

Attendees: Sue Burton, Tina Wuorinen, Marsha Grubbs, Heidi Rice, Amanda Angert, Beth Cahill, Jasmine Smedley, Laura Beverly, Rebecca Page, Steve Stuhlreyer, Laura Carroll, Stefanie Schneider, Brad Delaney, Mike Kennedy, Sam Fronk, Steve Jones, April Bruder, Terri Noe

Secretary's Report – Sue Burton

Reviewed minutes from June 2018, with one typo correction. Motion by Tina to accept minutes, second by Steve Jones. Motion passed.
Correspondence – none

President's Report – April Bruder

April passed around a sign in list on which we all estimated the number of hours we put into volunteering this month. New this year, we will be reporting volunteer time served in our positions so tally those hours and be ready to add those hours to the sign in sheet. **If you cannot be at the meeting please send time served in your board report email.** The secretary will need to compile those hours and send to the school treasurer – as a non-profit, we learned we are supposed to track hours. Also the district has some grants, etc. that require the hours be tracked.

April also challenged us to make personal, natural connections to recruit more music parent supporters. We need to be warm, welcoming, and open so others don't perceive the board as clique-ish. We need more dads and more diversity as a support group.

As usual, by this time our Marching Wildcats are hard at work. I have had the extreme pleasure of seeing great growth already and we're 6 weeks away from our first competition of the year. I am looking forward to seeing the band's continuous improvement and the amazing season that is yet to come. Our orchestra will continue to strengthen and grow under Stephanie's direction with some strong plans in place to help prepare our older groups for another great showing at contest this year. Younger students will begin the year with proper fittings for their instruments. Laura will continue leading our wonderful choirs this year. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing all our students progress this year.

We have increased our budget needs this year and will need all hands on deck as we work to increase our fundraising profits and encourage more volunteers to join in our efforts. Many hands make light work and light work means we have more fun doing it! I'll be encouraging all of us to make more personal connections and invitations no matter the area of focus we serve.

I met with Terri and a couple members of the board of education to update some paper work and information they needed. We had a really nice conversation about how we can best support one another and I am assured we have their full support as always.

Rebecca will have FMPA membership forms at **Monday's** meeting. Be sure to bring your credit cards, checkbooks or cash so you can check off "Join FMPA" on your back to school to do list! :)
Looking forward to another great year of music education!

Amanda moved, and Den seconded, that we approve Rebecca Page as our new communications liason. Motion passed. Rebecca then asked that we please be sure to send content and music news to her, especially in the next two weeks for an early-in-the-year newsletter.

Staff Reports:

Band & Music Dept. – Mike Kennedy

Marching band is off to a great start, lots of parent volunteerism, very successful 59 minute fundraiser spearheaded by FMPA which relieved the staff of responsibilities. The difficult MB show is making good progress, kids are taking it seriously. 45% of MB students are also in sports, and staff is proud of that. MK encourages us to put out the word to **come to a contest!** Most are pretty local this year. Keep encouraging the kids as it will get grueling as the season progresses.

HS Band Liason - Tina Wuorinen

The marching band has been very busy learning music and drill for this year's show "Over the Falls". They have had multiple rehearsals and attended band camp at Camp Crescendo in KY the week of July 15. Thank you to Amanda Angert, April Bruder, Maggie Laird, Bobbie and Peter Sloan, and Dave Traubert who joined me in chaperoning the band. Also, thank you to April Bruder, Matt Gilbert, Jim Reeb, and Paul Parsons for driving the trailers to and from band camp. The band performed a parent preview show for parents and community members on July 27 with a nice crowd. The drum line went out into the community with school staff for the first ever visit to neighborhoods on August 1. On August 16, the band will play pep tunes for the District Staff In Service Day. All the band members have been fitted with uniforms thanks to uniform mom Marsha Grubbs and her helpers. Band parents have stepped up to help by donating snacks and food for meals, helping with dot books, helping with meals, helping with uniforms, and chaperoning the bus for band camp. Thanks to everyone for all of their help and support. There will be plenty of additional opportunities to help throughout the marching band season. This year we will be using "boulders" as props on the field for the band show. April Bruder and I have been working on them with some help from a few other parents. Some of the band art students will be finishing them up before the first performance on August 31. Thank you to the directors and other staff who are working very hard with the students to prepare them for all the upcoming performances.

In addition, Tina has forms for band T-shirts and hoodie sweatshirts for those who are interested.

MS Band Liason – Maggie Laird

I look forward to...serving the FMPA as the middle school band liaison. I have nothing to report for that, but look forward to supporting the music staff in that role.

Orchestra – Stefanie Schneider

Stef has been working on organizing class info & instruments & new 5th graders. First concert is October 11 for grades 6-12.

Orchestra VP – Heidi Rice – no additional report

Choirs & music dept. – Laura Carroll

Choir will perform at the Sunday Nov. 4 Veteran's Day celebration w/Honor Flight visitation (at Whitaker). X Period choir sign ups will go out next week. First concert is October 11 for grades 6-12.

