

FGMEA BOARD MINUTES

October 11, 2005

The October meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at the FEA Office in Fairfax. The meeting was called to order by **Charlie Ring, President**. Board members in attendance were: Charles Ring, Nancy Pope, Joy Petty, Loretta Schmitt, Debbie Key, Carolyn Dorey, Camille Brady, Cindy Noble, Wendy Peterson, Heather Young, Michael Utell, Carla Okouchi, Bev Ogden, Mimi Youkeles, Cynthia Carlton and Elaine Stanford.

Loretta Schmitt, Secretary read the minutes from the September 13, 2005 meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Elaine Stanford, Fine Arts Office Elaine is in the process of gathering schedules. (**Stan Schoonover, music specialist**) is working on General Music equipment needs.

- **Stan** is working on additional equipment for laptops, i.e. microphones for assessments, with a priority of software for the laptops.
- Stereo equipment with double cassette, CD, speakers are on Stan's agenda as well.
- **Joy Petty (Vice-President)** indicated that she did not have a laptop as a full time teacher. Part-time General Music teachers do not have laptops either. (Elaine Stanford, Fine Arts) will check on this concern.
- (**Charlie Ring, President**) will forward to Elaine the email he received from the head of technology indicating that all full time General Music teachers would have laptops this school year. Charlie also indicated to Elaine that there are many teachers "out there" that have old boom boxes and that there is a need for general music equipment and risers. Schools should be assessed for need of equipment.
(**Charlie Ring, President**) inquired about the **NSO** packets. (**Elaine Stanford Fine Arts**) stated that (**Jennifer Himes, Music Resource**) will be sending out the National Symphony Orchestra information on Friday, October 14, 2005.
- Elaine reported we have many applications for choral festival. She will send the list to (**Wendy Peterson, choral festival chair**) by Thursday, October 13, 2005.

Charles Ring, President

- Charlie thanked (**Joyce Stephansky, clinician**) for the wonderful inservice on Monday, October 3, 2005. He thanked (**Mary Woods, Inservice Chair**) for her organization in planning the inservice. Charlie also thanked (**Elaine Stanford, Fine Arts Office**) for all of her help in making the appropriate arrangements.
- Charlie shared that (**Adam Martinelli, Public Relations**) will serve as

- a representative to the **FEA Communications Team**.
- **(Susan Gray, Forest Edge, General Music teacher)** will be retiring this December after 30 + years of service to FCPS. **Congratulations Susan!**
 - **(Linda White, General Music teacher)** is on a **Fulbright Scholarship** to the **Ukraine. Congratulations Linda!**
 - Charlie sent a copy of the FGMEA-FEA report to the General Music teachers on September 18, 2005.
 - Copies of the **FGMEA** newsletter were sent to all principals, assistant superintendents, school board members, Dr. Dale and the Fine Arts Office.

Charles Ring, President FEA Update

- **Charlie** has spoken with **Rick Baumgartner, President FEA**.
- **Rick** indicated general music is not the problem. It is greater than music. There are currently issues less controversial than general music.
- **Kindergarten met with Ken Reinshuttle, (Executive Director of FEA) and Ann Monday (Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services) on September 30, 2005.**
- General Music Teachers need to proceed carefully. We are outnumbered by classroom teachers and could receive a serious backlash from the classroom teachers...an outcry from them over fragmentation.
- **FEA** is not ignoring **FGMEA**. **FEA** is getting a “lay of the land.”
- Charlie shared with Rick that General Music is not the fragmentation, it is **strings and band pull outs**.
- Rick suggested that FGMEA have a group of teachers to meet at the REP Assembly, the 3rd Wednesday of each month and possibly present at the **FEA Board of Directors**.
- **Rick** spoke with **Ann Rodriguez (Fine Arts rep)** concerning General music issues.
- **Ken** presented to the **Assistant Superintendent** of Human Resources and clearly articulated the concerns of FGMEA.
- **FGMEA** will at some point be on the agenda and our concerns will be discussed at the superintendent level.
- **Mike Utell (Resource Chair)** asked for clarification of who Ann Rodriguez is. Mike stated, “We need a General Music Teacher as a representative.”
- One of the jobs of the Vice-President is to attend the **FEA** rep meetings, third Wednesday of each month.

Charles Ring, FGMEA ACTION COMMITTEE

- The Action Committee is comprised of the executive officers and five past-

- presidents and of FGMEA. This committee met on Monday October 3, 2005.
- The committee is in the process of compiling scheduling data and documentation on our issues of concern. Once this is compiled, it will be made into a report.
 - The Action Committee would like to meet with Roger Tomhave, Fine Arts Coordinator to discuss the report.
 - We are in need of someone to give the data, graphs etc. a professional look.
 - Charlie thanked **(Bev Ogden Constitution)** for preparing a General Music historical timeline.
 - Charlie has linked with the Fairfax County Choral Directors Association (FCCDA)
 - Charlie sent an Email to **(Jennifer Penserga, President, FCCDA)** regarding the wording of the elementary chorus regulation 3340 and various other elementary chorus scenarios.
 - The Email stressed the potential impact this could have on the middle and high school choral program.

