

Attendees: Sue Burton, Cindy Rebman, Joanna Eberhardt, Cindy Brown, Dan Deitsch, Jennifer Schmidt (one last time!), Ric Towner, Jenny Towner, Brenda Dennis, Heidi Reeb, Mike Kennedy, Stefanie Schneider, Laura Carroll, Den Tenhundfeld, Tina Wuorinen, Heidi Reeb

**Secretary's Report – Sue Burton**

December minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the December 2015 minutes was made by Tina and seconded by Dan. The motion passed.

Correspondence – none

**President's Report – Ric Towner**

See end of document for email between Ric, Superintendent Olverson, and Krista Ramsey. Summary – working on ways to reinstitute private lessons on school property but addressing safety/liability issues. Goal is to start some lessons Fall 2016. Also discussed music budget flexibility and Spring Arts Festival in that email.

Excerpt from email sent Jan. 12 from Ric to exec board & music staff:

“We also had a discussion about the Fine Arts Fair that began focused on solving the problem of how to build on the positive publicity the visual arts received at last year's event in a way that also allows for the music department students and staff to present their work most effectively. During the discussion I allowed issues to be raised and encouraged what became an emotional discussion of perceptions in the district about allocation of funds and perceptions of favoritism and staffing that was not appropriate for an FMPA board/music department meeting. Our mission is to support music education and to support the the music staff - I did not do that well during the discussion we had last night and want to apologize. I followed up with Mike and apologized personally to he and the staff...”

**Staff reports –**

**Band & Music Dept. – Mike Kennedy**

Secondary Campus

Honor Band

Congratulations to the following students for their participation in District 14 Honor Band this past Sunday.

High School Band -

Allie Towner (Percussion)

Sarah Germann (Percussion)

Xander Hatton (Percussion)

Alissa Wuorinen (Clarinet)

Katherine Germann (Flute)

Max Giffin (Tuba)

Ian Sloan (Bass Trombone)

Middle School Band -  
Maria Seith (7th Grade Saxophone)  
Jillian Becksfort (7th Grade Saxophone)  
Loyd Briski (8th Grade Bassoon/Tenor Saxophone)  
Kelsey Kershner (8th Grade Trombone)

Brookdale Community Performance - We are proud to have a group of High School Band Students performing and representing the Finneytown Community by performing at Brookdale Senior Living Community. Please come out tomorrow at 7 pm to support the following students--Kross Rumping, Hunter Giffin, Sam Osterwisch, Lily Hursh, Izaak Cruz, Natalie Reid, Lydia Wolferst, and Aidan Matzko.

Solo and Ensemble - The following students will be participating in solo and ensemble on Jan. 23rd at Elder High School.

Ian Sloan  
Jonathan Hammond  
LaValle Coleman  
Cooper Burton  
Belinda Baty  
Matthew Dauterman  
Sarah Rose Germann  
Alissa Wuorinen  
Alexander Eberhardt  
Hunter Giffin  
Selena Mungur  
Shelby Hatton

Pep Band - Last Performance on Feb. 5th

High Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Winter Drumline - During x-period we are now providing an opportunity for students to participate in Jazz Band, Woodwind Ensemble, and Winter Drumline. All students are still participating in symphonic band, but are pulled out one day a week for their extra ensemble.

Our after school ensembles are the High School and Middle School High Brass Ensemble and the Junior High Woodwind ensemble.

Weekly Schedule –  
Monday: Full Band/High Brass Sectionals  
Tuesday: Woodwind/Brass Band/Winter Drumline  
Wednesday: Woodwind/Brass Band/Winter Drumline  
Thursday: Sight Reading Full Band/Jazz Band  
Friday: Woodwind Ensemble/Full Brass

OMEA Large Group Contest - March 4th or 5th; Time TBD

Marching Band 2016 meeting will be held on Feb. 4 at 7 pm in the Band Room. This is for all students who will be participating in Marching Band next year.

OMEA Conference - The music department will be attending the OMEA Professional Development conference on Jan. 28-30th.

Whitaker Bands - Preparing for their spring concert. Testing schedule will impact band class for the month of April. There will be a dress rehearsal scheduled to help with the lost instructional time.

**HS Band - VP Tina Wuorinen** - The band concert last month went very well, with a nice attendance. Thank you to Tracy Amann for helping me chaperone the HS band that evening. Also, thanks to Brenda Dennis for her help with the tuxes and skirts.

