

## **FGMEA BOARD MINUTES**

### **June 13, 2006**

The June meeting of the **FGMEA Board** was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 in the home of Jessica Stowe in Fairfax. The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ring, president, with the following members in attendance: Camille Brady (cluster chair), Rebecca Diehl (social), Debbie Key (treasurer), Christian King (grant), Bev Ogden (constitution), Carla Okouchi (newsletter), Wendy Peterson (cluster chair), Joy Petty (vice-president), Marti Pittman (new teacher), Nancy Pope (past president), Jessica Stowe (social), Michael Utell (resource), Timothy Whiting (social), Mary Woods (in-service), and Mimi Youkeles (ways & means).

### **Charles Ring, President**

Charlie asked Mimi Youkeles, Ways & Means, to present her report on All-County Choral Festival T-shirt Sales. Mimi reported that 403 shirts were sold at \$10 per shirt. Discussion about sales for next year included:

- having the supply meet the demand
- providing pre-orders
- selecting vendors

The decision was made to revisit **ACCF** t-shirt sales in the fall.

Charlie extended gratitude to the entire FGMEA Board for all their hard work, service, and dedication to the association this year. He said, "You are true champions of general music in FCPS." Charlie provided copies of "The Year in Review" which outlined the many achievements made by FGMEA this school year.

Charlie introduced and welcomed the new Board members for next year.

- Grant Committee: Christian King (Forestville)
- Social Committee: Rachel Grimsby (Aldrin), Diane Stevens (London Towne), and Tim Whiting (Lake Anne)

Charlie thanked Jessica Stowe for hosting the final Board meeting in her home. He said, "It's nice to get out of the Board room for a change."

Charlie thanked and congratulated Wendy Peterson, Heather Young, and Elaine Stanford for an outstanding Choral Festival this year.

Charlie expressed congratulations to the following:

- Heather Young, who will be opening the brand new elementary school, Eagle View, in Cluster 7 next year.
- Michael Utell (Cherry Run), who will be marrying Vanessa Northouse (General Music teacher at Mantua ES) on July 22.
- Carla Okouchi (Hayfield), who got engaged over Memorial Day weekend.
- Susan Kraft (Greenbriar East), who is expecting a baby!

- Charlie also expressed congratulations and a fond farewell to Penny and John Farris (Fine Arts Library). Charlie informed the Board that Penny and John will be retiring. He asked the Board to think of ways to recognize Penny and John for their many years of service.

Charlie extended congratulations to all our General Music Retirees this year. They are:

- Dale Cross (Spring Hill)
- Susan Gray (Forest Edge)
- Diana Kristof (Hutchison)
- Lavinia Odejimi (Mount Vernon Woods)
- Nancy Willis (Great Falls)
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To honor our retirees, FGMEA has purchased a DVD set, “Meet the Musicians,” for the Fine Arts Library. The DVD set includes the composers Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Joplin, and Gershwin.

Charlie reported that he had appointed a committee of teachers to meet with Penny Farris to read through and select elementary choral pieces for the Fine Arts Library. The committee includes: Karen Dosch, Jihanna Charlton, Marianne Palastro, Rachel Grimsby, Christine Mongiello, Caroline Desmond, and Linda White. The committee met at the Fine Arts Library on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie relayed to the Board that he and Joy Petty, Vice-President, along with Roger Tomhave (Fine Arts Coordinator), Liz Payne (PE Coordinator), and Mary Ann Ryan (Head of Elementary Instruction) met with Ann Monday (Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services) on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Charlie informed the Board that the revisions to the regulations were not approved. Mrs. Monday pointed out that because the County is driven by SOL test scores, the revisions didn’t allow each school’s principal the flexibility in scheduling to teach the SOL curriculum. The revised regulations were too specific. **FGMEA** concerns were stated as follows:

- Fragmentation of the General Music program
- Block scheduling
- Elementary chorus

**Charlie said that Mrs. Monday planned to present our concerns to the Academic Learning Group. Charlie said that he provided Mrs. Monday with a copy of our FGMEA Report of Issues & Recommendations and Survey Results.**

**Charlie informed the Board that on June 5<sup>th</sup> he received an email from Ann Monday which included the following information: Copies of the current Reg. 3218.1 were distributed at the Academic Learning**

