

FMPA Meeting Minutes September 11, 2017

Attendees: April Bruder, Janet Cain, Bruce Haney, Stefanie Schneider, Mike Kennedy, Brad Delaney, Laura Carroll, Heidi Reeb, Scott Haarlammert, Maggie Laird, Tina Wuorinen, Amanda Angert, Susan Connell, Marsha Grubbs, Chris Wolferst, Deb Amend, Bill Fessler, Rebecca Page, Den Tenhundfeld, Jenny Towner, Sue Burton

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

Reviewed minutes from August 2017 meeting – question re: posting student photos on FMPA facebook page, etc. MK clarified that all students in marching band have signed photo consents. Other groups (choirs, orchestra) need to have photos passed through music teachers who have some refusals on file.

Discussion re: last month that we did not formally accept the end of year 2016 fiscal year treasurer's report. Will add to our October agenda when Heidi can bring copies of the report for review by all. Motion by Tina to accept the August minutes with amended info re: photo releases. Seconded by Bill. Motion passed.

Correspondence – none

President's Report – Ric Towner

Support organization presidents, (PTA, Boosters, After Prom, FMPA) and secondary campus administrators are meeting for an hour prior to FMPA meetings this year to improve communication and coordination and to identify and tackle a couple important issues together. The two issues currently receiving focus are generating spirit for school events this Fall - especially Friday night football games - and laying the foundation for a Finneytown Alumni database that will allow for better communication with and hopefully support and involvement from Finneytown alums. April Bruder will be attending the meeting tomorrow on my behalf. The first two home football games have certainly been better supported than last year and I've noticed more people staying well into the second half which makes a strong statement that we're all in this together. I loved hearing the student section chanting "we want the band" at half time this week and after the game I went to a Young Life bonfire that included 8th graders to seniors, band members, football players, African American, white and Nepalese kids all having a ball together. Good stuff.

Mike and team - I appreciate the proactive communication coming from you all.

A key topic at tomorrow's meeting will be discussion of the Orlando trip and decision on whether to take a smaller group or conclude that this is still not the year for a trip. Mike and I have been discussing and he will present some options to the board and be looking for your input to help guide his decision.

Please also make sure there is clarity on the Fall private lessons schedule. Mike and Maggie - if it seems like the three of us need to get together to clarify any roles / responsibilities / expectations let me know and I'll get something scheduled.

Deb - let me know when you need the first input from me for FMPA digital newsletter.

Thanks for the investment you are each making in our community.

Staff Reports:

Band & Music Dept. – Mike Kennedy

There will be a video/event page for contest – this Saturday at Tipp City, perform at 730 pm. A question was posed to MK about a matter better dealt with privately between a board member and himself. After a brief exchange, all the music staff and Bruce Haney walked out of the meeting. Other board members affirmed that the matter should have been discussed privately instead of in this meeting.

HS Band - VP Tina Wuorinen

Barry Cruise took senior pictures for banners and took photos for buttons for free. Tina is ordering new buttons that will again be able to be reused each year. Question about whether FMPA is paying for the senior banners – Tina believes MK and Ric have spoken about this and that FMPA is paying for them.

Tina requests that Sue write a thank you note to Ying for the ladder she bought. Also to the person who cut the signs.

MS Band – VP April Bruder

Orchestra – Stefanie Schneider

According to Tina W, the orchestra camp went really well with Mr. Morales. First concert is October 10.

Orchestra VP – Heidi Rice

Someone texted Heidi R during the meeting – she had nothing else to report.

Choirs – Laura Carroll

HS/MS Choirs – VP Sue Connell

FMPA really needs a middle school VP to be found, having had the position open last year and this year thus far. Discussion of asking Ms. Carroll to forward emails of MS choir parents to Sue so recruiting can begin in that way. Janet Cain has a middle school email “newsletter” she sends to any MS parents who are on her list – and she’d like to expand the list. She can put out the word for a MS choir rep in that email letter if we’d like.

Question if 6th graders choir option is only the “X-period” after school choir or if they have a choir option during the day. We think it’s just the after school option only, will need to double check with Ms. Carroll.

All-State question was asked to clarify how All-State families are assisted with entry fees. All-State members this year are: Zach Wuorinen, orchestra; Alexander Eberhardt, band; LaValle Coleman and Cooper Burton, choir. OMEA All-State convention with performances is Feb 8,9, 10, 2018 with different groups performing different times. Details pending as the conference gets closer.