**MS Band – VP April Bruder** - Our family really enjoyed the concert last month! We heard from many people how much they enjoyed it. In particular, people mentioned loving that they could see the progress of band through the grade levels. Thank you to my volunteers who worked behind the scenes early in the night chaperoning the 7/8 grade band: Maggie Laird, Joanna Eberhardt, Michelle Lee & Karen Kershner.

I'll be arriving late tonight (2 boys, 2 soccer games, same time at our meeting!) but am looking forward to getting started with decorations soon and hearing how else we can all help make Dinner before the Show a success!

**Orchestra – Stefanie Schneider**

-Getting geared up for the new semester

-7th and 8th graders focusing more on technique, rhythms, etc.

-HS getting ready for March concert

-5th and 6th graders reviewing after the long break

-HS has a March concert; All classes will be performing at the Spring Arts Fair

-Pit Orchestra is getting ready for Cinderella in February

**HS Orchestra – VP Cindy Brown**

**Choirs – Laura Carroll**

The Chorale will be attending District Contest this year on March 4 or 5.

Voices of Whitaker will be performing at the Dinner Before the Show.

Our 7-12 classes are working hard at sight reading skills and learning their Spring Repertoire.

**HS Choirs – VP Glenda Esslinger** - I will not be able to attend tonight's mtg. I have the box with some items that Angela passes onto me last year from DINNER BEFORE THE SHOW. I will get an inventory and update Ric.

### **Elementary Report – VP's Sandy Tenhundfeld & Janet Cain**

#### **Uniform Report – Brenda Dennis**

6 black dresses were purchased from Southeastern Performance Apparel to fill in sizing gaps in the Chorale wardrobe, totaling \$417.30. Chorale gentlemen wore blue ties and cummerbunds for a nice pop of color (and due to my forgetting that the number of black ties and cummerbunds purchased last year did not accommodate the number of guys in Chorale this year).

Now that all the groups are wardrobeed, I will be soliciting moms with front loading washing machines to clean the band uniforms. They were dry cleaned for the first 4 years of use (although they are labeled as machine washable), and successfully laundered by Glenda last year, saving a substantial dry cleaning bill.

I am compiling notes for the future uniform chair (still seeking someone for this position) that will hopefully be helpful in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dennis, Uniforms

### **Membership Report – Joanna Eberhardt**

Members: 73

Family Dues \$1425

Patron Donations \$1385

Alumni Dues \$400

Memorial Donations \$75.00

Orchestra Scholarship \$220.00

Total \$3505.00 (minus PaySchools fees)

### **Communication Report – Deb Amend**

Attached is the current work I have done on restarting the newsletter. (Ed. Note: I have added this at the end of the minutes.) If you like dry reading, you are welcome to peruse it! I welcome feedback. Due to unexpected health issues with a couple family members (including surgery recovery for my youngest, along with adjusting to a new scoliosis brace), I won't be able to get the newsletter off the ground until the summer issue. I apologize for the delay, but we have been hit

with some expected bumps in the road, and I need to put more attention towards one of my children's daily care for the time being until we get adjusted and past some of this.

I have closed down the Facebook group and launched a Facebook page, and am in process of creating a bunch of Facebook posts to schedule for publication automatically. Currently I have these dates and events, please let me know of the upcoming choir, orchestra and band concerts because I cannot find them on the school calendar. January 23, High School Solo and Ensemble (will probably just post something to let people know we have students participating)

February 12, 6:00pm Dinner Before the Show

February 12 7:00pm, February 13 2:30pm and 7:00pm Cinderella

March 9, Middle School Solo and Ensemble

March 15th 7:00pm and March 16th 2:30pm Middle School Musical Theater Production (*I will need the name of the production*)

Thanks!

Deb

### **Website report – Bill Fessler**

### **Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb**

Another \$75 came in for the Charlie Burgess memorial donations.

Motion to approve the December 2015 treasurer's report made by Brenda, second by Den. Motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Cookie Dough – Cookie Dough Wrap-Up**

I have transferred all the necessary documents to Chris Wolferst who will be taking over the sale for this Fall.

I have contacted Savory Foods regarding the rebate check since I still have not received it. It is being looked into and I will update everyone when I know anything more.

Tonight will be my last official meeting. It has been a pleasure working with such a great group of teachers and parents.

Thanks,  
Jennifer

#### **Dinner Before the Show/BidNBuy – Dan Deitsch**

\*\*The musical is starting earlier, at 7 pm. BidNBuy will need to end earlier as a result.

