

FGMEA
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 23, 2010

The February meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 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, Rob Stansbery, Joy Petty, Cynthia Carlton, Deb Rudd, Debbie Key, Charlie Ring, Bev Ogden, Misha Chernov, Rebecca (Bostron) Caldwell, Carolyn Dorey, Lucinda Sexton, Camille Haberland, James Laster, Ellyn Sillick-Nash, Emily Sternisha, Vanessa Utell, Michael Dennis, Mary Wood**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig, Elaine Stanford**

Excused Board members were: **Christian King, Lee Larsen, Gayla Kobialka, Betsy Nerdahl, Jennifer Burke, Pam Hill, Jessica Stowe, Lianne LaFleur**

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Carla Okouchi

Carla welcomed everyone back! She thanked the Board for their continued hard work. She also shared how much she appreciated the amazing teacher support as she took leave to have her baby.

VEA is having a rally in Richmond this Saturday, February 27 at 11a.m. – Noon on the Capital Square Grounds. **STAND UP FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION!** Family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues please meet at 8 a.m. at the FEA Office in Fairfax City and carpool to Richmond. Make your voices heard!

FCPS School Board has been working on department reductions –according to the January 28, 2010 work session, their plan is to cut two 0.5 positions in our Fine Arts Office.

FGMEA Board

Carla asked that each FGMEA board member work on an outline of duties for the March 23, 2010 meeting. Your year-at-a-glance will be helpful information to future leaders interested in serving on the board.

Note of Thanks

Thank you to Marianne Palastro (Saratoga) and her daughter Hannah for being one of many members present at the December 2, 2009 FEA Town Hall Meeting. Hannah was the first to share her passionate speech in front of Dr. Dale and everyone in attendance. In January she continued to share her message to the School Board. Funding for elementary music programs is being addressed by a passionate student and we hope others will join together to preserve it. Her speech is on our FGMEA website (www.fgmea.org)

Joys and Concerns

It is with great sadness that we share the death of Gayla Kobialka's father on January 19, 2010. FGMEA sends our condolences to Gayla (Fort Hunt) and her family.

Condolences go to Marty Fucile (Stenwood), whose father recently died on February 21, 2010. She is currently in Vermont to be with family.

Congratulations to Rebecca Bostron (Lake Ann) on her marriage. She is now Rebecca Caldwell!

On January 8, 2010 at 1:20 pm Carla Okouchi (Hybla Valley) gave birth to her son Kaleo Carter James Okouchi. He was 7lb 12oz and 20 inches long. The Hawaiian translation for Kaleo means "one voice".

Congratulations to Odori Pendleton (Hybla Valley) on the birth of her daughter, Karis Janelle Pendleton. She was 6lb 9oz, 20 inches long, born January 19, 2010 at 11:41am.

III. PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Joy Petty FGMEA BOARD 2010-2011

The nomination committee is working on a slate of officers to present at the next board meeting. Voting will take place at the general membership meeting during All County Choral Festival.

Names have been submitted for a slate of officers. Secretary and Cluster 5/6 Chair positions will be vacant at the end of this school year.

IV. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Rob Stansbery FEA RA report: by Charlie Ring

FCPS leadership has presented 3 options to make up the lost days due to snow. Principals seem to be in favor of an extended year, while the Superintendent is in favor of adding minutes to the school day. The Board will vote on the proposals March 5. FCPSnet website homepage has a What's New section where employees and families can give their input as to the options.

Discussion was held regarding what duties can be asked of music teachers, and the general consensus was that principals can set up the additional time in whatever way they choose. Music teachers could be pro-active and suggest extra chorus time, etc.

VRS (retirement system) has been underfunded by the state legislature; Charlie suggested we keep vigilant.

FACE: by Rob Stansbery

Please attend the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearings on April 6, 7 and 8. We will be having a rally outside the Government Center on **Tuesday, April 6th** at 4:30pm. Please wear **FACE** t-shirts. Several members have signed up to speak so plan on standing to show your support! We need members to come and applaud at appropriate moments. New developments have put essential programs, including Elementary Band and Strings, back on the cut list. Please check personal email for up-to-date information. If you did not receive an email from Rob on February 24th, send your personal email address to Robert.Stansbery@gmail.com to receive this information. Remember, **April 6** is OUR rally date.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT- Cynthia Carlton

November minutes approved as corrected.

VI. FINE ARTS REPORT - Elaine Stanford/Jeanette Essig

ACCF GUEST SPEAKER

Elaine shared that Dr. Dale will be our guest speaker at our All County Choral Festival this year.

ACCF MUSIC

Alfred publishing is no longer allowing the Fine Arts Office pay with a purchase order, and does not allow payment with a credit card. They are, however, very responsive, and charge reasonable fees.

Four of our songs fall under the Alfred umbrella. Jeanette requested FGMEA pay the \$200 licensing fee for those 4 songs. (\$50 per piece)

MOTION by Mary Wood that FGMEA will pay the \$200 fee for Alfred Publishing for the use of their music for licensing fee for the 2010 Choral Festival

Seconded by Michael Dennis

Following discussion **Motion passed.**

FCPS SCHOOL BOARD

Elaine suggested we find School Board documents, look under Jan. 28 **School Board Work Session** for detailed information about plans on the table. She shared information about a reduction of 900 million, and reduction of two .5 fine arts positions as well as cutting 20 instructional services positions out of IS (Instructional Services) that was a result of that work session. We all need to pay careful attention to our **home emails** for information about budget issues. Please remember to be professional when responding. Carla will send out information to the home email list.

