

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

The September meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the FEA Office in Fairfax.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Carla Okouchi, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Board members present were: **Carla Okouchi, Joy Petty, Rob Stansbery, Cynthia Carlton, Debbie Key, Charlie Ring, Deb Rudd, Christian King, Bev Ogden, Gayla Kobialka, Jennifer Burke, Misha Chernov, Rebecca Bostron, Carolyn Dorey, Pam Hill, Mary Woods, Lucinda Sexton, Lianne LaFleur, Camille Haberland, Lee Larsen, James Laster, Ellyn Sillick-Nash, Emily Sternisha**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig, Keith Taylor**

Excused Board members were: **Michael Dennis, Vanessa Utell, Jessica Stowe, Betsy Nerdahl**

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Carla Okouchi

Carla welcomed the Board and noted how excited she is about the year. Music Specialist, **Keith Taylor** from the Fine Arts Office was welcomed.

An ice-breaker activity was done. Carla asked the board to focus on some goals beyond our mission and by-laws. Focus areas: the teachers we serve, our students, and the community. Small groups were formed to brainstorm ideas/goals; ideas presented were: STUDENTS - provide equality of programs across FCPS; curriculum should be across FCPS; student-centered schedule.

TEACHERS – more collaboration and less isolation; a resource for new teachers; common planning time within the building; release the stress of music colleagues; more participation in grant applications; have teachers feel supported by FGMEA.

COMMUNITIES – more communication with the community to understand the demands of the general music program; advocacy of all music programs throughout our communities; a voice at School Board meetings and community events; more cross-pyramid and vertical connections.

Carla asked if the start time is OK for this Board meeting knowing that several members are at late start schools. She also noted that we must end and be out by 6 p.m.

Discussion: all decided the 4:30 time is tight but fine.

Carla thanked the Social Committee for the goodies provided at the Fall General Music In-Service and our board meeting.

Carla thanked the Membership Committee for getting the drive going and we will continue the membership drive.

Carla thanked the Board members for serving this year and being present at the Fall General Music In-Service.

Carla thanked the Fine Arts Office for the opening in-service days and presenters that motivated and energized us.

Carla thanked Lee Larsen who put together the first Newsletter sent out to all general music teachers this year.

III. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Rob Stansbery

The last few years a survey has been sent out regarding the amount of time spent teaching general music classes; some are in schools where time is compromised and FGMEA will be sending the same survey, so we have ongoing comparison data.

Mary Woods asked if the time refers to general music or to all music classes? The survey must use the same words to get comparable results yearly. Jeanette Essig responded that while the regulations say one thing, Instructional Services can and do interpret the regulations in their own way; Charlie Ring reminded us that FGMEA, along with elementary band, strings, and PE, proposed a regulation revision draft for "music teachers and minutes taught" in 2006, but Instructional Services did not advance the proposed regulation draft.

Keith Taylor asked who is in charge of regulations? – Peter Noonan, director of Instructional Services. There are three types of issues that regulate: policies, regulations, and notices. Keith agrees that it's good to have the survey to find out the diversity in the schools. There will be a declaration on the survey to ask that only one teacher to respond when two are in the building. Mary Woods asked if Keith Taylor would bring discussion to the forefront – he indicated, yes,

Joy Petty–All of these findings need to go through Fine Arts Office.

No other discussion. Be looking for the survey this Fall.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT: for May 2009, given by Rob Stansbery

Last minutes were from May 26, 2009 – approved as corrected.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT - Debbie Key

May ending balance was \$21,631.69. With deposits of \$1,970.00 and withdrawals of \$7,196.32, balance today stands at \$16,405.37.

Service charges are for one returned check, and each deposit over 255 bank limit.

When the Board spends money for FGMEA related expenses, Debbie shared that an expense form is used. She has these in hard copies and on-line. Board member must have a receipt, and only place items purchased for FGMEA on your receipts. Membership dues need to be separate.

VI. FINE ARTS OFFICE REPORT - Jeanette Essig

Jeanette thanked Keith Taylor for being the newest administrator in the Fine Arts Office and for trying to learn as much as possible about elementary music and elementary choral programs. Keith projected how very excited he is to help music education.

Keith spoke of the 144 small items bid for music teachers. Specifications are there, but suppliers have come through with a different recorder vendor. He is currently checking on this and making sure our things are taken care of on the bid list. Keith asked that we NOT e-mail Diane Strickland at the Warehouse about our recorder orders. The Goodden recorder at the Warehouse is not satisfactory to many general music teachers; we have asked that the Yamaha be available. Keith will send an email on behalf of Fine Arts Office to general music teachers and will try to include Finance Secretaries, explaining the recorder situation, and allowing time to fix the orders. Lee Larsen asked if we could add another choice of recorders to the bid list? Keith explained that the Warehouse is

very, very tight. Keith encourages a committee to work on making recommendations on removing or adding items that are currently listed.

We have been requested by former FCPS music teacher, Brad Dorrance, to donate some recorders to New Orleans; the instruments have already been promised to Bridge City, Texas and the Galveston area – hit by the hurricane. Would the Board be interested in helping with shipping cost?

MOTION: FGMEA shall fund \$100 to help cover the shipping cost of recorders to Texas.

Motion made by: Lee Larsen Seconded: Charlie Ring

Following discussion, an amendment to the motion was offered.

MOTION: FGMEA shall fund \$200 to help cover the shipping cost of recorders to Texas.

Motion made by: Mary Woods Seconded: Christian King

VOTE taken. Motion passed.

Jeanette Essig will check on the rate of mailing recorders to Texas. Bev Ogden asked that we might also support Brad Dorrance in New Orleans. Joy Petty suggested we ask members to donate used recorders and bring to the October in-service. Cluster Chairs will take care of getting information out to collect donations. Mary Woods will also include this request in her next email about the upcoming October in-service.

