

Attendees: Sue Burton, Bill Fessler, Brenda Dennis, Jenny Towner, Ric Towner, Heidi Reeb, Mike Kennedy, Brad Delaney, Laura Carroll, Stefanie Schneider, Den Tenhundfeld, Joanna Eberhardt, April Bruder, Glenda Esslinger, Jennifer Schmidt, Dan Deitsch

Welcome and Introductions – Ric Towner –

Ric welcomed us all, we introduced ourselves, our role on the board, our history in Finneytown music.

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

June minutes were briefly reviewed.

A motion to approve the June 2015 minutes was made by Glenda and seconded by Bill. The motion passed.

There was no incoming correspondence over the summer except standard bills, etc.

President's Report – Ric Towner

Key Activities: I have met with Kevin Berlon on several occasions this summer and recently with the music department staff to learn about the current state of music department programs and FMPA activities. Jen and I had a great meeting with the music staff last week and we're excited about the energy and shared vision they have for providing great music education in Finneytown.

Priorities for this year: Have been thinking about what our priorities as a board should be for this year. I still have a lot to learn and hear from the other board members before I feel like I know the answer to that question but here are some current thoughts regarding key indicators of the FMPA's ability to support and invest in great music education for Finneytown:

- Budget: this year's budget is almost \$2K less than last year's and over \$4K less than the 08-09 budget. We need to reverse the trend and i think the music department staff has some good ideas. I'd like us to think about what it would take to double the budget over the next few years.
- Membership: membership is down about 50% from 09-10 and was down ~ 20% last year from prior year. There are lots of challenges - we need to figure out how to change the trajectory on membership. How can we expand who we reach (alums, extended family, etc.)
- Student participation in music programs: looks like enrollment in band and orchestra programs is trending in the right direction this year vs. last year however MS and HS mens chorus are trending in the wrong direction.
- Percentage of students taking private lessons - important not urgent but this is a critical factor to increasing the overall level of performance.
- I'm eager to learn more about what's happening at elementary schools - supporting, recruiting and inspiring these kids is critical to the sustainable health of the whole program.

K-12 Music Department update – Mike Kennedy

Marching Band Update - The pre-view show was a success; the parent turnout was awesome, and the students did awesome! Finneytown Band members have worked hard and their dedication thus far has been wonderful. It is a privilege to work with these students and I am so proud of all of you!! Keep up the good work, it is a long season; so hang in there and stay positive!!! Please visit our band website and follow the calendar for all the upcoming performances; we have several football games and contests that we would love to see you at!

Fund Raising Update - We completed our first 59 minute fundraiser at Band Camp with great success. Our Goal was to make \$5000.00, currently we have collected \$4678.59, once we collect total sales we will make \$5265.00 profit. That is amazing. I would like to thank the secondary music staff team for making this possible for our students. These funds will go towards supporting 2015 marching band expenses.

Our next fundraiser is on Sept. 4th; we will be selling tumblers that have a Finneytown music department graphic on it. Our profit margin is smaller than the last 59 minute fundraiser, but this should be a good sale for us as well. We are going to use the 59 minute fund raising format and communications will be going out to the parents once school begins. The groups participating will be groups grades 7-12; our goal is to raise \$10,000.00. \$3,000.00 dollars will be going to support the secondary music department and \$7,000.00 will go to support a future trip for Chorale, High School Band, and High School Orchestra. Please help spread the word!

The cookie dough sale is coming in October, so we will be communicating with Ric Towner about the formatting of this sale. During the marching band leadership camp, students created some ideas for expanding this sale and developed strategies that will involve all students at Whitaker and the Secondary campus. Stay tuned for more information!

The additional fund raising that the Finneytown Music department is doing will directly impact funds needed for Marching Band 2016-2017 and our potential Chorale, Band, and Orchestra 2016 trip. With students that are in marching band our goal is to raise money that will offset the cost of band camp. We're planning on going away to band camp again, as we like the team atmosphere this activity builds. However, with the added cost burden of going on a trip this year, we need to help offset the cost of both band camp and the trip. Our goal of these additional fundraising efforts is to provide more opportunities for student music related activities.

We want to increase the percentage of students involved with every fundraiser. The 59 minute fundraiser format allows for every student to participate before, during, and after the call night. With the first fundraiser, 97% of the marching band students participated! While this fundraising format may not work with every fundraising sale, we want to ensure that each fundraiser we do is formatted in a way to maximize student participation and increase sales. We'll be working with Ric Towner, the Fundraising Chair, to make this successful.

