

FGMEA BOARD MINUTES

September 12, 2006

The September meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at the FEA building. The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ring, president, with the following members in attendance: Joy Petty (vice-president), Rachel Grimsby (social), Wendy Peterson (cluster chair), Christian King (grant), Carolyn Dorey (cluster chair), Mary Woods (in-service), Tim Whiting (social and resource), Jeanette Essig (FAO), Heather Young (ACCF), Mimi Youkeles (ways and means), Carla Okouchi (ACCF and newsletter), Michael Utell (resource), Diane Stevens (social), Debbie Key (treasurer), Bev Ogden (constitution), and Camille Brady (cluster chair).

Charlie Ring, President

Charlie welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the year. He extended get well wishes to secretary Loretta Schmitt, who fell and broke her foot on the first day back to school and will be out for an undetermined amount of time. Joy Petty will be taking minutes until Loretta's return. He announced and welcomed the new Board members:

Rachel Grimsby (social)
Diane Stevens (social)
Tim Whiting (social and resource)
Christian King (grant)

He also extended a welcome and congratulations to Jeanette Essig who will be working part time in the FAO. Elaine Stanford has a class on Tuesday afternoons and Jeannette will be attending the Board meetings. He also stated, "FGMEA is extremely pleased to see the addition of Jeanette's position to the Fine Arts Office."

Charlie gave the following recognitions and thanks:

- Elaine Stanford and the FAO for providing us with a rewarding and energizing fall in-service on August 30th. I heard many positive comments. John Jacobson was uplifting and inspirational!
- Carla Okouchi for another outstanding fall FGMEA newsletter.
- Cindy Whalen for her informative newsletter article "Two Generations of Music History in Fairfax County".

- Jihanna Charlton, Debbie Key, Joy Petty, and Bev Ogden for manning our membership table at the in-service.
- Our Socials Chairs Jessica Stowe, Diane Stevens, Rachel Grimsby, and Tim Whiting for providing refreshments at the in-service.
- Our Website Chair and Curator Marianne Tagge for updating the FGMEA website. The website includes the calendar, FGMEA Board, Mini Grant Application, Membership form, and last year's survey results. Check it out at fgmea.org!
- Marti Pittman our New Teacher Chair for putting together 30 "goodie bags" to welcome our new teachers.

Charlie offered congratulations to Patrick Ware (Hunters Woods) and Joyce Stephansky (Wakefield Forest) Patrick and Joyce will be presenting at the American Orff-Schulwerk Association National Conference, November 8-11 in Omaha, Nebraska. Patrick's presentation is titled "Moving Through the K-6 Curriculum" and Joyce's presentation is titled "Planting the Seeds of Improvisation".

Charlie encouraged members to become involved by sharing their thoughts, ideas, concerns, and proposals with their Cluster Chairs:

- *Carolyn Dorey (Wolftrap ES): Clusters 1 & 2*
- *Camille Brady (Oak Hill ES): Clusters 3 & 4*
- *Cindy Noble (Poplar Tree ES): Clusters 5 & 6*
- *Wendy Peterson (Oak Hill ES): Clusters 7 & 8*

Membership involvement keeps our Board active and strong.

He asked members to let the Fine Arts Office know if there are students at your school who are not receiving General Music instruction or if chorus is not being offered during regular school hours. He will document instances where the regulations are not being followed.

Charlie shared other projects he worked on this summer:

1. Updated and distributed a tri-fold pamphlet about FGMEA.
2. Worked on organizing the FGMEA Archives. It's still a "work in progress". The FGMEA Archives will be housed at the Fine Arts Library.

3. Met with Beth Pontiff at MENC this summer to share last year's Report and Survey Results with MENC after noticing that MENC was inquiring about scheduling. He looked into FGMEA affiliation with MENC. Unfortunately we need 500 members to have affiliation status.
4. He attended a Chantilly Pyramid Concert meeting on September 1st. Several elementary general music teachers shared their schools were implementing block scheduling this year. They said the FAO presented block scheduling at a recent principal's meeting. Charlie called Stan Schoonover to verify this information. Stan said the FAO assists principals in scheduling. Charlie requested that those who have successful scheduling models at their school to send them to him and he will pass them on to Tamra Ferreira at the FAO.
5. Charlie sent Roger an email requesting information regarding when and where the Elementary Scheduling Focus Groups will meet. Roger said nothing had been scheduled yet but he will make sure music, art and PE teachers are represented.

