

Attendees: Sue Burton, Stefanie Schneider, Mike Kennedy, Laura Carroll, Heidi Reeb, Cindy Rebman, Bill Fessler, Dan Deitsch, Sandy Tenhundfeld, Deb Amend, Kevin Berlon, Tina Wuorinen, Steve Jones

**Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Berlon**

**Secretary's Report – Sue Burton**

A motion to approve the October 2014 minutes was made by Bill and seconded by Sandy. There was no discussion. The motion passed. There was no correspondence this month.

**Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb**

- Question re: the Kelley Hickey Memorial fund. Last month we discussed designating those funds to orchestra camp each summer, but we never formalized the proposal with a motion. Kevin put it back on to the agenda for a formal vote at December's meeting.
- Heidi confirmed that the IRS form 990-N for our non-profit status was filed for 2014-15 school year. Dan told us that there may be another new filing to be done with the Ohio Attorney General's office as well – Heidi will investigate.

Sue moved, seconded by Tina, to accept the November 10 treasurer's report. Motion passed.

**President's Report – Kevin Berlon**

- State Board of Education is meeting today/tomorrow and proposing revision of language including that which requires districts to fund at least 5 of 8 positions for ed. specialists per 1,000 students - including nurse, library specialist, elementary art, PE, and music teacher, social worker, counselor, etc. Not sure what the actionable issue is now but stay aware of the situation. Kevin later communicated more information via email regarding the proposed changes.
- Congratulations to the Marching Band and FMPA support team for a successful season. Let's continue to build on that success.
- Discussions with Music Department to piggyback monthly onto their newsletter effort. Rather than quarterly print newsletter, FMPA news will go out via the monthly e-newsletter that Ms. Schneider coordinates. Advertisers can be mentioned in the newsletter monthly. Teachers are still working on getting a truly comprehensive email list and will send hard copies to Brent/younger grades. Cindy R. brought up importance of still connecting with those who do not have students in the music programs currently.
- Will reach out to advertisers directly once I get a list
- Contact made with PEM Memorial Concert team. FMPA will once again provide liquid refreshments and also will provide luminaries free of charge.
- Ongoing discussions with After Prom for FMPA involvement in joint Comedy Club fundraiser on 2/14/14.

**NEW BUSINESS -**

**Savory Sweets –**

The cookie dough order was placed on Tuesday, November 4th.

The total number of units sold by the students came to 1,452. I placed an order for 60 additional items on the assumption that we would have time to sell at the winter concert(s). That brings our total tub count to 1,512. The rough estimate is that we made \$9,500 - \$10,000 in profit. Since we sold over 1,500 units we received an additional .20 off each item making our final cost \$6.10/ea. That gave us an additional \$302.40 for the students' incentives.

I purchased the gift cards and the Beats Headphones this weekend and Kevin ran his spreadsheet that randomly selects the winners. They will be presented with their awards the day of pick-up.

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER TO FILL ORDERS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH. I plan on being there around 8:15 - 8:30 am to get ready for the truck which arrives at 9 am. You may volunteer for any time during the day and for as long as you can stay.**

**Pick-up time for the students is from 3 pm to 6 pm in the back of the gym.**

*I may not be able to make it to the meeting this evening due to a family-related issue. It's up in the air at the moment.*

Jennifer Schmidt

**Light Up Finneytown** - Sue Burton

Sunday Dec. 14, 5:30-9pm (dark at 6 pm)

New pricing - \$10 kit of 12 candles is same, adding 3 kits for \$25

Publicity:

- Bill activated the link on our website
- Can we announce at all music concerts, perhaps along w/a plug for FMPA membership?
- I am ordering an 8 ft. banner to hang on Winton Rd. Brent fence (discussion ensued around this, and it was revised. Sandy is checking through her work if she can get the banner for lower cost).
- Asking about putting in St. Vivian, Northminster, St. Bart's publications to widen our community impact – others suggested various other Finneytown-located churches be contacted.
- On website and electronic sign in another week or so, contacting Hilltop
- Street captains – I would need help identifying these people. This will not likely happen this year.
- Info can go home in e-newsletter – Sue get to Stefanie by Friday – and in Thurs. folders after Thanksgiving.