1. Entertainment – Laura/Jeff –Voices of Whitaker back this year. Allie T will play piano, other entertainment needed. Perhaps small groups of musicians stroll/play at various points in gym instead of one spot w/PA.
2. Ticket Sales – someone needed for pre-sales, forms to go in Thurs. folders & online ticket access? Who receives notification of online ticket sales?  
Sue will coordinate ticket sales at the door. We will NOT do paper tickets, but instead do online orders and an at the door tally with a hand stamp for all to enter. Heidi's cash box to be used at the door.
3. Food Service –Tina agreed to be head spaghetti wrangler/kitchen.
4. Soda & Desserts – Glenda
5. Décor & theme – April Bruder
6. Promotion – Dan will contact Bill re: website update needed, and will tell Krista, and ask Renae for past flyer graphic.
7. Emcee - Rick Kennedy cannot emcee, has another commitment.
8. Sound system
9. Money takers for the Bid-N-Buy
10. Need people to solicit donations from organizations –Heidi did movie theaters. Tina asked CSO & Broadway. Also need experiences to be offered.
11. Reminder - This will be Dan's last year heading up the Bid-N-Buy. Thus far we do not have a shadow/future organizer.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

**Adjournment** - Joanna motioned, and Ric seconded, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Next meeting is February 8, 2016 at 7 pm in MP conference room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Burton, secretary

### **Addendum #1**

**From:** Tyrone Olverson <[tolverson@finneytown.org](mailto:tolverson@finneytown.org)>

**Date:** January 10, 2016 at 6:41:55 PM EST

**To:** RicJenTowner <[ricjentowner@gmail.com](mailto:ricjentowner@gmail.com)>

Thanks Rick for meeting this past Friday after-school. I will share via this email to our BOE members and district/building administration our conversation. \*Responses below, Ty

On Jan 10, 2016, at 4:59 PM, RicJenTowner  
<[ricjentowner@gmail.com](mailto:ricjentowner@gmail.com)<<mailto:ricjentowner@gmail.com>>> wrote:

Hi Tyrone and Krista -

Thanks for getting together on Friday regarding music education at Finneytown and the issues we discussed / worked on together. I wanted to summarize what I understood we are going to do to make sure we're in alignment and that I communicate the same things to the music department staff and FMPA board Monday night that you are communicating to the administrative team.

Issue 1: The music department staff would like flexibility to use a portion of their annual budget

from the district for marching band equipment, drill, composition and clinicians at band camp. The department has been receiving ~ \$45K per year music department budget and that money has been used for instrument repairs, instruments, equipment, concert music, curriculum and professional development. The Music department would like to continue to request \$45K but with a portion of that earmarked for Marching band.

\*The music budget needs should be discussed and planned in conjunction with each building administrator. Building administrators will then make a recommendation to the superintendent for the required budgetary needs by March 2016 for financial planning purposes.

We agreed that marching band is co-curricular, not extra curricular and therefore that the music department budget can be used for marching band specific funding needs. Budgets are requested and agreed annually. Mike should submit 2016-17 music department budget request by March.

\*Band is co-curricular and not an extra-curricular program. The district is committed to supporting our curricular programs. The request of needed budgetary funding for the music program should go through the respective building principal for final recommendation to the superintendent.

Issue 2: After school private lessons are an important element in engaging students and raising the overall level of the program. They could provide a great marketing tool for the district as well if we can build a solid program that makes it easy and affordable for parents to get their kids in private lessons. There is a perception that "we can't offer private lessons on school property".

\*Correct in that we as a district need to have oversight and liability issues resolved if the district is going to own the private lessons component.

\*\*FMPA can request building usage of space for no charge (free) if they want to run a private lessons program without any school interference. This is no different than a PTA sponsored school event.

We agreed that a vibrant private lessons program would be good for students, the music program and the district if we can resolve who the instructors are working for and how they are paid and if we can resolve the issue of oversight and liability insurance coverage. Krista is going to talk to some other districts to explore how they offer private lessons programs, Ric will continue to research and will email Tyrone his questions for Ty to forward to the district lawyer for feedback.

\*Private lessons are an integral component for any student looking to advance to the next level, similarly to athletes who do more outside of their standard practice. The current music language for private lessons comes from CPS Performing Arts.

Issue 3: Fine arts day schedule. Music staff and parents recommend having a Spring concert series very similar to the Fall concert series instead of combined "all grades, all groups" concert on a Sunday with a joint visual arts fair.

\*We could possibly investigate an "And" versus "Or" resolution which meets the needs of all.

I'm confident that this approach works better for teachers, parents and students. During our discussion it was suggested the all in one Fine Arts Fair on a Sunday works better for engaging the broader community and for administration to attend.

\*Every day except Sunday already involve scheduled school related student events. Sunday was the only day that did not disrupt some school function and/or scheduled athletic event(s).