HS/MS Choirs – VP Sue Connell

Elementary Music Staff –

Steve Jones – Steve is starting his 30th year teaching, 20 at FT. He thanked FMPA for the iPad we funded last school year. He uses it as a sound source for concerts, also iTunes and Quaver programming and individual student assessments. Voices of Whitaker will include grades 2 & 3 on M, W, and grades 4 & 5 on T, TH. There will be an AM bus pickup combined w/SOS pickup, activities begin at 8 am.

Heidi Johnson - We are looking forward to an exciting year at Whitaker Elementary! Our new principal, Grant Anderson, lives in Finneytown and has three children in Finneytown Schools. On top of that, he was a band and orchestra teacher in Oak Hills before becoming an administrator!

A few new things: Special Area classes (Music, Art, Media Center, and Gym) will rotate on an A day/B day schedule, so we will see the students more often. Grant has encouraged me to put together more student performances and I will be needing volunteer help--I'll keep you posted. At the request of several parents, we applied to be a ChoralQuest school this year (an after-school choir experience sponsored by the Cincinnati Children's Choir). I just received an email that the names of the schools selected will be announced sometime during the week of August 20. (Ed. Note: FT was chosen as one of the sites!)

Like last year, I will not be attending FMPA meetings on **Monday** evenings due to a teaching conflict (I teach private lessons at Western Hills Music Store). However, if there is anything I can do to help I am willing and able!

Elementary Report – VP's Den & Sandy Tenhundfeld

We are looking forward to continuing as the Elementary liaisons and helping in anyway necessary possible with the music program and FMPA.

There isn't anything to report other than thank you to Rebecca for spear heading the membership table at Brent and Whitaker Open House nights.

Marching Band Uniform Report – Marsha Grubbs

As Tina stated, all of the students have been fitted for their uniforms, and all the alterations have been completed. With the help of Ying Lee Briski and Kat Miller, we have pressed creases in all the trousers to help the students put them on the hangers more easily, but also so they will look crisp as they march. Also, the hats were cleaned with Lysol anti-bacterial wipes by Ying (she did much of the trouser pressing). I still need to assign hats, label the hangers, label the garment bags and raincoats, and label the racks where the uniforms hang. Glenda Esslinger has inventoried the gloves and sent MK an email of what we need to order regarding sizes of fingered and fingerless.

The shoes were ordered (32 pair) and came in but there were some issues with the company sending 6 pairs of the wrong sizes. One student is going to take size 13 instead of the 12.5 but the 5 pairs of size 10 shoes which came instead of 10.5 will have to be sent back. Stephanie is going to take care of this. Also, we threw away all of our odd extra shoes as almost all of them are right feet shoes. We were using them to size the students but Ying is going to purchase a Brannock Device for the band so we can accurately size the students next year.

MK has said that the students will be wearing their summer uniforms (khaki shorts and band t-shirts) for the first home football game on August 31. We are looking to put them in the marching band uniforms on **Sept. 7** for the second home football game. We will need parents before the game to help pass them out as well as after the game to check them over and put them away.

A big thank you to those parents who helped with the fittings and pressing, and a HUGE thank you to Ying who was my right hand man through all of the fittings and work.

Every year I hold my breath hoping everyone will fit into jackets sizes that we have, and I can exhale because, yes, in 2018, they all fit!!

Concert Uniform Report – Amanda Angert

Membership Report – Rebecca Page

We've had 2 memberships/donations for the 2018-19 school year already!

Bill F., I have an updated membership form for you to swap out on the FMPA website. (New form has a "non-member donation" for those who just want to give some money in any amount – ed.) Also, I have questions for you at the meeting about the PaySchools website.

Breakdown:

2 family memberships

2 patron donations

1 alumni membership

Total: \$115.00

1 Kelley Hickey Memorial Orchestra Camp Scholarship Fund

Total: \$25.00

Communication Report – Copied from above President's Report: "Amanda moved, and Den seconded, that we approve Rebecca Page as our new communications liason. Motion passed. Rebecca then asked that we please be sure to send content and music news to her, especially in the next two weeks for an early-in-the-year newsletter." Thank you and welcome to Rebecca in this new additional role!

Website report – Bill Fessler

Private Lessons – Maggie Laird

We have had two teachers do private lessons during the summer with a combined total of 16 students.

I have been busy the past six weeks trying to tie up loose ends and secure unpaid fees before exiting my role as private lessons coordinator. We have five families that have unpaid fees ranging from \$22-\$460. All of these families have been contacted twice by myself and Ric Towner. There will be changes to the private lessons program which I'm sure will be discussed **tonight**. I fully admit my own shortcomings in finances & recordkeeping; if this has hurt the FMPA in anyway, I am truly apologetic. I do think there needs to be some streamlining to make the private lessons program more efficient. I am pleased Kathy Revelle has taken my place and I'm sure will take the program to new places along with support from staff & other members of the board. Thank you all for your continued hard work and sacrifices for the music program. As a parent & board member I truly appreciate it.