***Luminary Kit Assembly: Mon Dec 1, 9:30 am; Evening date TBD (not Dec. 2 as prev. published) Possibly Sat. Dec 6, 9:30 am at Sue's house 8691 Cottonwood Dr.***

Can anyone sell at the music concerts? Arrive before/as students report & light luminaries at entrance, or stay after. We usually sell at least 50 at the various concerts.

Th. 12/4 Secondary Instrumental

Mon 12/8 Secondary Choirs

Th. 12/11 Voices of Whitaker choir

**Music Department update – Mike Kennedy, chair**

- Elementary band/orch. students have received e-newsletter communications for the last 3 weeks. Scrubbing email lists and keeping them up to date is a very major challenge.
- Biggest challenge now is tracking student progress from K-12 – how do they improve, how much.
- Instituted All Stars board (thank you Jennifer Schmidt) and Zip grade
- Wants to try to meet w/Jeff Holmes (Voices of Whitaker director) more regularly, and try to focus a bit more on the choir program
- Laura is helping a lot with corporate fundraising
- Kevin Berlon now has the necessary numbers on program involvement, how many students in each program
- Band and Orchestra staff are giving free music lessons to any students who want them, after school on T, W, TH until 6 pm. On M/F they are staying after and focusing on the facilities – new music library space, etc.

**Joint fundraiser with Afterprom, PTA, Boosters, FMPA:** On 2/14/15 there will be a Comedy Club event with Michael Flannery as emcee. We will be involved in staffing some parts of it – details to come. It should be a very worthwhile and fun event.

**Dinner Before the Show/Theater Production –**

Dan has heard nothing about the production thus far. If the date is as it is on the calendar (Fri./Sat. Feb. 27/28), he will need to know very soon in order to coordinate the bid-n-buy.

MK said new theater director Kristin Henderson requested a meeting the week of State band competition, so he was unable to meet then. He referred questions to D. Kennedy, as MK has nothing to do with the theater program. Kevin will contact David Kennedy to find out about Ms. Henderson's plans.

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

From Tina: Marching band season finished with an excellent rating at State Competition in Dayton on November 2nd. They had an awesome season, and should be very proud of themselves. Thanks to all the staff who worked very hard and encouraged the students to work to their potential, as well as the parents and friends who have been so supportive of all their efforts. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to bring food, set up and cleaned up meals, helped with pit or props, chaperoned, or helped with uniforms. Also, thanks to Linda and Bruno Carlsson for making the picture band buttons again this year. We are a great team!

Concert season is now in full swing, with the Holiday MS/HS Instrumental Concert coming up on Thursday, December 4th, at 7 PM. They are working hard to make this a great concert! Come out and support our students that evening.

- **5/6th Grade Band**

- **7/8th Grade Band** In talking with middle school band, there was nothing to report. – Deb Amend

- **High School Band**

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

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

**Elementary music – VP Sandy Tenhundfeld**

Stefanie has been sending out a great newsletter to the Band and Orchestra parents at Whitaker. Along with this, Brad has been sending email updates and reminders on a regular basis. From talking to other Whitaker parents, the kids are really enjoying music this year.

**Whitaker General Music – Heidi Johnson**

General Music @ Whitaker 11/6/2014

After a very long 1<sup>st</sup> quarter “a la cart”, I am thrilled to be back downstairs in my classroom at Whitaker. Everyone mentions how much better it smells in the music area! Many thanks to Jack Fisher and the maintenance staff for their hard work. The general music room itself was not changed in any way, so moving back in was easy. I am reminded daily how blessed we are in Finneytown to have such a wealth of Orff instruments and percussion instruments to use in the general music classes—to get the students actively participating in creating beat, melodies, movement, etc.

On Sunday (11/9/14) Whitaker Elementary is hosting a celebration for Veteran’s Day and raising money for “Honor Flights for Veterans”, an organization that provides flights to Washington D.C. to veterans who want to visit the memorial(s) honoring them and their comrades in war. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been working on singing technique through patriotic songs; they will be sharing their singing at 2:00pm on Sunday at the celebration in the Whitaker Cafeteria. (All of the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been invited to come and perform, but attendance is optional.)

