

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes October 9, 2007

The October meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at the FEA Office in Fairfax.

I. Call to Order

Joy Petty, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Board members in attendance were: **Joy Petty, Wendy Peterson, Rob Stansbery, Charlie Ring, Debbie Key, Lesley Lindell, Connie Higgins, Christian King, Bev Ogden, Betsy Nerdahl, Mary Woods, Jeanette Essig, Carla Okouchi, Vanessa Utell, Carolyn Dorey, Angie Collins, and Rachael Goldman.**

II. President's Report: Joy Petty

Joy thanked the Board members for responding with corrections and additions to the minutes from the September Board meeting. The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved as corrected.

Board members who had notified President they would not be attending the Board meeting are: **Rachel Grimsby, Gayla Kobialka, Diane Stevens, Cynthia Carlton, Cindy Noble and Jacquie Yoerges.** Joy asked, as a professional courtesy, that Board members to email her if they will be missing a Board meeting.

Joy has respectfully accepted the resignation of **Jessica Stowe** as Secretary of FGMEA. In accordance with the FGMEA by-laws Joy will appoint someone to this position soon. **Rob Stansbery** will be taking the minutes for the October Board meeting, and typing them for distribution.

Joy read letters of gratitude from **Lucinda Sexton** (Daniels Run ES) and the student recipient of last year's scholarship monies.

Joy thanked the Board members who participated in the "shower" for new teachers held on Monday, October 1. Seven Board members participated in the shower, and three additional members sent lessons to share. Joy expressed a desire to see further participation in this event in the future as a way of welcoming new teachers and helping them get started in their career. **Bev Ogden** expressed the gratitude of the teachers in the Great Beginnings Program for the shower.

Lesley Lindell (formerly Scherrer) will be sending birthday cards via e-mail to FGMEA members on behalf of FGMEA. **Betsy Nerdahl** has prepared a membership list with birthdays to assist Lesley. August, September, and October birthday wishes will be sent as soon as possible; July birthday wishes will be sent in June.

The Board has already sent several get well cards and notes of sympathy this year. Joy requested that Cluster Chairs ask teachers in their clusters for news of significant events. The Board will send cards as needed.

III. Fine Arts Office Report: Jeanette Essig

Training sessions have begun for the teachers at schools piloting the 6th Grade Assessment. The pilot for the assessment has been extended to two academic years. The assessment will begin county-wide implementation in the 2009-2010 academic year. The Fine Arts Office has greatly appreciated the input of the teachers who are piloting the assessment. Two assessments (“Connect” and “Create”), one per semester, will be piloted during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Concerns about ATEC continue to come to the attention of the Fine Arts Office. Jeanette asked that general music teachers contact her with further concerns about instruments not being picked up or returned to schools in a timely fashion. Jeanette suggested that teachers send only a few instruments at a time for repairs; this will ensure that a school is not without too many instruments at one time. Jeanette shared a concern from ATEC about certain features of 2000 and later models of Studio 49 instruments; ATEC asked that teachers inform Studio 49 of any problems, that they might make appropriate corrections to future instruments. Jeanette reiterated the proper procedure for getting instruments to ATEC: contact ATEC; fill out repair form (found on Blackboard); take the instrument(s) to the middle or high school band teacher; and then remain in contact with that teacher about the return of the instrument to the middle or high school.

Deen Entsminger has completed the work commissioned by FGMEA for All County Choral Festival, and it has gone to the publisher. Jeanette spoke about the beauty of the piece and assured the Board that teachers will be pleased with it. The printed work will include some information about the song’s origin and commission by FGMEA. The cost of commissioning the work was \$3000, \$1,500 of which came from the Fine Arts Office and \$1,500 of which came from FGMEA. FGMEA has no official rights to the music and will have to purchase the printed copies of the work for Festival; the purchase price totaling \$478. The Fine Arts Office routinely pays up to \$4,999 towards the purchase of Choral Festival music.

IV. Treasurer’s Report: Debbie Key

Debbie distributed the Treasurer’s Report to the Board. The balance forwarded from the September report was **\$18,008.15**. Deposits and credits totaling **\$360.00**, and withdrawals and debits totaling **\$351.39** resulted in an ending balance on October 9, 2007 of **\$18,016.76**.

A. Expenditure Form

Debbie distributed a revised Expenditure Form that she and **Joy Petty** have completed. The revised form includes a line for Petty Cash for such things as

change for the T-shirt and compact disk sales at Choral Festival. Debbie asked that Board members make copies of the Expenditure Form as necessary.