Heidi R said she prefers to write checks of reimbursement for half of entry fees to the parent, but if a family wants upfront help with the fee she can write it directly to OMEA to go with a family’s check as well. \$275/person, half is \$137.50/ea. 4 students @ 137.50 = \$550, which is the exact amount we budgeted in our line item to help. *(addendum: Sue B sent an email to Ms. Carroll on 9/16 to be forwarded to those families explaining the reimbursement process. – ed.)*

Elementary Music Staff – Heidi Johnson

FLSD is sending sincere thanks to the Cincinnati Arts Association for awarding Whitaker Elementary music teacher Heidi Johnson a transportation grant that will give Whitaker fourth graders the opportunity to see Black Violin at the Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts in October. For the fourth graders, seeing the performance is the culmination of the fourth-grade general music curriculum standard on learning audience etiquette. Each year, Ms. Johnson takes her students to a live performance after they have studied how to be a good audience member.

This is a real-life skill from which our students (and their fellow audience-members!) will benefit for years to come. Thank you, Cincinnati Arts Association and Ms. Johnson!

Elementary Report – VP's Den & Sandy Tenhundfeld

Janet Cain reports that the 3rd grade is attending a show at the Children's Theater on Feb. 14.

Voices of Whitaker started – over 50 registered for grades 2 & 3, 33 showed up today. They are trying to bus the students to Voices and thus far it hasn't been working well.

Rebecca attended the elem. Open houses and gave a 10 second schpiel to interested parents as they walked by.

School Board report – Scott Haarlamert

Re: bussing – with this as the first year of contracted bussing, if transportation issues are personally affecting your family, please escalate the issue so we can address it and put it to rest. Address with principal and call the transportation number listed.

Biggest focus now is long-range planning. There was a long-range planning committee 3 years ago but not well publicized then. Currently in visioning stage with community, staff, etc. Subset of long-range planning is facilities. The state can offer around 25 million dollars toward facilities (approx.. 46% of money toward classroom space needed). Need to formulate plans and we need to talk as a community about it all. When you get a survey, PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY, especially encourage neighbors, etc. who are not very connected with the schools to complete their surveys. Scott is calling it the 50 year opportunity – schools have been here about 50 years, historically low interest rates.

Three open board seats (Scott, Cindy Rebman, Anita Ruffin) for 2018 – on the Nov. ballot are Cindy Rebman, Chad Engleman, and Steve Stuhldreier. Scott plans other ways to stay involved with the schools and community.

Marching Band Uniform Report – Marsha Grubbs

Marching Band needs some more garment bags that have gotten worn out.

Concert Uniform Report – Amanda Angert

Fittings for Chorale and Concert Choir have been completed and alterations have begun. New Concert Choir dresses have been ordered and will hopefully be in before the first concert on October

10th. Amanda plans to renumber the dresses so they aren't anything close to "sizes" that can cause someone to be sensitive about the number of dress they get. Choir dresses are \$53 each.

Membership Report – Rebecca Page

19 memberships, \$1,155 thus far. Many of us FMPA board members have not yet joined. Please do so soon! Rebecca will send a list of members names to Deb for publication in Music Notes.

Communication Report – Deb Amend

I am finishing up the first edition of the FMPA Music Notes for this school year. I would like to get it out at the end of this week for distribution. Previously, I had forwarded this to Joanna and she forwarded it on to the members. I would like to continue this with Rebecca if that is not a problem with her. We also published the first 2 editions on our FB page as a kind of "teaser" for those who haven't joined.

However, the FB page has been very active, and I suspect that the newsletter will be most beneficial to members who do not use fb. I will keep the format for the newsletter simple and straightforward and continue to pull photos from the FB page.

Currently the FB page has 176 "likes". Our posts have reached 4061 people as of this week, and since September 5th, we have had 1300+ views of our videos. We may want to discuss how to leverage this viewership for promoting our fundraisers.

Discussion: Bill can put our newsletter on our FMPA website. Can Krista attach it to the general FT school website? Do we want her to? Suggestion to post also on the friends of Finneytown facebook page (966 members) and FT alumni facebook page (1,777 members).

Website report – Bill Fessler

Website updates were made.

Requested additional information from Chris Wolferst this morning and will get the rest of the cookie dough info up ASAP.

