

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2007

The November meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday, November 13, 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, Bev Ogden, Mary Woods, Jeanette Essig, Carla Okouchi, Carolyn Dorey, Angie Collins, Gayla Kobialka, Cynthia Carlton, Michael Dennis, Rachel Grimsby, and Rachael Goldman.**

II. President's Report: Joy Petty

Joy has appointed **Rob Stansbery** as FGMEA Secretary. She thanked him for accepting this position. He has agreed to remain as Newsletter Editor also.

Board members who notified Joy that they would not be attending the November Board meeting are: **Christian King, Cindy Noble, Vanessa Utell, Betsy Nerdahl, Diane Stevens, and Jacquie Yoerges.**

Joy reminded cluster chairs to distribute the minutes to FGMEA members as quickly as possible. The goal is to have the minutes distributed within a week of the Tuesday Board meeting. Please include Joy in your distribution list.

Joy announced that there will be no January in-service for general music teachers this year.

Joy thanked **Mary Woods** for hosting the October in-service.

Last year, the FGMEA Board voted to pay the clinician fee of \$500.00, plus travel expenses for the clinician, Dr. Soojin Kim Ritterling. Travel expenses of \$574.42 were paid. (Total: \$1,074.42) This expense was twice the amount budgeted for the fall in-service.

MOTION: When a motion is made that requires payment, you must include all fees and expenses and the total amount. If that information is not included, it will be tabled until the next Board meeting. Motion made by: Bev Ogden. Seconded: Rachel Grimsby. The motion passed unanimously.

For the October in-service, there was confusion regarding fees for which FGMEA was responsible and fees for which FAO was responsible. **Debbie Key** noted that FGMEA

could avoid similar situations in the future if a contract was drafted when fees are agreed upon. **Jeannette Essig** said that the FAO could agree to a written contract as well.

MOTION: When fees are shared, an agreement letter must be submitted by each sponsoring group stating how much each group is to pay.

Motion made by: Debbie Key. Seconded: Rachel Grimsby.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Secretary's Report: Joy Petty

Minutes for the October 9, 2007 FGMEA Executive Board meeting were approved as written.

III. Fine Arts Office Report: Jeanette Essig

Jeannette thanked the Board members and teachers who arranged and assisted with the October in-service. She noted that the in-service was not only fun, but very informative and useful to general music teachers.

Copyright clearances for music have become very difficult in recent years. The FAO has begun obtaining copyright clearances for ACCF music. Copyright issues might lead to a change in the dates and times that ACCF is shown on FCPS Cable Channel 21.

Copyright issues might also lead to future changes in Holiday Spotlight. Jeannette asked FGMEA members to keep these issues in mind.

IV. Vice President's Report: Wendy Peterson

A. Survey

Wendy distributed the results of the October 2007 "Time-to-Teach" Survey. The survey question was sent to all general music teachers with a requested response of one per school. The survey question was asked: "Is every student in your school (grades 1-6) currently receiving at least 60 minutes of general music instruction every week?"

Total number of responses: 130 (of 137 FCPS elementary schools)

Number of **YES** responses: 58

Number of **NO** responses: 72

Conclusion: In 55% of Fairfax County Public Schools, not all students are receiving at least 60 minutes of general music instruction per week.

Charlie Ring noted that a similar survey question was in 2005-2006 where 62% of schools responded, and 21% submitted "NO" responses. It is clear that this problem of students receiving general music less than 60 minutes a week is growing across FCPS. **Jeannette Essig** noted the difficulty of scheduling from the perspective of an elementary band teacher: pullouts are being allowed at a lesser rate due to required language arts and mathematics blocks. **Michael**

Dennis said that the School Board has included Fine Arts as a strategic goal, and School Board members should be made aware of this contradiction.

MOTION: Carla Okouchi will present the 2007 “Time-to-Teach” Survey results to the FEA Communications Team.

Motion made by: Charlie Ring. Seconded: Rachel Grimsby.

The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about alerting Peter Noonan, new Head of Instructional Services to FGMEA concerns about music regulations; and the most recent survey results.

MOTION: FGMEA will meet with Peter Noonan and Instructional Services to discuss past and present concerns with regards to regulation 3218.

Motion made by: Mary Woods. Seconded: Michael Dennis.

The motion passed unanimously.

Joy will contact Roger and discuss with him the most effective way to schedule a meeting with Peter Noonan.

V. Treasurer’s Report : Debbie Key

Debbie distributed the Treasurer’s Report to the Board. The bank account reconciles as it should. The balance forwarded from the October report was **\$18,016.76**. Deposits and credits totaling **\$65.00**, and withdrawals and debits totaling **\$4,248.14** resulted in an ending balance on November 13, 2007 of **\$13,833.62**. Expenditures in this statement included some large-dollar-amount items, such as the commission fee to Deen Entsminger, October in-service expenses, and grant awards to Jennifer Frazier and Donna Bassett.

Joy asked **Carla Okouchi** to contact Deen Entsminger and request that he make travel arrangements for ACCF as soon as possible to ensure the best travel rates available.

VI. Cluster Chair Reports: Rachel Grimsby

FGMEA members in clusters 7 and 8 have e-mailed Rachel regarding difficulties in getting instruments repaired by ATEC. Some instruments have not been returned after six months. ATEC is not adequately returning instruments or communicating with teachers regarding instruments submitted for repairs. **Jeannette Essig** will approach ATEC again about this matter. **Bev Ogden** suggested an in-service for general music teachers about the care and repair of instruments, in order to avoid having to send instruments out for repairs.

FGMEA has an opportunity to bring Orff-Schulwerk consultant Konnie Saliba for an in-service. Ms. Saliba’s fee is \$100.00 per hour plus expenses.

MOTION: FGMEA will request that the Fine Arts Office contract Konnie Saliba for the August 2008 in-service.

Motion made by: Debbie Key. Seconded: Rachel Grimsby.
The motion passed unanimously.
Rachel Grimsby will follow up by talking to FAO about this.

VII. Committee Chair Reports

A. Choral Festival: Carla Okouchi

Carla thanked members of the Board for assisting with the music-reading session, for packing music envelopes, and for recording c.d.'s. Deen Entsminger also thanks the Board and FCPS teachers (via Carla) for their participation in the music-reading session.

The FAO has the invoice for \$886.00 to pay for the production of the rehearsal c.d.'s.

Carla distributed an expense report for refreshments provided at the music-reading session, and suggested that FGMEA provide refreshments at this event in the future.

MOTION: FGMEA shall reimburse Carla Okouchi for funds spent on refreshments at the ACCF music-reading session. FGMEA shall provide refreshments at the ACCF music-reading session in the future.

Motion made by: Mary Woods. Seconded: Wendy Peterson.
The motion passed unanimously.

B. Grants: Joy Petty (for Christian King)

FGMEA has awarded two grants of \$500.00 each. The grant recipients are Jennifer Frazier (Sunrise Valley ES) and Donna Bassett (Hollin Meadows ES). The money was given at the ACCF music-reading session, and letters were sent to the recipients and to their principals.

C. Technology: Joy Petty (for Vanessa Utell)

Vanessa is still working on getting the website running and will be contacting individuals for assistance with website content.

VIII. New Business

Charlie Ring distributed a letter from the Operations Manager of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra regarding their free 45-minute assembly, "Classical Kids' Club – A Musical Multimedia Journey Through Sound." Charlie highly recommends this assembly for grades 3 – 6.

The matter of using FGMEA funds for things other than Grants to general music teachers was tabled until the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

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

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be **Tuesday, February 12, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Stansbery
FGMEA Secretary