

**FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2009**

The October meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, October 27, 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, Rebecca Bostron, Carolyn Dorey, Lucinda Sexton, Lianne LaFleur, Lee Larsen, James Laster, Ellyn Sillick-Nash, Emily Sternisha, Jessica Stowe, Vanessa Utell, Misha Chernov**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig**

Excused Board members were: **Michael Dennis, Mary Woods, Gayla Kobialka, Jennifer Burke, Camille Haberland, Betsy Nerdahl, Pam Hill,**

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Carla Okouchi**

Carla sent out personal invitations to join FGMEA to general music teachers who were not listed as members for this year. Our goal is 100% membership, as we have strength in numbers during a year where music might continue to be eliminated and cut. **In addition, we will need to gather home email address from ALL FGMEA members to disseminate special information related to budget.**

Cluster Chairs are reminded to include Carla on distribution listing for emails sent to cluster members. The next FGMEA minutes will be sent to members only.

A committee has been formed to look over music regulation 3218. Members of this group met on October 22, 2009 to work on a draft for updating the current music regulation. Their goal is to write clear guidelines to support music education in FCPS.

FACE is preparing proactive advocacy plans to keep music in our schools. Elementary band and strings is on the elimination list.

Carla thanked Mary Woods for organizing our FGMEA Fall Music In-Service and all the FCPS music educators who shared that day.

Thank you to Bev Ogden for collecting and taking care of shipping the 373 recorder donations from our Fall Music In-Service to New Orleans.

**MOTION: Motion was made to ask the Board to allot \$150 to mail recorders to New Orleans.**

Motion made by: Bev Ogden Seconded: Charlie Ring

Discussion held. Vote taken. **Motion passed.**

FGMEA Board Goals Activity: Small groups were asked to meet to discuss: 3 ideas on how we can collaborate more as educators; resources for new teachers – activities, ideas; release stress of music colleagues; more communication within our communities; advocacy of ALL music programs; more cross-pyramid and vertical connections. The groups shared ideas with members. Carla challenged us to participate in any way to share how important our programs are to the community.

## **TEACHERS**

More collaboration and less isolation:

- “Solo” teacher sharing opportunity
- “In-formal” sharing during 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher work day
- “In-formal Pyramid” sharing during a teacher work day

Resource for new teachers:

- Blackboard posting for new teachers
- Quick/Easy activities related to seasons/holidays
- Calendar of events
- FGMEA “adopt a new teacher” providing personal contact and invitation to attend workshops together.

Release the stress of music colleagues:

- Optional stress-reduction techniques In-service
- Social events- by cluster or ACCF sites

## **COMMUNITIES**

More communication with the community to understand the demands of the general music program:

- Informances- students and parent participation
- Invite parents into your classroom
- Key Notes- Music Newsletter/included in Grade Level News
- Informing of POS at performances

Advocacy of all music programs throughout our communities:

- “QUARTER NOTES” Fine Arts Office regular communication
- Internet with music boosters at High Schools
- Technology- photos, newsletters, podcasts, sharing with boosters/pyramid/world

More cross-pyramid and vertical connections:

- Pyramid workshops
- Pyramid concerts county wide

Joys and Sorrows: Carla sent a card to Camille Haberland on behalf of the Board as she’s been sick. Misha Chernov was in our thoughts as she lost a close friend in Afghanistan. Cynthia Carlton lost her mother-in-law in Texas. Rebecca Bostron was engaged recently. Jessica Stowe is expecting a baby.

## **III. VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Rob Stansbery**

### Time to Teach Survey 2009

140 schools answered our Time to Teach survey. In response to the question, “Is every student in your school (grades 1-6) currently receiving at least 60 minutes of general

music instruction every week?" 70 respondents answered "Yes" and 70 answered "No" for a positive answer rate of 50%.

This is an increase in positive responses over both of the last two years. The three-year trend is below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>	130	137	140
<b>"Yes" responses</b>	58	57	70
<b>"No" responses</b>	72	80	70
<b>Positive percentage</b>	44.6%	41.6%	50%

Superintendent Budget Discussion from Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Huge cuts across all levels. Full day kinder, sports, modified calendar...lots of programs will be eliminated. Nothing directly affecting general music other than +1 in class sizes. The entire elementary band & strings program is almost at the top of the cut list.

FEA Representative Assembly report by Charlie Ring.

Dr. Dale reported a \$176 million shortfall for next school year, which is worse than last year. County and State money is not to be counted on to help support the deficit.

#### **IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT-** Cynthia Carlton

The September 22, 2009 Minutes – approved as corrected.

Joy Petty reminded the Board to be sure to read the draft of minutes, especially where they made reports.

#### **V. TREASURER'S REPORT** - Debbie Key

September ending balance was \$16,405.37. With deposits of \$485.00 and withdrawals of \$776.33, balance today stands at \$16,114.04.

#### **VI. FINE ARTS OFFICE REPORT** - Jeanette Essig

Keith Taylor communicated in an email message that the FCPS Music Teacher Directory contact information have been finalized and are going to print. The documents have been posted as PDFs on BlackBoard 24/7 in the Music Community, as they have in the past. To get to the files, log in to BlackBoard 24/7 and go to the Music Community. Click on the Teacher Directories link (at the bottom of the Left Menu Bar) and open the appropriate files.