B. CD information

Debbie has researched the possibility of investing some of FGMEA's funds in a Certificate of Deposit. FGMEA is a not-for-profit organization (meaning no individual benefits financially from the organizational monies); FGMEA may invest and draw interest on investments, however, should FGMEA invest in a CD, the organization would have to pay taxes on the interest earned. This would require additional paperwork and bookkeeping for the organization. Based on this information, Debbie recommended that FGMEA not invest in a CD at this time.

V. Committee Chair Reports

A. Membership: Betsy Nerdahl

Betsy reported that, as of October 9, 2007, 166 general music teachers have joined FGMEA for the 2007-2008 academic year. This includes 11 teachers who are new to FCPS. There are **248** general music teachers in **137** elementary schools, [resulting in a FGMEA membership of **55%**.] Membership rosters will be emailed to cluster chairs, who will forward to the members in their cluster. Beginning this month, only FGMEA members will receive the newsletters and Board meeting minutes.

Mary Woods questioned whether all general music teachers know what FGMEA does for its members, and what FGMEA might do to help general music teachers understand the benefits of membership. **Bev Ogden** stated that she would address this issue with the new FCPS general music teachers in the Great Beginnings class.

B. Choral Festival: Carla Okouchi

The All-County Choral Festival information packet has been submitted to the Fine Arts Office, and the recording session for the rehearsal compact disks has been scheduled for Saturday, October 20th. A music-packing session will be November 6th. The music read-through inservice with Dr. Entsminger will be held on November 12th at Hayfield SS. The music will be distributed at that time. The ACCF packet will be distributed prior to the music reading session. The packet will also be available on Blackboard.

Carla asked that teachers pay close attention to the changes in the ACCF packet this year. The rehearsal site sol has been dissolved for this year, and the schools which used to rehearse at that site have been split up among other nearby rehearsal sites. There is no master order form for t-shirt sales in the ACCF packet; this will be forthcoming.

C. Inservice: Mary Woods

A flyer has gone out to general music teachers regarding the fall FGMEA inservice, to be held on Monday, October 29th at Kings Glen Elementary School. **Linda White** and **Lucinda Sexton** are very excited about our clinician, Dr. Soojin Kim Ritterling. Mary asked if FGMEA could provide refreshments; after discussion, it was decided that Mary would assign clusters to certain refreshment categories.

D. Technology/Website: Vanessa Utell

Vanessa has purchased the name www.fgmea.org from godaddy.com for \$9.99 for the year. There will be no charge from the web host. Vanessa is currently designing the website, and asked for help determining what should go on the FGMEA website. The Board determined that many things could go on the website if it was password protected. Vanessa will assign a password which will change annually. Items which could be included on the website are: front page with organization background, calendar, by-laws, history of FGMEA, information on how to join FGMEA, a “members” button to the password-protected pages, and resources.

VI. New business

A. Proposed budget

Debbie Key distributed the proposed budget for the 2007-2008 academic year. The proposed budget is based upon the monies spent from the 2006-2007 year. Debbie asked that Board members on committees to note any differences in proposed and actual expenses, and inform her accordingly. Debbie asked that the Board members carefully watch the proposed budget when spending during the year. **Charlie Ring** noted that the FGMEA account balance has steadily increased over recent years. **Bev Ogden** noted that the proposed budget has no bearing on actual FGMEA holdings; it only deals with income and expenses for this academic year.

MOTION: Mary Woods moved to accept the proposed budget for FGMEA for the 2007-2008 academic year. **Carolyn Dorey** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Grants

Christian King informed the Board that a meeting has been scheduled in early November to review grant applications. As of yet, there are no applications submitted. Christian asked that Board members help spread the word about grants to FGMEA members to encourage them to apply. He placed a notice on the general music conference in September, and will follow up with an e-mail to general music teachers’ personal “in” boxes. **Charlie Ring** spoke of the possibility of helping FGMEA members with VMEA expenses in the future. **Rachael Goldman** suggested using FGMEA monies to support camps or other philanthropic organizations; this item was tabled for discussion at the next FGMEA Board meeting.

C. Scheduling

Carla Okouchi noted that scheduling issues concerning general music classes are still unresolved around the county. Some elementary general music teachers are still working over contract hours, and regulations regarding a minimum of 60 minutes of music per week are not being followed by all administrators. Several members of the Board spoke to the importance of keeping attention on these issues. Carla informed the Board that she has addressed FEA Board on these issues without much positive response. **Charlie Ring** remarked on the lack of uniformity about the regulations around the county. **Wendy Peterson** will draft and send an email to general music teachers regarding general music class time for grades 1 – 6; the question asked will require a yes/no response only. This information will be shared at the November Board meeting.

D. Gift to Fine Arts Library

Charlie Ring has ordered *Bang a Gong* as a resource item for the Fine Arts Library in honor of the 2007 retirees.

VII. Adjournment

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

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Stansbery