FINE ARTS OFFICE RELOCATION

The Fine Arts Office is part of the Office Relocation Project, <http://fcpsnet/fts/relocation/index.shtml>, and has moved from the Leis Center to Fairfax Ridge!

Mail being sent to our office through the pony, should be addressed like this:

Pony Mail:
Fairfax Ridge
ISD, 3rd Floor
Elaine Stanford

New address and phone numbers are posted on Blackboard.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Debbie Key

Ending balance reported at November Board Meeting: **\$15987.33** with deposits/credits: \$230.00 and withdrawals/debits \$2,889.91, balance for today stands at **\$13327.42.**

VII. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

A. Membership - Lianne LaFleur

No report

B. Choral Festival - Deb Rudd and Michael Dennis

Weather Make-Up dates for Site Rehearsal Schedule: One of the options being considered by the School Board next week as a result of the snow days, is to lengthen the school day. Deb and Michael presented some options for site rehearsals depending on which plan is voted for by the Board. Look for updates provided by the Choral Festival Chairs.

Social Gathering: Site Hosts were encouraged to communicate a social gathering location for participating teachers after site rehearsals. This would help all of us de-stress, get to know our new teachers, show more collaboration and less isolation among music teachers.

Artwork Selection for program: Board members voted on student artwork

Co-chair 2010: Michael sent an email in February asking for interest in co-chair for All-County Chorus next year. He is still compiling a list and will present nominees to the Board next month.

Festival Guest Conductors 2011/2012: Carla asked that the co-chairs compile a list of potential festival conductors with photo and bios to be presented at the next meeting.

General Membership Meeting: The FGMEA April meeting will be held at ACCF where we will elect officers for the next year.

ACCF Instrumentalists: Fairfax music teachers Wayne Tympanick and Jack Layne are going to play instrumental parts for *Everlasting Melody!*

C. New Teacher - Camille Haberland

Mentors: New teachers and mentors added this year include: Amanda Roberts- Bene Dodd (Mentor), John Kase- Susan Lester (Mentor), and Katelyn Kyser- Katie Friedman (Mentor).

Thank You Note: Several nice notes from mentees regarding their mentors have been received. Camille shared one message with the Board:

Dear FGMEA Board,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Great Beginnings "shower." Being a new teacher is stressful and overwhelming no matter where you are; but at least in Fairfax, there is always someone there to support you. The lessons and materials are wonderful and contain a lot of variety. Lesson planning is my biggest challenge. It's always nice to get more ideas to fill my box of tools. Thank you again, for your help and guidance!
Sincerely, Ashton Streavig

Great Beginnings: The Great Beginnings Class ended on Feb. 22. Gracious notes of thanks and appreciation were received by new teachers.

D. Resource - Rebecca Caldwell and Pam Hill

Private Teacher Information: A list of private teachers was collected by the Resource team. The private teacher list includes vocal and instrumental teachers and will be available on the FGMEA website for members. Blackboard will have a link to the FGMEA website. FGMEA will host and maintain the list on our website.

Rebecca Caldwell's new email is Rebecca.caldwell2@fcps.edu

E. Social- Misha Chernov, Betsy Nerdhal, Vanessa Utell, Jennifer Burke
Snack preparation for All County Choral Festival was briefly discussed.
Lunch preference for pianist (special orders) and guest conductor was discussed.

F. Newsletter - Lee Larson (by Carla Okouchi)

A newsletter will be sent out electronically in the near future!

G. Public Relations - James Laster

James reported lots of success in December with teacher responses for publicizing events. At one school a lot of senior citizens came! What a great outing and show of what we do! James is currently getting publicity ready about All-County Choral Festival to send out.

H. Ways and Means - Emily Sternisha

The ACCF T-shirt master order form deadline has been changed from March 1st to March 15th due to the snow days. Schools submitting orders after March 15th will need to pick up their t-shirts at ACC festival.

If another order of t-shirts is needed to supply ACC students, we will have a better idea in March.

T-shirts are at the SITES to share with students.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Grant Advisory Committee - Christian King & Lucinda Sexton

VEA Grant: Lucinda Sexton and Camille Haberland are working on an NEA grant application to support new general music teachers. Lucinda reported she's been working on writing a grant where mentor can visit mentee twice, and the mentee can visit mentor two times. The grant must show evidence of student learning. Deadline is June 1, which will be in time for beginning of the new school year.

Board discussed how sub moneys would work to support the grant. Carla stated that once the grant has been accepted, we would go forward with planning all aspects of initiating the program.

B. Technology/Website - Bev Ogden

A huge thank you to Rod Tompkins for helping to get the FGMEA website together! He found a new place to house our site and the cost will be \$50.00 a year. He cleaned up the documents so things can be found easily.

MOTION by Bev Ogden to provide Rod Tompkins \$100 as an honorarium for his help with the FGMEA website.

SECONDED by Lucinda Sexton.

Following discussion, the **Motion passed.**

You are encouraged to visit the FGMEA website at: www.fgmea.org; password: music

C. Clusters - Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Jessica Stowe, Ellyn Sillick-Nash

No questions or concerns

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tuesday March 23, 2010