Also talked to Maggie briefly about adding a Private Lesson payment option to payschools, we can discuss details tonight. Technically, probably no problem –

Heidi Reeb – please think about this and we can discuss tonight... would this create any issues with the associated fees involved with Payschools? We can add a 'convenience fee' to cover it. We've not used that feature for other products. Discussion: the convenience fee we are charged is 4.25% so we should charge this over and above, for parents who might want to pay for private lessons through our PaySchools account. This way we are not subsidizing those who pay online.

Private Lessons – Maggie Laird

- A big thank you to Mr. Kennedy and staff were the awesome private lessons video! If you haven't seen it, the link for the video is below. It showcases all of our private lessons teachers, including the new ones for the 2017/18 school year.

<https://www.facebook.com/1479997862308467/videos/1698814867093431/>

- Private lessons are underway- Mr. Kennedy developed an updated/easier, way to sign up for lessons.

- We are in conversation about an updated avenue for possible online payments. Many parents have stated in the past that online payments would be much easier.
- There are a couple students that never paid for lessons from the 16/17 school year and a few that have not paid for summer lessons for Sam Fronk. I would very much like to avoid this problem for 17/18. Perhaps lesson fees have to be paid by the end of that month and if they don't get paid they cannot take lessons the next month. For example, if a student has four lessons in September at \$80, the \$80 will be due no later than September 30th. I welcome suggestions.

Discussion during meeting of how online payments might work for private lessons. Various tiers of payment make it more complicated, but general consensus is that it would be doable but need input from Mr. Kennedy. For now, payment is only by check to Laura Beverly. Bill will put payment info on the FMPA website (Maggie will email it to him) and Maggie will ask Laura's permission to put her contact information on our website.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

Heidi is using the accounting spreadsheet categories that MK has put together.

2 of our memberships were paid on clovergo.

59 minute fundraiser – about ½ came through PayPal and ½ by checks, just fyi.

Treasurer's report ending 9/11/17 was reviewed. Motion to accept the 9/11/17 report was made by Den, seconded by Maggie. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

59 minute fundraiser update: \$12,922.27 per treasurer's report. Need to find out from MK who is the top fundraiser, not who got most pledges but who has had the most actually come in. Some parents have asked. Also unsure when to close out the line item. (Ed. Note: MK later said he plans to keep it open til the end of September).

Den said, re: business advertising, "it's coming, that's all I can say for now".

Disney trip challenges/alternatives: Per Jenny T., who does not have all the information on this, there are just over 50 students verbally committed to the trip (100 needed) and the instrumentation mix is not a good mix for performance. (Ed. Note: later conversation with MK, 53 kids pre-deposit deadline. He planned to email to cancel the trip on Sept. 15).

Savory Sweets

Kickoff: Tues Oct. 3

Due date: Thurs. Oct. 19

Pick up: Thurs. Nov. 16

I was notified last week that the prize structure has changed this year for Savory Sweets. They are now using cash incentives and have eliminated all other prizes (sweet treats, iPad mini, etc). I was given the following information this morning:

We, as a group, will receive:

-1% Cashback

-\$100 Rebate - 1300-1799 units sold

-\$200 Rebate - 1800+ units sold

-Each student that sells 25 units or more will be entered into a Savory Sweets drawing for a trip to

Orlando (this drawing is for all groups that have fundraised with SS this year not just FMPA). The drawing will be held the first week in January.

Input/suggestions on how to use this money for prizes would be appreciated!

Fundraiser begins in less than a month!

Meeting discussion included which kids will be selling this year – will we involve only the 4th graders who are in Voices of Whitaker, but not other 4th graders?

NEW BUSINESS

Homecoming planning – Rebecca reports that the class of '92 is having their 25th reunion during homecoming. Question re: whether FMPA will have a table/presence for memberships during homecoming? Answer: details re: tailgate overall have not been finalized by organizers, per Jenny and April. Once someone hears from organizers they will pass along the info. Rebecca has taken off work early to staff a membership table if we have one. (Ed. Note: we did not have a table at the tailgate, did participate in the parade and did do split the pot – thanks Heidi and Jim Reeb for helping with that)

Homecoming parade, those who volunteered to walk included Tina, April, Sue Connell, Heidi, **Towners** (Jenny volunteered Ric to pass out membership flyers, so Rebecca will make sure Ric gets some!).

Luminaries: Karen Kershner has volunteered to lead this again this year – she needs volunteers and ideally someone who would be willing to take over next year. Sue Connell volunteered to help but cannot take over next year.

Next meeting - Monday October 9, 2017, in the Senior Lounge

Adjournment – motioned by Maggie and seconded by April that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Burton, secretary