Update on Recorders at the Warehouse. Jeanette reported that overall, vendors are seeing much higher prices from their suppliers. The original recorder vendor dropped out their 5-year contract. The current vendor supplied Goodden recorders which will continue to be available for school purchases until the current supply of those recorders is used.

Discussion was had about the preference for Yamaha recorders, and the board recommended that Keith pursue the change back to Yamaha **as soon as possible**, even if the costs are higher.

Jeanette shared that Roger Tomhave sent the 700 recorder donations to Bridge City, Texas and the Galveston area. The shipping cost was \$306.65. At the Sept. Board meeting a \$200 shipping cost was approved.

**MOTION: To provide reimbursement to Roger Tomhave for the difference \$106.65 for shipping recorders.**

Motion made by Rebecca Bostron: Seconded: Emily Sternisha

Discussion held. Vote taken. **Motion passed.**

Private Teacher Data: Jeanette got lots of responses and will pull them into an excel sheet and try to format it so it can be published. The listings will have a disclaimer from the FAO and FGMEA. Jeanette reminded us of the regulation that we cannot teach students in our school buildings from our own schools or pyramids. Teachers must go through the proper channel to teach other students in their buildings.

Discussion was held as to how this list might be kept up to date.

All County Choral Festival taping by Channel 21. Roger has been asking Channel 21 to consider possibly sharing the cost of taping this event with FGMEA. Due to budget cuts Spotlight on Arts was not taped this year. Channel 21 should be able to tape our festival.

**VII. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**A. Membership** – Lianne LaFleur

Lianne reported that we are currently at **157** members, **4** are administrators/other. Total Membership = **161**

Lianne will be requesting all FGMEA members to submit home email addresses. This will allow us to keep you informed about important FCPS budget issues that may affect our music programs.

**B. All-County Chorus** – Deb Rudd

Deb thanked Ellyn Sillick-Nash, Marianne Tagge, Caroline Desmond, Michael Dennis, and Cynthia Carlton for all their work in creating a valuable tool the ACCF rehearsal CDs. Fred and Deb have been working on finalizing the CD in time for distribution.

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, **2:30-4:30 p.m.** Participating teachers at Excel Schools are reminded to call Jama Stevenson 703-208-7719 in the Fine Arts Office for a substitute code.

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

**C. In-Service** – Mary Woods

Thank you to our presenters Marti Fucille, Rodney Tompkins, Janis Smith, Karen Foley, and Camille Haberland for making the in-service run so well! We received a lot of positive comments afterwards. Everyone enjoyed the songs, dances, and resources that were shared.

Thank you to Elen Foncannon for the marvelous Boom Whacker presentation! Mary would also like to thank the FGMEA Board for their support and attendance to this annual event.

**D. Grant Advisory Committee-** Christian King & Lucinda Sexton

VEA grant application is in the works and will be finished for the February 1, 2010 deadline. If awarded, this will be used to fund observation days to our new general music teachers.

FGMEA grant applications due Monday, November 2, 2009.

**E. New Teacher** – Camille Haberland

New teachers have been talking with principals and finding ways to observe as recommended. Camille even took a day to observe one of our new teachers.

Teacher Talk has been started for mentees and mentors who want to receive them. The goal is to discuss non-music survival tips or points to ponder. Mentee's feedback has been very positive.

Great Beginnings New Teacher Shower will be on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 4:45 p.m. at Kings Glen ES following the ACCF Music Reading Session. Bev would like to invite all Board members to attend and bring 17 copies of a favorite lesson and share a 5 minute explanation! If supplies or props are used please bring them.

**F. Resource-** Rebecca Bostron & Pamela Hill

Update on PLC and CLT report. Rebecca encouraged the Board to read the report. Rebecca and Pam will send their findings to the Cluster Chairs to distribute to FGMEA membership.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Social-** Misha Chernov, Betsy Nerdhal, Vanessa Utell, Jennifer Burke  
FGMEA social committee will be providing refreshments at the November 9, 2009 All County Choral Festival Music Reading Session.

**B. Newsletter-** Lee Larsen

Please continue to send in articles on all the great ways our music teachers are serving students, community, and abroad! Pass along any "one-liners" that you find useful in the music classroom. Photos of students in action, bulletin board pictures, items of interest to other music teachers – SEND THEM IN!

**C. Public Relations** – James Laster

James Laster encourages members to share concert dates and information that you would like to distribute and publicize. James is working with television stations, local newspapers, and local media websites to publicize community events. He suggested we send pictures, videos, or short blogs about how we are sharing the Arts in our communities.

**D. Technology/Website** – Bev Ogden  
No Report

**E. Ways and Means**- Emily Sternisha  
ACCF T-Shirts left over from 2009

Small- 30    Medium- 55    Large- 40    X-Large- 1    Total=126 t-shirts

Due to that large number of remaining shirts we will keep the color and design the same for 2010. Price will still be \$6.25 per shirt.

Estimated first orders in January 2010 are based off of last year's sales and left over shirts. Orders are about half of what we ultimately need.

Small- 150    Medium- 100    Large- 15    X-Large- 10

Estimated total orders in spring 2010

Small- 310    Medium- 200    Large- 25    X-Large- 22

**F. Cluster Chairs**- Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Jessica Stowe, Ellyn Sillick-Nash

No reports

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be **Tuesday, November 24, 2009.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Carlton  
FGMEA Secretary