

FGMEA BOARD MINUTES
September 13, 2005

The September meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at the FEA Office in Fairfax. The meeting was called to order **by Charlie Ring, president**. All board positions have been filled, welcome to **Mimi Youkeles, Ways and Means Chair**.

Charles Ring, President

Charlie asked the board members to introduce themselves and then welcomed **Elaine Stanford** from the **Fine Arts Office** as the new **choral/general music resource person**. Several board members asked Elaine questions about her background and how she plans to help general music teachers in the Fine Arts Office. Questions and responses included:

(Charlie Ring, president) Background and philosophy of general music **(Elaine Stanford, Choral/General Music, Fine Arts Office)** has a strong background in choral music and was active in writing general music curriculum prior to coming to Fairfax. She has spent the last 17 years as a high school choral director. She sees General Music teachers in touch with their pyramids and a foundation for the music programs in Fairfax County Public Schools.

(Bev Ogden, Constitution)

Where do you see General Music fitting in the spectrum of the Fine Arts?

(Elaine Stanford) There is a vertical articulation...with Kodaly, Orff. We are on an equal footing and part of a team.

(Nancy Pope, Past-President)

How will you keep the balance of chorus and General Music in the Fine Arts Office?

(Stan Schoonover, Music Specialist, Fine Arts Office) Elaine Stanford **(Resource Teacher)** will have a dual role between high school choral and General Music. Jennifer Himes, **(Resource Teacher)** will cover the responsibilities for the Virginia Opera and National Symphony Orchestra. Stan Schoonover, **(Music Specialist)** wears many hats.

(Joy Petty, Vice-President)

What kind of curriculum writing have you done for General Music?

(Elaine) wrote curriculum for General Music in Texas.

(Loretta Schmitt, Secretary) With the diminishing General music program (due to pullouts from strings and band), are the middle and high school choral people aware of the impact this will have on their programs since General Music Teachers are the itinerants for chorus?

Elaine was not aware of the situation. Elaine made a note to check on this.

(Debbie Key, Treasurer) As we are evaluated, are we responsible for all the standards in the POS when many of us see our students 50% of the time due to pullouts for strings and band? **(Adam Martinelli, Public Relations), voiced concerns as well on the subject of pullouts from General Music. Adam stated, “This is tragic.”**

Stan Schoonover (Music Specialist, Fine Arts Office): “The Fine Arts Office wants no pullouts.”

(Charles Ring, President) With the reconfiguration of the Fine Arts office, with three art resource teachers, and two instrumental resource teachers, do you foresee the general music position being restored?

Stan responded that Roger Tomhave, (Coordinator for the Fine Arts Office), is encumbered to no discipline. Stan does not see the general music position being restored at this time.

SECRETARY, Debbie Key

The June minutes were read by Debbie Key, acting secretary, and were approved as corrected.

Report of FGMEA Executive Officers Meeting with FEA

Charlie shared a report that was presented to **FEA** by the executive officers of **FGMEA**. The report contains concerns that have been and continue to face General Music Teachers. **(A hard copy of the report will be sent to every General Music Teacher in the county with a cover letter from Charlie.)** Charlie read the document that was presented to **FEA**.

Ken Reinshuttle, FEA Executive Director

- FGMEA concerns are very well articulated
- General Music Teachers have legitimate concerns
- There is a convergence of factors
 1. **block scheduling, principals are inexperienced in quality scheduling**
 2. **Core subjects are evaluated through SOLs**
 3. **Resources placed on teachers to produce outcomes**

Possible Issues and Resolutions include:

- Lengthen contractual workday
- Easy to see erosion of the General Music Program
- Dr. Dale adding leadership positions for 11 or 12 month contracts (at the cost of \$13 million)
- Leadership positions i.e. music, art need extra time
- There has been an increase of 25,000 in the FCPS student population while General Music positions have remained the same.
- Ken will ask Roger for copies of schedules.
- Ken doesn't see problem as a Fine Arts issue.
- Need to contact School Board to see how important the General Music program is to county.
- General Music is not the only group with problems.
- We are at war with other entities and pullouts. We are fighting for the same resources.
- Issue with cramming; the school system doesn't know when to stop.
- We are correct in identifying the problem.
- **FEA** needs to preserve the General Music program in a way that can be meaningful to the children.
- The average teacher in FCPS has 6 years of experience opposed to the 20 years of experience in the 1980s.

