

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2009

The February meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 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, Michael Dennis, Debbie Key, Carla Okouchi, Betsy Nerdhal, Rachael Goldman, Rachel Grimsby, Deb Rudd, Danielle Menard, Angie Collins, Gayla Kobialka, Karen Judkins Vanessa Utell and Jeanette Essig.**

II. President's Report: Joy Petty

Joy welcomed the FGMEA Board back to the first meeting of the new year. Rob Stansbery was unable to attend the meeting; Carla Okouchi will be taking the Minutes.

Condolences go to:

Carla Okouchi (Hayfield) - her grandfather passed away in December.

A card was sent on behalf of FGMEA.

No scholarship money from our anonymous donor will be available this year. It is hoped the scholarship will be reinstated next year.

Joy thanked **Rachel Goldman** and **Mary Woods** for hosting the holiday party for the new teachers in December.

Board members who notified Joy that they would not be attending the February Board meeting are: **Rob Stansbery, Cynthia Carlton, Charlie Ring, Carolyn Dory, Jacquie Yoerges, Dori Eggan, Elaine Stanford, Mary Woods, Cindy Noble, and Christian King.**

III. Vice-President's Report: Carla Okouchi

On Monday, February 2, 2009 FEA organized teachers, IA's, and support personnel to attend Lobby Day in Richmond. Carla shared about the successful trip and hopes more music educators will attend in the future. In small groups teachers were able to discuss important issues with delegates. One Bill that will benefit elementary and general music teachers is HB2474.

HB2474 Provide Elementary Teachers Planning Time

The Elementary Planning Time Bill, Delegate Hugo's HB2474, passed the Senate on Monday, February 23, 2009 with an essential amendment. The bill now goes back to the House, where Delegate Hugo will ask his fellow Delegates to accept the Senate amendment. Please write your Delegate today, urging him/her to vote to accept the Senate amendment.

<http://capwiz.com/nea/va/issues/alert/?alertid=12758126&queueid=2960842691>

IV. Secretary's Report: Joy Petty for Rob Stansbery

The minutes of the November 25, 2008 FGMEA Board meeting were distributed via e-mail to Board members, and were approved as *corrected*.

V. Fine Arts Office Report: Jeanette Essig

Jeanette Essig thanked Joy for organizing the email list which allows information from Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education (FACE) to go to personal email addresses instead of through FCPS email.

ACCF 2009: **Jeanette** reported that the change of venue to Mount Vernon for ACCF was because Fairfax High School could not provide teacher parking on Friday. Most of the database is complete. The FAO is waiting for confirmations before exporting the final list for the print shop. Entering the name of all participating teachers from each school on the initial application would be helpful.

Joy asked if the ACCF guest speaker has been contacted and confirmed. **Elaine Stanford** has contacted school board member Stuart Gibson, from the Hunter Mill district, who is a strong supporter of music!

Fine Arts Office: **Stan Schoonover** will be retiring on June 30, 2009. An announcement regarding hiring Stan's replacement will not come until the reorganization occurring in Instructional Services is complete.

Music Assessment: The Sixth Grade Music Assessment will not go county-wide next year, but continue with the same pilot schools. Future county-wide rollout will depend on the budget and e-cart, which will be used to gather the vast amount of data. Entering the POS into e-cart must be completed prior to using e-cart for this purpose. That is an ongoing process that will continue into the summer curriculum writing.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Debbie Key

Debbie distributed the *FGMEA Treasurer's Report for February 24, 2009*. The bank account reconciles as it should. The balance forwarded from the November 25, 2008 report was **\$13,966.68**. Deposits and credits totaling **\$45.00**, and withdrawals and debits totaling **\$2,300.52** resulted in an ending balance on February 23rd, 2009 of **\$11,711.16**.

VII. Committee Chair Reports

A. Choral Festival: Deb Rudd

ACCF Site Rehearsals are going very well. Cynthia and Deb have been pleased how smoothly each rehearsal has been going and how prepared the conductors and accompanists have been.

Members of the Board voted on artwork to be used in the ACCF program. Thank you to all teachers and their students for sending in so many wonderful pieces of art!