We agreed the music and arts teachers should discuss at their meeting on the 19th and make a

recommendation to the administration.

\*The display of all fine arts student work was a major thrust in past discussions for the inclusive fine arts (Sunday) program. This was in response to district and building administration hearing from staff members (not fine arts staff) that it seemed (perceptions) as if music could do whatever they liked no matter how it impacted other programs and/or that music did not support other school programs/groups. A goal of administration was to demonstrate that the music department also supports other school programs/groups (fine arts and athletics).

I'd like to add some additional thoughts to our discussion regarding broader community engagement. I think the best vehicle for engaging the community are the parents of existing and former students. The broader community will attend events if they are invited by a trusted friend or neighbor.

\*The date(s) decided will be known and shared to all BOE supported groups by the end of the month (January 2016).

People will choose Finneytown as a residential neighborhood and school district based on what they hear about it from current residents and parents of current students.

\*We must also remember that voices of current staff and students, and external support staff (substitute teachers, HCESC employees, etc.) are also needed in the community recruitment effort of families with students.

\*\*Administration will continue supporting a k-12 fine arts program.

Therefore the administration should make cultivating current parents as advocates for the schools and word of mouth marketers a top priority. You have to win their trust and they have to really believe in what they are selling.

\*We will continue to reach out to our parents, other BOE sponsored groups, and community stakeholders in the marketing of the school system and academic programming.

I think there's a great opportunity to create an "invite a neighbor" movement for the high school musical (Krista we can talk) and that a visual fine arts fair paired with a nice coffee / dessert with an "invite a neighbor" theme could also work well and produce some of the community interaction Ty was talking about. In general, I think that a big all in one event is less effective at this ... ask the Comedy caravan team or last year's fine arts fair team.

\*We have a meeting scheduled with the Fine Arts staff members during our January 2016 in-service day training.

Thanks again ... please let me know if I captured things accurately and I'll pass along to the music staff and FMPA board.

Ric

## **Addendum #2**

FMPA Newsletter Plans – Deb Amend:

This newsletter would be human interest based, and does not contain logistical information (ie: times for students to be places, or specific budget information). It will be developed on a

standard template, and follow the same format with article and pictures plugged into the template

1) Content of the newsletter:

Title: Music Notes

Note from the President: This letter will be a 3-4 paragraph presidential/inspirational opener.

Turn the Spotlight On: Section will feature various articles depending upon space and activities that are going on. One Photo per Spotlight

Performance Spotlight : Review of recent student performances and production, ideally written by students.

Spotlight On: Finneytown Students Performing in Our Community

Spotlight On: Finneytown Music All Stars

Spotlight On: Brent

Spotlight On: Whitaker

Spotlight On: Secondary Campus Orchestras

Spotlight On: Secondary Campus Choirs

Spotlight On: Secondary Campus Band

Spotlight On: Theater in Finneytown

Spotlight On: Music Faculty and Volunteers

Spotlight On: Fundraising

Spotlight On: Upcoming Performances, Fundraising Events

Spotlight On: P.E.M. Scholarship

Ask List: Space saved for FMPA to present current needs (volunteers and/or items needed for upcoming projects ie prepackaged snacks for band camp or volunteers for fitting uniforms, open board positions)

Board member list

Donors List

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2) Distribution: News letters will be distributed via mail with complimentary copies dropped off at local businesses (businesses still need to be determined)

Cost of Bulk Mailing:

Process of Printing:

Process of Bulk Mailing:

Obtaining Addresses:

6) Frequency: Quarterly, based on the PTA newsletter and the Music Calendar:

Summer (Mid-end of July release date)

Fall (Mid-end of October release date)

Winter (Mid-end of January release date)

Spring (mid-end of April release date)

7) Sponsorship:

Price: \$25/per newsletter or 1 year for \$80

Goal: 6 full time sponsors would give us \$480/ year to cover costs

Currently Committed Sponsors:

The Adaptive Music Project (1 full year)

Previous Sponsors to Approach:

Cincinnati Dance/Movement Center

Silk Road Textiles

Baroque Violin Shop

LaRosa's (Finneytown)

Finneytown Civic Association

To be determined: To whom do sponsors give money? Is it a donation?

8) Cost:

Paper: 1,200 sheets of paper to create 300 Newsletters

300 Newsletters \* 4 times a year: 5,800 pieces of paper

\$50.00 (this is the non-sale price for planning purposes)

Mailing: -- Still researching the best options

9) Volunteer Needs:

Help with assembling newsletter

Help with printing newsletter

Student Writers