Joy Petty, Vice President

Joy reminded the Board of the anonymous grant money that has been given to FGMEA and made the following motion:

“I would like to move that the current Grant Committee and I review the applications and make the decision for the awarding of the anonymous grant to a General Music students or students who meet the criteria that has been set up by the donor of the monies.”

After explaining the deadline would be the end of January (end of second quarter), **Wendy Peterson** seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Jeanette Essig, FAO

Jeanette said the new Fine Arts calendar can be found in the General Music folder. She also said the NSO CDs will be mailed to each school Wednesday. She spoke about scheduling and asked General Music teachers to contact the FAO if they are teaching more than 1360 minutes a week saying the FAO can't help if they don't know about problems. **Charlie** requested that General Music teachers send their schedules to the FAO, to be kept on file. **Jeanette** said that Mary Ann Ryan (Director of Elementary Instruction) would be coordinating the Elementary Scheduling Focus Groups

and that members would be decided and announced at a later date. She also reminded the Board of the workshop at the Strathmore. Jeanette said that at the High School In-service it was announced the Fine Arts Library has been renamed the *Farris Fine Arts Library* in honor of John and Penny Farris and their many years of service.

Committee Chair reports

Membership: Charlie reported 142 FGMEA members so far. He announced that Roger Tomhave (Fine Arts Coordinator) has joined FGMEA. He stressed it is not too late to join. Membership is \$15 and checks should be sent to Debbie Key at Hollin Meadows. Membership is \$5 for first year teachers.

Choral Festival: Heather said the November in-service Music read through is going to be at Robinson High School. She thanked the Music selection committee for their work and the Fine Arts Library for pulling music to use and ordering the selections that are needed. Heather said one more site is needed for ACCF rehearsals. The question was asked about some schools selecting and bringing additional students to the site rehearsals. Discussion resulted in the decision that alternates may be chosen, but cannot come to site rehearsals. There was discussion on the criteria used for auditions.

In-service: Mary Woods has contacted Ernest Johnson about presenting the process of creating a Pyramid Concert at the October 23rd In-service held at Kings Glen from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Charlie suggested that teachers bring names of music that elementary schools have sung in Pyramid Concerts that have “worked”. It was further suggested that teachers bring the octavos. Rachel Grimsby volunteered to collect the titles of the octavos at the In-service and have a complete list to be handed out. Mary will provide a structured agenda for the Pyramid groups to use for discussion at the In-service.

After discussion it was agreed that Elaine should invite the Middle School and High School Choral Directors to come and then introduce them at the In-service meeting.

Debbie Key said the schools in the West Potomac Pyramid are piloting a program of having a Pyramid Choir that will rehearse on Wednesday

afternoons and perform in January. This program will include students from fifth to eighth grade (ES sending 9 students each and MS sending 18 students each).

Resource: Michael Utell regrettably announced he must withdraw from the FGMEA Board because he is no longer teaching General Music. He is currently teaching elementary band at five schools. He said he has certainly enjoyed his FGMEA Board experience. Charlie thanked Michael for his outstanding service as Resource Chair. Tim Whiting was appointed as the new FGMEA Resource Chair.

Debbie Key, Treasurer

Treasurer's report:

Ending Balance 06/13/06	\$22,953.16
Deposits	2,819.02
Withdrawals	9,423.10
Ending Balance 09/12/06	\$16,349.08

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

Camille Brady moved that a pre-paid \$80 credit card for meals be included in the contract of the ACCF guest director. After discussion on the amount needed, she amended it to state that the card would be for \$100. **Rachel Grimsby** seconded the motion and the amended motion passed.

New Business:

- Bev Ogden (Constitution) explained that she and Dee Piecuch teach the Great Beginnings classes for new General Music teachers. She suggested that to build a closer connection between the Board and new teachers, there be a "shower" for new teachers. Board members would prepare and bring, to the Monday, September 25th Great Beginnings class, 20 copies of a music lesson that has worked. During a break from the class, the Board could socialize and get to know the new teachers and give them the lesson plans.

- Diane Stevens asked if that any General Music teachers interested in ordering the *Music Express* magazine and receiving the County discount contact her at London Towne ES.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 10th at 4:30 in the downstairs conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Petty