

**FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes  
November 24, 2009**

The November meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the FEA Office in Fairfax.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Carla Okouchi**, President, called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Board members present were: **Carla Okouchi, Joy Petty, Rob Stansbery, Jennifer Burke, Camille Haberland, Debbie Key, Charlie Ring, Christian King, Carolyn Dorey, Lucinda Sexton, Lianne LaFleur, Lee Larsen, James Laster, Elyn Sillick-Nash, Emily Sternisha, Vanessa Utell, and Mary Woods**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig**

Excused Board members were: **Rebecca Bostron, Cynthia Carlton, Misha Chernov, Michael Dennis, Gayla Kobialka, Pam Hill, Betsy Nerdahl, Bev Ogden, Deb Rudd, and Jessica Stowe.**

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

Thank you to Mary Woods and Kings Glen ES for hosting our ACCF Music-Reading Session. Thank you to FGMEA's Social Committee for providing refreshments. Thank you to Debb Rudd and Michael Dennis for organizing and utilizing Skype to introduce us to our guest conductor, Lynell Joy Jenkins. Our most sincere gratitude to Elaine Stanford who volunteered to guest conduct our music reading session on behalf of Lynell Joy Jenkins. During a time of Thanksgiving we certainly appreciate Elaine sharing her enthusiasm, love, and understanding of the music with our participating general music teachers.

**Recorder Donation to New Orleans**

*Carla and Bev,*

*This is Brad Dorrance; you recently sent a shipment of some 300 recorders to my school in New Orleans. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. FCPS was a great place to work, and the support system of the music teachers has always been such a great help.*

*Have a wonderful thanksgiving,*

*Brad*

**Recorder Donation to Texas**

*FGMEA Board,*

*Thank you very much for the FGMEA reimbursement check for the postage necessary to send the recorders to Texas. I will let the folks in Texas know of your generosity.*

*But I knew that you had only agreed to a max of \$200. It was my miscommunication error with Jeanette that I had never let her know that that I was only providing the*

receipt for your records. I will be sending back to FGMEA a donation in the amount of \$106.65 in the PONY to Debbie.

Thanks for all you do for our General Music Teachers and the students of FCPS.

*Roger*

**Note of Thanks**

Thanks, Carla and Board, for the thoughtful card. I am feeling much better. The staff and kids here have been most supportive as well. I got so much done yesterday and was really pleased but today I feel it. I just have to pace myself more carefully. Definitely on the mend! Thanks so much for your support!

*Camille Haberland*

Dear Carla,

Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful teachers with us at Great Beginnings! They had such good ideas and were so much fun. Thanks again.

*Peggy O'Connell*  
*Brookfield E.S.*

**FACE**

FACE has begun an active and aggressive campaign to preserve the elementary instrumental program. The latest budget cut list can be found at:

[http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011\\_November5revision.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011_November5revision.pdf)

Those interested in doing so may sign the online petition at:

[www.faceadvocacy.org](http://www.faceadvocacy.org)

**FACE MEETING**

All Fine Arts teachers are asked to join FACE at **Unity Church of Fairfax** on **Tuesday, December 8, 2009** at **7:00 p.m.** FACE will be collaborating with researcher John Benham, who will share best research and practices for pulling together as a team to support fine arts education in the FY2011 budget.

**Unity Church of Fairfax**  
**2854 Hunter Mill Road**  
**Oakton VA 22124**

**Fairfax County & FCPS Community Dialogue**

Carla attended the November 14, 2009 budget discussion at Sherwood Hall Library. Thank you to Jihanna Davis, Lianne LaFleur and several band teachers for attending. We must all do our part to advocate for our music programs.

On **December 2, 2009** at **7:00 p.m.**, additional community dialogue sessions will take place at Hayfield Secondary School, Herndon High School and Lake Braddock

Secondary School. Please encourage parents and students to show their support for music education at these community dialogues!

**Joys and Sorrows:**

Rob Stansbery's father had quintuple bypass surgery. Gayla Kobialka will be traveling home to be with her father who is still in recovery. Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers. Joy Petty, on behalf of the FGMEA Board, shared congratulations to Carla Okouchi, who will be conducting her final FGMEA Board Meeting for 2009, and welcomes her new baby boy to ring in the New Year! Joy presented Carla with a gift certificate to Babies R Us from the Board members.

**III. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Rob Stansbery**

**Fairfax Education Association (FEA) Representative Assembly** report by Charlie Ring. FCPS employees are facing staffing reductions, program cuts, zero COLA, frozen steps and furloughs for academic year 2010-2011. The FEA Communications Team declared a moratorium on the following: e-cart testing, school-based in-services, PLC meetings, Blackboard, Global Awareness and county-wide meetings. The FEA Communications Teams is also calling for administrative reductions including the return of 8 Clusters back to 4 Areas.