All County Choral Festival Concert Dates will be **April 23 & 24, 2010**. Our guest Conductor will be **Lynell Joy Jenkins**. The performance site will be announced at a later date.

A comment was made that the March 2 site rehearsal and the March 16 weather make up day should be reversed so there is more time between site rehearsals. Site rehearsals need to be on designated Mondays because many principals do not allow teachers to leave their school except on those days.

B. Constitution: Bev Ogden

For clarification purposes, the following additions to the Constitution are suggested:

Chapter III B. 7

Currently reads: organize a county-wide inservice to rehearse festival music with the clinician.

Suggest: organize a county-wide *read-through* to rehearse festival music with the clinician.

MOTION: Change the word inservice to read-through.

Motion made by: **Bev Ogden**. Seconded: **Debbie Key**.

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chapter III D. 4

Currently reads: coordinate and provide refreshments for inservices and monthly meetings.

Suggest: coordinate and provide refreshments for inservices, *Choral Festival read-through* and monthly meetings.

MOTION: Add the words Choral Festival read-through.

Motion made by: **Bev Ogden**. Seconded: **Michael Dennis**

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chapter III F.

Currently reads: The New Teacher Chairperson(s) shall work with the General Music Lead Mentor to welcome new music teachers to FCPS, shall attend mentor/mentee meetings, and promote membership in FGMEA and other professional organizations.

Suggest: The New Teacher Chairperson(s) shall welcome music teachers new to FCPS, shall attend mentor/mentee meetings, and promote membership in FGMEA and other professional organizations. ***This position will initially be offered to the FCPS General Music Lead Mentor. If said Lead Mentor does not accept, the position will be filled through appointment by the FGMEA President.***

MOTION: The FGMEA new teacher chair person position will be offered to the General Music Lead Mentor hired by Fairfax County Public Schools and appointed by the FGMEA President if Lead Mentor does not accept.

Motion made by: **Michael Dennis** Seconded: **Danielle Menard**

Discussion points included:

- FCPS pays a general music teacher to serve as Lead Mentor.
- There has not been a clear expectation for the Board position.
- We want to best and most efficiently serve the needs of the new general music teachers in the County.

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we redesign the make up of the FGMEA Board and no longer retain the position of Cluster Chairs, and reassign those duties to other board positions as appropriate.

Motion made by: **Carla Okouchi.** Seconded: **Vanessa Utell**

Discussion points included:

- The role of Cluster Chair has greatly changed and reduced due to advanced technology and email.
- Members do not send concerns/issues/questions to Cluster Chairs – they email directly to the person who can answer question. (Only one concern has been brought to the Board via Cluster Chair this year).
- Cluster Chairs do not teach in Cluster they represent (exception of one)
- The Board position should be viable.

Following discussion, the motion did not pass.

Vote: Yes- 5 NO- 7

MOTION: I move that the position of Cluster Chairs be filled by a person from the cluster pairs, and be elected by the members from said cluster, and that the wording of the constitution reflects this change.

Motion made by: **Rachel Grimsby**. Seconded: **Rachael Goldman**

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Ways and Means: Gayla Kobialka

ACCF T-shirt orders deadline is March 16, 2009. Pre-orders are down this year and due to the economy maybe families are not spending on such items.

The decision to purchase T-shirts to have on hand at ACCF will have to be made at the March 24, 2009 Board meeting.

Teachers please communicate with All County Choral Festival participants to turn in their T-shirt pre-orders. Gayla will send a sample T-shirt to Site Hosts in an effort to advertise the same message to everyone. Sample T-shirts need to be returned to Gayla following Monday's site rehearsal.

VIII. New Business

Joy asked the board for gift suggestions for the 2008 FCPS retirees in honor of **Karen Dosch, Cynthia Whalan, Trish Fraker, and Linda White**. This gift will be placed in the Fine Arts Library. Please email Joy with your ideas and suggestions.

Vanessa Utell (Technology/Website) shared that FGMEA is showing up on Google searches. Ideas and suggestions for the website can be sent to Vanessa. **Rachael Goldman** suggested that photos of the FGMEA Board with email addresses be included on the website. To access the Fairfax General Music Educators Association website visit www.fgmea.org.

LOGIN: fgmea

PASSWORD: music

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Okouchi
FGMEA Vice President