Pilot schools have been selected to take part in the new report card system this year. General music teachers will need to keep more meticulous recorders of student achievement.

Holiday Spotlight – there is no budget.

Channel 21 is not fully funded, unfortunately All-County may not be televised this year.

Private Teacher Data: Jeanette Essig got lots of responses and will pull them into an excel sheet and try to format it so it can be published. She's still looking for recommendations of more private teachers for compiling the lists. Keith Taylor expressed concern about endorsing private teachers we don't know. FGMEA will provide appropriate wording attached to the information listing to address this concern.

VII. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

A. Membership – Lianne LaFleur

Lianne reported that we are currently at 131 members, 4 are administrators.

Lianne will email copies of list to all Board members. Cluster chairs received a hard copy to prepare distribution lists.

B. All-County Chorus – Deb Rudd

CD recording rehearsal taking place at 4:30 p.m. in Spring Hill ES on Oct. 16, and taping begins at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 17 at Wygals studio

ACCF music committee packing date is Nov.2 at Fine Arts Library from 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Music read-thru on Nov. 9 at Kings Glen ES, 2:30-5 p.m.

Deb is currently proofing the packet and will get it out to membership.

ACCF participation applications have been coming in and Jeanette will generate the list.

Jeanette Essig is also creating a Blackboard site so ACCF leaders can add things and upload to Blackboard site to make it more user-friendly.

C. In-Service – Mary Woods

For those at Excel schools, there is a sub-code so teachers can attend the in-service. Music teachers at Excel schools need to contact Jama Stevenson, in the Fine Arts Office to get the sub-code in order to attend the Oct. in-services. Mary will add this info on her Kings Glen in-service flyer for Oct. 5.

Mary reports some of our teachers are presenting, along with a guest presenter. Request to pay the specialist was made.

MOTION: FGMEA shall pay \$100 to Ellen Foncannon for Boomwhacker presentation and provide a \$50 honorarium to FCPS teacher presenters.

Motion by: Mary Woods; Seconded: Rebecca Bostron

Following discussion, an amendment to the motion was offered.

MOTION: FGMEA shall pay \$100 to guest clinician.

Motion made by: Mary Woods Seconded: Lee Larsen.

Vote taken. Motion passed.

MOVED: FGMEA shall provide a \$50 honorarium to FCPS presenters at the Oct. In-service.

Moved by: Charlie Ring Seconded: Mary Woods

VOTE: 10-yes, 7 opposed, 3-abstained. Motion passed.

D. New Teacher – Camille Haberland

19 new teachers this year: 5 experienced, 14 novice – all have mentors.

Camille will attend a lead-mentor in-service and find out what we can offer new teachers. Two sub-days to offer observation time has been abolished. Then we had teacher-collaboration – now abolished. There is no money for us to get into the classrooms now. Camille wondered if mentor teachers could apply for money to observe and help novice teachers? Jeannette Essig suggested FEA might be able to help. Carla also suggested a grant might be available through FEA, VEA, and NEA? We may keep the discussion going at a later time. Sub-Central is a main player and will have to make decisions. Mentoring class taken by Lucinda Sexton- there is a recorded positive retention rate for mentored teachers. At the school level, principals may give time for visitation and sub time. Bev Ogden sees the value in the mentoring program; she also reminded us that the Great Beginnings class has supported teachers by going into the novice classrooms once or twice/year at the teacher's request.

Carla thanked Camille for coordinating the gift cards and the beautiful hand made card she presented to the new teachers on behalf of FGMEA.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Recorders: Charlie Ring expressed concern about the quality of the Goodden soprano recorders now on the bid list at the Warehouse. It has been requested that the FAO return to the Yamaha recorders. Keith Taylor's remarks are listed in the Fine Arts Office report section VI.

Report on CLT's and PLC's, Kathy Murdock's survey of teachers:

Carla recapped Kathy's report: Meetings are happening in each building reported, and found they are very different. Board discussion. What works and doesn't work? PLC implies common curriculum, but PE, Music, Library, etc don't have much in common (w/exception of student behaviors) Mary Woods suggested music teachers need their own PLC. She wondered if our general music teachers could have a common planning time. Ellyn Sillick-Nash's school has done a weekly PLC with other music teachers – Band and Strings. She thought it worked well if only done once/month. James Laster thought it also beneficial once/month; when curriculum mapping with grade levels, it reinforced other objectives, but he wondered if this is helpful when we are trying to teach our own POS goals? He says it was beneficial to also meet once/mo with other music teachers. Jeanette Essig wondered if we can come up with models that WORK, so when dealing with admin offices, we have something in place to share. We should come up with ideas that work and ideas that don't work, Lee Larsen suggested that we should create a formal sheet about best practices and share with principals.

-Rebecca Bostrom and Pam Hill our Resource Chairs, volunteered to help compile more PLC/CLT ideas on models that work.

Carla asked that when the board submit items for agenda to give as much detail and information. Then board members can read in advance information items and focus on the work at hand and action items during meetings.

Cluster Chairs reminded to include Carla on distribution listing for emails sent to cluster members.

Lee Larsen , **Newsletter** – Please continue to send in articles on all the great ways our music teachers are serving students, community, and abroad! He would also like to include one-liners in the Newsletter! So if you have good ones, pass them along. He would like to add these as a new featured item.

James Laster, **Public Relations** – if know of anyone having a concert, send him the information and he will distribute, publicize.

Bev Ogden, **Technology/Website** - gave us information to get on the FGMEA website.

Log-in = fgmea

Password = music

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00p.m.

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tues., Oct. 27, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Carlton
FGMEA Secretary