FMPA Volunteers - There has been a great amount of volunteer work that has gone into this year for the music department on the secondary campus and particularly the marching band activity. I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers that have given their time freely to make sure the band students have everything they need. From driving trailers, to chaperoning at band camp, to helping Tina organize several items that service the students, the chaperones have been awesome! Tina, thanks for all your help, you have been amazing. Another special thanks goes out to Brenda, for 13 years of service in the uniform department; from alterations, fittings, and fabrication. Her service has no doubt saved us several thousands of dollars over the years. Thank you!

New Music Department Website - Pending administration approval, there is a new K-12 music department website. The department website will have links that take you to individual websites; one for Brent General Music, Whitaker General Music, Choir, Orchestra, and Band.

The websites will be the go to location for information involving the music department. It will have class materials, calendars, media files, important announcements and more. This website will also have a section that will include all Music Department FMPA Reports. The link to the Department Website is www.tinyurl.com/finneytownmusic

New K-6 Music Curriculum - Quaver- The music department has purchased a technology based music curriculum for grades K-6. Mr. Jones and Miss Johnson are well equipped to lead the general music students into an in-depth understanding/application of age appropriate music cognition. This curriculum will impact students that are in instrumental and vocal ensembles on the Whitaker and Secondary Campuses.

Whitaker - I wanted to take a moment to thank Tina W, for stepping up and volunteering her time again to organize a team that are calling new 5th Grade Band and Orchestra members that will be starting this year. With the information gathered we will be able to predict which students are in need of school owned instruments or classroom materials. Thank you for volunteering your time to help make sure our feeder programs for the instrumental department are strong!

Voices of Whitaker and X-period Chorus - We are currently forming and organizing a team of parents that will call students in grades 3-6 and 7-8 grades to offer them details about the programs that we offer for choir. Parents can sign-up their son or daughter for these programs over the phone and Laura and Jeff will be having a meet and greet before school with the parents and students that are signed up for the programs. Please see the calendar below.

Chorale - Congratulations to Sam Osterwisch and Molly Brown on being selected for the 2015-2016 OMEA All State Choir!

Orchestra - The first day of Orchestra Camp was today, 8/10, and it continues tomorrow!

New Instruments! - Thank you to Scott Gates and Ty Olverson for their assistance to make it possible for the Bands and Orchestra to purchase many new instruments this summer. With large 5th grade classes starting instrumental music at Whitaker, this purchase will help ensure that every student has an instrument. Having quality, well-conditioned instruments makes a huge difference to our kids!

Important August Dates

Aug 10&11: 2:30-6:30: FSC XPeriod Orchestra Camp

Saturday Aug. 15 (10 am-2 pm) Super Saturday Band Rehearsal **Monday Aug. 17th (Time TBD)** Band Performing at Staff In-service Kick off

5:30 pm Voices of Whitaker and Chorale performance at Whitaker House

Tuesday Aug. 18th 6:30 pm Voices of Whitaker and Chorale performance at Brent Open House

Wednesday Aug.19th (7:45 am) Marching Band Performing for the first day of school

Wednesday Aug. 19th (4:30 pm) Orchestra and Choir Open House performance

Sunday Aug. 23rd (5:45 pm) Fall Sports Kick-Off Performance

Friday Aug. 28th All State Choir forms and payment due

Saturday Aug. 29th (10am-2pm) Super Saturday Band Rehearsal **Wednesday Sept. 9th (6:30 pm)** *pending approval* Voices of Whitaker mixer at FSC Choir Room, X-Period Choir mixer at FSC at 7:15pm at FSC Choir Room, refreshments to be served.

HS Band - VP Tina Wuorinen

Although school has not yet started, the marching band is in full swing. Pre-camp started on Monday, July 6th, and Marching Band Camp was held at Camp Crescendo in Kentucky from July 19th-24th, with 74 students in attendance. The staff and students worked very hard, and accomplished a lot. Chaperones were Sandy Blais, Brenda Dennis, Jenny Jones, Peter Sloan, Jenny Towner, Chris Wolferst, and myself. Thanks to all for their help. The students also held a 59 minute fundraiser for Great American Saving Passes on Tues evening and raised over \$4700. A Parent Preview Show for the "Child of the Mississippi" show, music written by Michael Kennedy and drill written by Brad Delaney, was held on Friday, August, 7th. A schedule of the football games and band competitions are available on the band website page.

Elementary Report – from VP's

Voices of Whitaker (3-6) will be performing at the Brent and Whitaker Open Houses After a little confusion this summer, the band will remain in the 'new' location we looked at last school year, not under the bleachers.

Thanks
Sandy and Janet

Uniform Report – Brenda Dennis

Band uniform fittings are in progress. Dry cleaning of tuxes was slightly delayed at the end of last school year but is now complete, and I will pick them up this week. Thanks to Clean Getaway for their generous discount. Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dennis

Brenda now has no shadows for her job – both possible people were unable to do so after all. We need a marching band parent to help with marching band uniforms. Glenda is still going to help with concert wear, laundering gloves, etc.

