp Payment Schedule: Nov. 21st; \$50.00
Jan. 30th; \$50.00
Feb. 26th; \$50.00

Projected Number of Students: 83 Students

Donors Choose

- * We were fully funded for 2 iPad mini's through Donors Choose (www.donorschoose.org).
- * Cards Against Humanity, Watson Gravel, and 2 anonymous donors gave \$513 to fund this project.

- * An anonymous donor wrote: "The arts are an essential part of every child's education. In order for young people to be competitive academically and in the 21st century work force, they must have critical and creative thinking skills, and these skills are nurtured and advanced by arts being an essential component of a student's academic experience. An education in the arts makes children well-rounded, engaged, and active citizens of the world. This project has been supported in an effort to ensure that all students gain from the many benefits that arts education provides."

- * The iPads are in and we are working on implementing them into the classroom.

- * We are going to continue to look into other items that can be funded by Donors Choose.

Brochure:

--Stefanie put together

--Music Department brochure now contains information on General Music at Whitaker and Brent

--It's almost done--I just need to get the margins fixed

Grants:

--Stefanie is looking into grant opportunities for the Music Department to apply for this year

-Internet research

-Music, Education, and Technology grants

-Most deadlines were Oct. 1, 2014, so aiming for next year's deadline, as well as for other grants with "rolling" acceptances

Fundraising:

-Laura is heading

-Gathering names of corporations to be contacted

-Will put together a packet to be sent out to corporations which includes:

Dept. Brochure, Cover letter, Takeaway (photo of kids, magnet, something), Response letter

(with stamp?), Our contact information/business card for the Music Department

Strategies to increase membership and participation – this topic was not discussed due to lack of time.

Angela motioned, and Jennifer seconded, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next meeting is on Monday November 10, 2014 at 7 pm in MP conference room.