Summary

- Collect data from the Fine Arts Office
- Begin a dialogue with the School Board
- Where does General Music fit with strings and band?
- Contact **Ann Monday, (Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services); Brad Drager, (Deputy Superintendent); and Jack Dale Fairfax County superintendent**
- It's a tough issue

After this presentation **Stan Schoonover (Music Specialist, Fine Arts Office)** stated the following

- **FAO** has advocated for General Music over the past 7 years
- Instructional Services is the "hold up". **FAO** was able to **include** chorus in the regulations. For several in leadership roles, the thought process has been "music is music is music."
- Fine Arts will help to get better regulations regarding chorus

Joy Petty, Vice-President's Report

Joy has currently received 50 surveys from the General Music Teachers. We are short 190 surveys. Joy will email the General Music Teachers with an attachment on Friday, September 16, 2005.

TREASURER (Debbie Key)

Debbie Key, treasurer, reported that:

- The ending balance on August 31, 2005
 - **\$10,132.66,**
 - **\$1,950.00** in deposits from membership
 - **\$135.55** in withdrawals;
- An ending balance on September 13, 2005 was
 - **\$11,947.11.**

ALL COUNTY-CHORAL FESTIVAL, (Wendy Peterson and Heather Young, Choral Festival Chairs)

- Music committee has met twice.
- The clinician Janet Galvan wanted to select the entire program
- Wendy has been in discussion frequently with Dr. Galvan.

Site Rehearsals for Choral Festival

- All sites for area rehearsals have been secured with the exception of one location.
- Due to the modified schedule, the April 3, 2006 date **has been changed to Monday, April 17, 2006.** Please mark your calendars now with that correction
- **(Stan Schoonover, Music Specialist, Fine Arts)** will inform the band and strings teachers of our rehearsal dates since there were so many conflicts last year.
- The reading session for Choral Festival will be held at **Oak Hill, Monday, November 7, 2005 from 9:00 A. M.-11:30A. M.** This is a teacher workday for the schools on a traditional school calendar.
- There is a sub code for the modified calendar. **Teachers on a modified school calendar should contact Stan Schoonover in the Fine Arts Office.**

Membership Jihana Charlton

Jihana reported that we have 132 members currently.

Bev Ogden (Constitution) moved that we charge first year teachers \$5.00 and reimburse the new teachers who paid the \$15.00 for membership \$10.00. **Marti Pittman (New Teacher Chair)** seconded the motion.

Bev amended her motion to state: I move that the membership fee for first- year teachers be reduced to \$5.00 the first year beginning in 2006. It was seconded by Wendy Peterson. **The motion was approved.**

In-Service (Mary Woods)

- The in-service will be held on **Monday, October 3, 2005, 2:15-4:30 P. M. at Kings Glen Elementary School Gym**
- West Music will have collections of materials presented on site. Bring your money to purchase.
- Mary will send another flyer with directions to the school.
- Participants are asked to bring a hand drum and recorder.
- Mary asked if there is anyone on the board who would be willing to serve on the **FEA Communications Committee to meet with Dr. Dale.**

NEWSLETTER (Carla Okouchi)

Carla shared information of how we could make our newsletter more professional. Carla suggests that we move to a pamphlet format. The cost ranges from:

- 250 pamphlets in Black and White, \$325.00
- 250 pamphlets in color is \$388.00 if we provide the paper
- Further discussion will take place at the October board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- All **FGMEA** lanyards and water bottles are gone!
- Linda White and Lucinda Sexton would like to share information regarding All State Chorus for fifth grade students at the next board meeting.
- The board is complete...Mimi Youkeles will serve as our Ways and Means Chair.
- The next meeting of FGMEA will be Tuesday, October, 11, 2005 at the **FEA** building.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Schmitt, secretary