Membership Report – Joanna Eberhardt

We currently have 4 family memberships for the 2015-16 school year. All through the payschools site.

I plan to have forms at the meeting tomorrow evening so bring your money if you haven't joined yet!

FMPA will have a membership/information table at all school Open Houses: Whitaker Monday August 17th Brent Tuesday August 18th Secondary Wednesday August 19th

It will be really helpful if one or two folks could cover the Secondary Campus Open House so that Rob and I can walk our kids' schedules. Any takers?

I would love to have information brochures for the Open Houses. I will at least pass out membership forms.

Thanks, Joanna Eberhardt

At the meeting, we also discussed current/future flyer for publicity.

Communication Report – Deb Amend

I am handling the communication this year, and am still thinking through the best method to communicate with FMPA members and also the community. I would love input from others! My current thoughts are:

- 1) Email/hard copy newsletter 1 a quarter. I am currently looking at putting the newsletter in a pdf file which can also be printed for those who need a hard copy. The newsletter would contain more "in depth articles" such as teacher or student interviews, music student spotlights, reports on previous events (performances and fundraising) and schedule of upcoming events.
- 2) Facebook and Twitter alerts for upcoming dates (2 weeks reminder, 2 day before reminder, day of reminder), We could also do an event alert through cell phones. MK uses remind, but I'm wondering if as a support organization if we would have access to that, or if we would need to use just regular cell phone numbers.
- 3) FB page for posting of pictures and such after an event occurs.
- 4) I need the following information:

I will need an email list of the current members, as well as necessary sign-ins for twitter (if we already have a twitter account) and to be made a contributor to the FB page. I am not sure who to connect to for this.

I also need to know if we have a gmail account, and if so, would like access to that to send out the communications rather than my own personal.

Thanks! Deb Amend

Addendum – staff is interested in gaining access again to the "all-call" system at school. MK would like to meet with Deb, secondary music staff, & principals re: communication strategy. Will shoot for the second or third week of September because with the start of school things will be crazy for the next few weeks. Ric and Jenny are also welcome to join the discussion.

Website report – Bill Fessler

Waiting on some updated documents to publish the 2015-2016 info and do other needed maintenance at the same time.

PaySchools info updated for membership. Are any other contact updates needed for payschools sales?

Under discussion: co-ordination of communication. (with Joanna, Deb, etc.)

FYI to all, please update my work email address in your contacts and group distribution lists.

Old address: bill.fessler@adp.com will cease to function as of October 1.

New address: bill.fessler@cdk.com

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

Discussion of FY 2014-2015 end of year report. Budget was \$22,910. Receipts were \$17,887.50. Expenses were \$18,987.53. Glenda moved, seconded by Sue, to accept the FY 2014-15 final treasurer's report. Motion passed.

FY 2015-16 budget adjustments were discussed. Heidi, after discussion w/last year's president Kevin Berlon, has removed the USPS postal permit fee of \$250 and shifted that money into Undergraduate scholarships (which had been blank) - to help cover requests such as last year's request for help with CiCi's pizza money for Voices kids at end of year, etc. Heidi also consolidated postage budget to one line item rather than previous split between newsletter and administrative. Motion by Bill to accept the revised FY 2015-16 budget as presented tonight, seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.

August 9 report discussed. "Other fundraisers" listed in receipts budget will include such things as the Comedy Caravan and Spring Arts Fair. Heidi filed some paperwork with the Attorney General's office to keep FMPA in good legal standing. Jennifer moved, seconded by Joanna, to accept the Aug. 9 treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Heidi will send Bill last year's final report and this year's budget to post on website.

NEW BUSINESS -

- April Bruder has accepted the position of middle school band VP. Welcome April!
- The middle school choir VP position is still open. Please think of those who might be able to fill that role.
- Membership – How to increase? Discussed how we can communicate the VALUE of an FMPA membership to folks, now that admission is no longer charged for concerts and thus the FMPA membership does not give that discount. Why should folks even want to join? How can we help them decide – including families in the younger grades? Discussion re: becoming a member to volunteer but not ask for money. Volunteer checklist. Thank you to all who join. Invite all members to the October meeting and "bring a guest".
- Cookie dough – Sandy will bake some sample cookies for the upcoming open houses. Jennifer will put together a cover letter with what the incentives will be. More discussion next month.
- 10/1 - sale kick off. 10/19 - turn in order forms and \$\$\$. 11/19 - Cookie dough drop off and distribution.
- Comedy Caravan – Nov. 14. No Battle of the Bands as previously considered. Ric will talk w/Veronica, but envisions our role as providing volunteer support for the events leading up to the evening comedy show. There will be a craft fair during the day as well.

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

Next meeting is on Monday Sept. 14, 2015 at 7 pm in MP conference room.