**FEA is hosting a Town Hall Meeting** in Fairfax High School's multi-purpose room on **Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.** The meeting is dedicated to member concerns regarding the budget directed toward FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale and School Board Chair Kathy Smith, who will be in attendance to hear your comments and answer questions. Please plan to attend to show your support for our music programs!

**IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT- Carla Okouchi for Cynthia Carlton**  
The October 27, 2009 Minutes – approved as corrected.

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

October's ending balance was **\$16,114.04**. With deposits/credits of \$216.65 and withdrawals/debits of \$343.36, balance today stands at **\$15,987.33**. The account reconciles as it should.

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

**Fine Arts Office Moving**

Staff members from the Departments of Instructional Services, Special Services, and Professional Learning and Accountability will move to Fairfax Ridge. Staff members currently in facilities that have expiring leases will move into portions of the Gatehouse and Dunn Loring Centers, as well as other existing FCPS facilities. The move is projected to take place sometime in March.

**COMMUNITIES**

Advocacy of all music programs throughout our communities:

-“QUARTER NOTES” Fine Arts Office regular communication will be reinstated in the near future. The board discussed using electronic attachments to email from BlackBoard.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Jeanette would like to investigate other ways that we can use technology to support each other beyond the public folder that is such a help. Teachers interested in working with her on some ideas are asked to submit ideas to Jeanette. Ideas to consider include more use of Skype to share concerts with other schools, etc.

### **ELEMENTARY MUSIC ENROLLMENT REPORT from SASI:**

Congratulations for doing a great job of recruiting this year. In general, the numbers are fantastic.

Elementary Band, Strings and Chorus: **36,358**

Of special significance - Band and Strings: **25,013** - a record

Chorus - 4th, 5th and 6th grade: **11,345** - this is the first year that the numbers have been collected from the Service Program. We owe a special thanks to the SASI operators.

Teachers who have not yet submitted choral rosters to their SASI operators are asked to do so immediately.

Interesting statistics regarding Elementary Band and Strings:

**74.06%** of all 4th graders have elected to take Strings

**94.06%** of all 5th graders have elected to take Band or Strings

**88.24%** of all 6th graders have elected to take Band or Strings

That means that an average of **85.45%** of all 4th - 6th graders have elected to take Elementary Band or Strings. That is significant.

### **Global Awareness Training**

An in-service will be held on **February 1, 2010** from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** at Orange Hunt Elementary School Cafeteria. This is for all general music teachers who have not received formal training for the Global Awareness Project. The contact for this training is Susie Orr at (703) 846-8703 (*Please note that the fall meeting with Karen Gerstner was just an overview.*)

## **VII. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **A. Membership** – Lianne LaFleur

Lianne reported that we are currently at **164** members, **4** are administrators/other. Total Membership = **168**

FGMEA members are asked to submit home email addresses to Lianne LaFleur or Cynthia Carlton so FGMEA can keep you informed about important FCPS budget issues that may affect our music programs. Thank you to those who have already submitted this information.

**B. All-County Chorus** – Carla Okouchi for Deb Rudd & Michael Dennis  
**Music Committee** Thank you to our music packing committee you all did a fabulous job!

**ACCF Music Read Through** Was a huge success! Thank you Mary Woods for hosting our in-service. And thank you Elaine Stanford for your leadership.

**Site Rehearsal Hosts** have received information to prepare for upcoming rehearsals starting in February.

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

**FGMEA Grants** FGMEA received 7 very strong grant applications this year. Thank you to the grant committee members who helped in the selection process. Congratulations to our 2009-2010 FGMEA Grant Recipients!

**Anita Aberly (Pine Springs ES)** \$410.00 to fund the purchase of Music Interface Software for their keyboard stations.

**James Laster (Lake Anne ES)** \$500.00 to fund a guitar and songwriters workshop.

**D. New Teacher** – Camille Haberland

**Mentors Needed** We have two new general music teachers who are in need of mentors located close to their assigned schools.

**VEA Grant Application** Camille Haberland, Lucinda Sexton, and Christian King will be working on a grant application for the February 1, 2010 deadline. If awarded, this will be used to fund observation days for our new general music teachers.

**New Teacher Shower** On behalf of the teachers in Great Beginnings I want to thank those of you who participated in the 'shower' on Monday. Our new teachers were so appreciative and overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. What a positive impact you had! Bev & Danielle

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

*AFL/CLT information from last month*

	Number of schools	Percentage of FCPS's 139 Elementary Schools
Not included in a meeting	36	26%
<b>Music teachers meet</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Combine with grade level</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Specialist team</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24%</b>
overlapping meeting areas	6	4%
Total number of schools	92	66%

The board was asked to discuss the best direction for use of this information. The board agreed that this information should be kept for future use and reference. The recommendation is to continue adding best practice ideas and research to our data (*IEP accommodation discussions, etc.*).