School Board representative report – Steve Stuhreyer

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Reeb

Heidi was absent. She did submit an end of fiscal year (June 30, 2018) report which we discussed. There were questions about the 39K expense listing. We decided to wait until the Sept. meeting to fully understand Heidi's explanations and then approve June 30, August 13, and Sept. 10 treasurer's reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Concessions (Reds, Bengals, USBank Arena) fundraising – Westside Scouters is our partner agency. Earn \$65-100 guaranteed, +tips, pay own parking. Students 16 & up can work with a parent. Encourage parents to be trained and volunteer as it's money that comes from outside FT.

59 minute fundraiser report – Amanda Angert

This year we had 72 students participate in the 59 Minute Fundraiser and as of today, 46 students have turned in all of their donations. I have about 7 students who are waiting on 1 or 2 more donations, 10 who are about halfway finished and 9 who have turned in nothing. I will continue to stop in during each rehearsal to encourage students to hand in donations so we can wrap up this fundraiser before moving on to our next.

During the fundraiser, we received about \$14,600 in pledges – which is amazing!! – and I am THRILLED to report that with some donations that came in today, we have received \$14,023.43 thus far!!!!!! Because several students have yet to turn in money and with some people donating more than what was originally thought, I am hopeful that we will exceed our original expectations.

In an effort to encourage students to promptly follow up with friends and family, I offered prizes in the form of gift cards. All students who turned money in by July 27 were entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card of their choice. Because I was so impressed with them, and as an added encouragement to keep going, I added the names of all the students who had turned in money up to this point and drew another name for a \$25 gift card. The student who turned in the most money was also rewarded with a \$50 gift card of their choice.

Thank you to Stefanie Schneider for helping to rework the forms used. Abby & Ben Jeffries & Jaden won cards, as did Lloyd Briski (for raising \$925!) 81% of kids at band camp participated in this fundraiser. Amanda would like to rework the prize structure, perhaps for every 100 raised you get one entry into a drawing for a gift card.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign in and hours reported monthly –

- see President's report above for rationale for this, newly needed.
- We also need to give our mailing & email addresses for Board of Ed purposes.

Budget addition needed - Budget addition needed for new school photocopying policy - We need to supply our own paper for copying (or pay for paper FT district provides), plus \$50/year assessment for the copy center. That yearly assessment may float up or down. Rationale: Public schools can't spend public money for outside organizations so this is an "in kind" donation. April asked Superintendent Noe for clarification of rules for "job exchange" in copy room. We WILL be allowed to come into copy room when Diane is there, to make our own copies. We will need to discuss next meeting about budget addition.

Superintendent report – Terri Noe

Thank you to the marching band drumline participating in the back-to-school bus route. They were a great addition! It was reported on Channel 5.

Harp update: current harp is a 100 yr. old Wurlitzer, cracked and soon to fail. We got a chance to purchase a used pedal harp for \$7,500. Terri will use school funds to buy this pedal harp, then sell the Grand Old Lady Wurlitzer.

Homecoming Tailgate Info – we will have an FMPA table pre-homecoming.

Private lesson changes – brainstorming session. Mike Kennedy and FT Treasurer David Oliverio talked about payment structure issues. It IS ok for parents to pay teachers directly while giving lessons on campus, and that will be the new policy rather than funneling through FMPA, in order to minimize logistics and parents falling way behind on payments. Kathy asked how we will ensure parents are paying for missed lessons, etc. MK and Sam have discussed this, still in process. Larger issue is supervision during lessons. In order to keep lessons going on campus, we MUST have protection policies in place, with someone here at all times to supervise. Sam has friends who videotape lessons – could we livestream? – or camera on Sam/instructor (but instructors don't want their instruction being given away online for free).

MK says in their teaching contract it is negotiated that teachers could get paid to come supervise lessons (not supplemental, but like tutor hours). Teachers are already very busy....

Sam's lesson hours for percussion this fall – T 5-9, W 3-9, F 3-6. After marching band season he adds M 3-9.

Will we lose lesson kids if they need to pay in advance rather than arrears? MK is concerned maybe. Need to keep finding ways to get kids to be able to play in college – need private lessons to get to that skill level.

Marsha's thought - nobody should pay zero for lessons. Need to have some skin in the game.

MK – next year's budget should have scholarships for private lessons – individual, plus keep the ensemble piece of scholarships going.

Last 2 years - \$6,000 for band camp, over half SAID they'd pay and didn't.

April passed out index cards and we brainstormed any ideas to explore about how to provide supervision for lessons.

FYI private lesson prices are all \$22/30 min now. Not legal to have different prices for different kids. Just learned that recently.

Next meeting - Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, 7 pm.

Adjournment – motioned by Den and seconded by Sue that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Burton, secretary