Loretta Schmitt, Secretary

- Loretta asked Cluster Chairs to create a distribution list of FGMEA members for their clusters only
- Please disseminate minutes in a timely fashion
- Introduce yourself
- Let your cluster know you are the liaison with the organization
- Let the members in your cluster know you are the individual to ask questions...you will try to find the answer if you don't have a solution or answer to the question you probably know who to go to for the answer.
- Ask members in your cluster to inform you of
 - awards or honors
 - marriages
 - births
 - illnesses
 - deaths in immediate family
 - We want to support one another as a General Music community since we are all so isolated

Joy Petty, Vice-President

Joy has received 149 surveys
96 General Music teachers have not responded

- **Some survey scenarios include:**
 - Two General Music teachers share 12 different classes
 - One teacher has 4 autism classes with no Air Conditioning in her

room

- One teacher is being asked to teach 1395 (above the max of 1360)
- Teachers with block scheduling and 36 students per class
- In some schools all fifth and sixth grade students are required to be in chorus. Chorus counts as one of their General Music classes.
- There are 123 students at one school who receive no General Music instruction.
- People who don't understand the General Music program are creating schedules. General Music teachers need to be included on the committee that creates the master schedule (Music/PE)
- Many administrators are creating the schedules and in some cases the reading teacher is developing the Music/PE schedule.
- Three schools have no chorus during the school day.

Debbie Key, Treasurer

Debbie Key, treasurer reported that:

- The ending balance on October 11, 2005
 - \$11,686.27
 - \$570.00 deposits from membership
 - \$830.84 withdrawals

MOTION

Debbie Key moved that we lower dues in 2006-2007 for part-time teachers.
Wendy Peterson seconded the motion.
After discussion, Bev Ogden called for the question.

The motion failed.

Charlie Ring, President, reporting for Jihanna Charlton for Membership

We have 170 members in FGMEA.
This is a record high.
A hard copy of the FGMEA membership roster will only be sent to members.

Wendy Peterson and Heather Young, All-County Choral Festival Chairs

Site Rehearsals for Choral Festival

- All sites for area rehearsals have been secured and are the same locations as 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.**
 - The biggest change is that the voicing will include Soprano I, Soprano II high, Soprano II middle, Alto middle, Alto I low, Alto II to cover all voice parts
 - **There will be a change in the nametag colors required by teachers and students to wear at choral festival.**

Charlie Ring, President, 2005 Choral Festival T-shirt report

- Charlie prepared and shared an extensive report from last year's T-shirt sales from Choral Festival.
- Background information
 - T-shirts have been sold during Choral Festival for \$8.00 per shirt
 - T-shirts cost FGMEA \$6.95 per shirt
 - Profit margin =\$1.05 per shirt
- Last year's 2005 T-shirt Sales
 - \$2,861.00 sales of T-shirts (approximately 377 @ \$8.00 each)
 - \$5,768.00 cost of T-shirts (830 @ \$6.95 each)
 - \$2,907.50 net loss

88 T-shirts are unaccounted for

We have 385 T-shirts remaining in inventory:

- Small-149
- Medium-78
- Large-99
- X-Large -59

RECONCILIATION OF T-SHIRT INVENTORY

830 T-shirts purchased
(357) T-shirts sold
(88) T-shirts unaccounted for
385 T-shirts remaining in inventory

MOTION

Loretta Schmitt moved that we do not purchase any additional T-shirts until the ones in stock are gone.

Wendy Peterson seconded the motion.

The motion passed

MOTION

Wendy Peterson moved that all T-shirts be sold at Choral Festival on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Mike Utell seconded the motion.

The motion passed

MOTION

Heather Young moved that T-shirts be priced at \$10.00 per shirt. Camille Brady seconded the motion.

The motion passed

Heather Young wanted to know what the prerequisites are for selecting a choral festival chair and possible clinicians for 2007. Bev Ogden suggested that we table this discussion until the November board meeting.

Charles Ring reporting for Mary Woods, Inservice Chair

- 120 attended the inservice on October 3, 2005
- Inservice ideas and clinician suggestions are needed for next year.

Mike Utell, Resource Chair

Mike would like to get General Music teachers familiar with blackboard

- There are many things to post once you have included all the data in your site
- It's very accessible to everyone
- Discussion ensued regarding the FGMEA website. It is not running; however Charlie's personal credit card is getting billed.
- Mike is creating a list for his parents to articulate what they can do with their child to make them more musical
- Mike would like a list of piano/guitar teachers by area
- It was suggested that we include a list of local area choruses for children to participate.

Carla Okouchi, Newsletter

- Carla would like to have any articles submitted no later than
- December 8, 2005 for the January, 2006 Newsletter
- Due to the limited time, Carla's report was tabled until the November board meeting.

Cynthia Carlton, Grant

- Submit grants no later than November 1, 2005 to Julie Derges
- Readers for the submitted grants will read in the Oak Hill library after the

choral festival read through, November 7, 2005

Lucinda Sexton, NEW BUSINESS

- All are invited to join MENC @Menc.org
- Cost is \$94.00
- VMEA conference is in Norfolk, Virginia, November 17, 2005
- The big news is an All Virginia Elementary chorus for fifth grade only to be held April 1, 2006 in Chesterfield, Virginia.
- A VMEA/VEMEA professional development grant is being offered to elementary general music teachers in the state of Virginia.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Schmitt, secretary