**Group (ALG) meeting and expectations around the use of time as described in the regulation were emphasized. It was proposed that during the next year Instructional Services Department host a series of focus group meetings to identify critical issues related to elementary schedules. ALG members support this proposal. Charlie sent an email to Roger Tomhave asking if a general music teacher would be included in the focus group. Roger responded yes.**

Following Charlie's report, Mary Woods (in-service) moved that we send copies of our FGMEA Report of Issues & Recommendations and Survey Results to Cluster Superintendents. Michael Utell (resource) seconded the motion. Following discussion which included that a cover letter be written by Charlie and that the report be sent as soon as possible, Mary amended her motion to state: I move that this document include a cover letter by Charlie. Michael Utell seconded. After discussion, it was decided that the document would be sent by June 19<sup>th</sup>. The amended motion carried.

**Charlie stated that Roger had conveyed to him that Ann Monday was not aware that 18% of schools that responded to survey were not offering Chorus. Charlie said this information concerning Mrs. Monday's response is encouraging.**

**Charlie concluded his report with information about next year's FGMEA Executive Board meetings. Although seven meetings will be held at the FEA Office in Fairfax City, only three of the meetings will be held in the Board Room. The remainder will be held downstairs in the FEA Office due to a committee of FEA requesting use of the Board Room. FEA committees have meeting room preference over departments of FEA. (FGMEA is considered to be a "department" of FEA, not a committee.)**

### **Joy Petty, Vice-President's Report**

One of the General Music teachers in Fairfax County wishes to give a \$500 scholarship to be awarded during the 2006-07 school year.

The money is to be used for any elementary aged student who would benefit from private instrument lessons, music instruction outside the normal school offerings, private dance or singing lessons, and who does not have the financial means to do so. It would also be appropriate to spend the money for the purchase of an instrument for the student or a better instrument so he/she might continue music in life; other music or dance supplies; or so that a student could attend a music summer camp.

If two or three students have needs that could be met by dividing the scholarship money that would also be satisfactory. This teacher also encourages FGMEA to

check with George Mason University, Music Link, (an independent group set up to help needy children) the Arlington Levine Music School, or other organizations who possibly will match the funds contributed.

This scholarship money will be given anonymously to FGMEA with the express purpose of that organization presenting it to a worthy student, or students, meeting the above guidelines. This money is being provided out of love of music and of teaching and to bring attention to the many contributions General Music teachers in Fairfax County make to students throughout their careers.

While this is a one time scholarship, the teacher will consider each year individually with the possibility of continuing it.

“I do not wish to be acknowledged for this contribution. Filling a need is so rewarding for us all – as well as to the students we touch.”

### **TREASURER (Debbie Key)**

- The ending balance on May 5, 2006 was **\$9,861.98**
  - **\$13,871** in deposits from CD sales, t-shirt sales, and petty cash returns
  - **\$779.82** in withdrawals;
- The ending balance on June 13, 2006 was **\$22,953.16**.

Debbie requested that in the future, when people wish to be reimbursed for FGMEA related purchases, that in addition to providing receipts, their receipts should contain reimbursement items only.

### **In-Service (Mary Woods)**

Mary Woods, in-service, suggested some ideas for in-services next year. Elaine Stanford (Fine Arts Office) said that she has asked for publishers to come to our fall in-service (August 30<sup>th</sup>) and she said that Hal-Leonard might send John Jacobsen. Also, Elaine suggested that we have an in-service with all High School Choral, Middle School Choral, and Elementary General Music teachers who could break into Pyramid groups. Discussion followed about pyramid concerts and pyramid auditions.

### **MOTION**

Mary moved that we make our Monday, October 2, 2006 in-service about development of pyramid relationships. Discussion included a suggested time frame of 3:00 to 4:30 for the in-service. Ideas for an in-service about pyramid relationships included:

- providing several models of how pyramids work

- inviting representatives from different levels (High School, Middle School, and Elementary School) to share information

### **MOTION**

Mary restated her motion: I move that we dedicate our October in-service to pyramid relationships' building with Elementary, Middle School, and High School Choral teachers on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 at Kings Glen. Nancy Pope, past president, seconded the motion. Elaine agreed to act as liaison with Mary and other teachers who could participate in presenting the in-service.

### **MOTION PASSED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Marti Pittman, New Teacher Chair, announced that Eric Sennett will resign as New Teacher Mentor Coordinator. Camille Haberland will take his place.
- A question was asked and a discussion followed about funding for the payment of accompanists for elementary choruses.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Key