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are starting their unit on Audience Etiquette next week, in preparation for the field trip on Thursday, Dec. 4 to the School for Creative and Performing Arts to see a performance of “The Nutcracker” ballet. Tickets are just \$5.00 for the students and chaperones. Information forms will be sent home next week.

Voices of Whitaker concert, under the direction of Mr. Jeff Holmes, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the PAC (Secondary Campus). The following day, Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, the Voices of Whitaker will be travelling to Union Terminal to perform and enjoy the holiday trains exhibit.

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have been working on their recorders unit during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of school. Now that we are back in the classroom, they will be working on creating ensembles—recorders/xylophones/singing/drums/etc.....

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Johnson

**Brent General Music – Steve Jones**

Steve reports that students will sing for Grandparent Day at Brent on Tues. Nov. 25. They will practice on Nov. 24 at 1:30 – that is when parents can come watch if they want.

**Voices of Whitaker Chorus – Jeff Holmes** no report

**Membership - Angela Murphy**

Not much to report: 2 new family memberships, 1 new patron membership. Making our totals:

Family: 44 Patron: 20 Alumni: 9 Memorial: 7 Harp: 1

I wrote and mailed out 24 thank you notes to those who made patron donations of \$25 or more, alumni, memorial and harp donations.

Angela

**Uniforms - Brenda Dennis & Glenda Esslinger –**

Marching band uniforms are finished for the year. Many thanks to my partner in uniforms, Glenda! In addition to keeping me sane and functioning (and washing and organizing the gloves after every wearing), she experimented with laundering one of the jackets (they are in fact machine washable) with excellent results. As we have already laundered cuffs and trousers with good results, I think we can dispense with dry cleaning the band uniforms. Several moms have offered their services (and their front-loading washers) for cleaning purposes. To everyone who handed out or hung up a uniform, hemmed a pair of pants, collected plumes, or brought me a plate of food in the uniform room, thank you from the bottom of my heart! They looked great on the field!

Fittings for concert band are underway during x period. They are returning to formal concert wear—black skirts with white blouses and tuxes. Skirt, jacket, and pants are provided; shirts, bow ties, and blouses are the responsibility of the students.

Choral fittings are nearly complete. Men's chorus is wearing tuxes with red ties/cummerbunds, Women's Chorus is returning to the red dresses, and Chorale is sporting an updated look with new black dresses and black tuxes with black tie and cummerbund. Again, shirts are the responsibility of the students. I placed an order today for 6 more Chorale dresses to complete the sizes needed and provide a little more variety in sizing for next year. I'll get the invoice to Heidi Reeb for reimbursement.

Strings students are wearing their own concert black this year. I have discussed "spare clothing" needs with Stefanie, and will have a few extra clothing items on hand if needed.

I need help from everyone concerning identifying my replacement ☺ My youngest graduates in 2016; it would be wise to work alongside an incoming uniform chair next year. Organizational skills are uppermost; however, along with declining parental involvement has come a decline in basic sewing skills. I really don't do any fancy sewing for the concert wear—hemming, basic alterations, and replacing the occasional zipper. So, if you know an organized person who loves making students feel good about their appearance and has basic sewing skills, please introduce us!

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dennis

Oh, and I have a lovely assortment of dresses, jackets, and trousers that need hemming! Please call (931-8312) or email if interested ☺

Choirs are being fitted in their finery and there are a group of students attending Northern Kentucky Honor Choir. They are Ian Esslinger, Jordan Girdler, Amanda Gast, Heather Gast, Amy Hughes, To'lisa Hinkston, Krista Lee and Maria Galimoto. The concert is Tuesday Nov 11 at 7pm at NKU.

-Glenda

**FMPA Newsletter/Communications – OPEN POSITION – see above discussion of changes**

**Website - Bill Fessler –**

Before Monday, the FMPA website will be updated with a link describing the Kelley Hickey Memorial Fund and a product will be added to the FMPA PaySchools store to allow contributions of any amount. Purchase notifications will go to the treasurer.

Other updates to remove obsolete information from the main page will also be done before Monday.

Several other updates are already done. Please let me know if you see anything else requiring changes.

Sandy motioned, and Dan seconded, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting is on **Tuesday, December 9, 2014** at 7 pm in MP conference room. **Note date change due to conflict with secondary choirs concert.**