**G. Social-** Misha Chernov, Betsy Nerdhal, Vanessa Utell, Jennifer Burke

Thank you for providing the wonderful snack at our All County Choral Festival Music Reading Session!

**H. Newsletter-** Lee Larsen

All items for the December newsletter are due **Friday, December 4, 2009**. This publication will be electronically distributed to FGMEA members only.

**I. Public Relations-** James Laster

Concert dates, schools, and information are needed from our members! The concern is that no one is submitting this information. The board discussed this issue and suggested that Cluster Chairs could assist by gathering concert dates. A recommendation was made

that James could set up monthly communications as part of PR to obtain important concerts, events, and music related trips.

We have 8 newspapers, 4 radio stations, and 5 TV stations waiting to announce music performances! Newspapers will announce information based on areas within the community, TV stations have public announcement segments all year long, and radio stations will announce in late evenings and afternoons. **We must have detailed information for submission two to three weeks in advance.**

Members are encouraged to advocate for our music programs by submitting information to your school news liason. A simple form can be filled out and sent in to Media Tips. Don't forget to share photos too. Then community members can see all the great things you and your students are sharing throughout the school year!

#### **J. Technology/Website – Bev Ogden**

We are working on adding a link to the FACE website from our own. Several changes are being made to our current website to streamline and make it more user-friendly. Thank you to Bev and Vanessa for continuing your efforts on fine tuning our FGMEA website.

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Resource- Rebecca Bostron & Pamela Hill**

**TEACHERS** Our resource chairs will be looking into which of these projects to tackle next.

Resource 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**

The FGMEA Board would like to encourage our ACCF Site Hosts to either select a location to meet for dinner after our 1<sup>st</sup> Site Rehearsal, or find someone who is willing to coordinate and communicate this “new” initiative to our participating teachers. It is our hope that this opportunity will allow our teachers to connect with new teachers! Consider this a time of reflection and sharing rehearsal and conducting techniques.

#### **A. Ways and Means- Emily Sternisha**

**MOTION: FGMEA shall order 275 ACCF t-shirts at a cost of \$1,718.75 (\$6.25 ea.) in January 2010.**

Motion made by Emily Sternisha: Second: Mary Woods

Following discussion, **the Motion passed.**

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

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

**Report Cards** Carolyn Dorey passed along a member concern regarding recommendations for additional progress report comments, specifically one addressing student improvements. Jeanette mentioned that a new electronic progress report is being field tested. Comment suggestions may be emailed to the Fine Arts Office. Ellyn Sillick-Nash also asked if there were any changes being made for kindergarten. Because some students (especially in ½ day Kindergarten classes) do not come to music, the classroom teacher will still mark the report card, but the marks are **directly** related to our curriculum on the new report card.

#### **CLUSTER I & II:**

We have received a request to discuss the effect on general music teacher positions in the event of the elimination of the elementary instrumental program. There is much speculation regarding this issue. FGMEA will stay informed on this matter as developments occur. Roger Tomhave offered the following response to this question:

*If 146 of our band and strings teachers are RIFed (Reduction in Force), general music teachers with less seniority would be very vulnerable.*

***Regulation 4285.4** contains the information regarding bumping rights if a RIF occurs. This Regulation is currently under revision.*

*There is no doubt that we are all in this together. This is a general music issue as much as it is a band and strings issue.*

*Roger*

Gretchen Liechty Lynch and her husband Jamie are both planning to attend the Town Hall meeting at Fairfax HS and Community Dialogue taking place on December 2, 2009.

#### **CLUSTER III & IV:**

Steve Kimball (North Springfield Elementary) will have 4 chorus students singing in the Virginia All-State Chorus at Shenandoah University next March. Nine students have entered their music compositions into the PTA Reflections Program. In addition, their handbell choir will be performing at the next PTA meeting.

Russell Nadel's (Mount Vernon Woods ES) song cycle *From Depths of Grass*, musical settings of seven poems written by the young Dylan Thomas, will be performed by

soprano Andrea Leyton-Mange in recital in New York City with Russell accompanying her. The concert will be held at Calvary Church at 22nd Street and Park Avenue, on November 21, 2009 at 8:00 pm. This will be only the second public performance of this work.

**A. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be **Tuesday, February 23, 2010.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Stansbery, Vice-President for Cynthia Carlton, Secretary