

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2010

The October meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday October 26, 2010 at the FEA office in Fairfax, Virginia

I. Call to Order (*Carla Okouchi*)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Board members present: **Carla Okouchi, Joy Petty, Rob Stansberry, Elyn Sillick-Nash, Debbie Key, Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison, Deb Rudd, Jennifer Burke, Rebecca Bostrom, Pamela Hill, Camille Haberland, Lee Larsen, Charlie Ring, James Laster, Emily Sternisha, Christian King, and Lucinda Sexton.**

Board members excused: **Jennifer Frazier, Bev Ogden, Lianne LaFleur, Dori Eggan, Rod Tompkins, Michael Dennis, Mary Frances Dini, and Misha Chernov.**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig**

II. President's Report (*Carla Okouchi*)

-School Board Meeting October 7, 2010

Carla would like to congratulate the Instructional Service Department and our Fine Arts Department on a fabulous presentation on **Goal 1.3 Explore, understand, and value the fine and practical arts.** The School Board was very impressed and excited to see student samples of the 6th Grade Music Assessment that is moving county wide this year.

Carla spoke on behalf of the Fairfax General Music Educators Association to thank the School Board for including Goal 1.3 as part of the "new core". She also shared the concern that increased instructional time is threatening our choral programs at the elementary school. In her speech she emphasized the importance of a **45 minutes** (minimum) rehearsal taking place on a weekly basis.

Afterwards Stu Gibson thanked Carla for sharing and informed her that three School Board members are vocalists!

-FGMEA Minutes

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

-Thank You to Mary Frances Dini and Deb Rudd for organizing our FGMEA Fall Music In-Service and all the FCPS music educators Jack Layne, Caroline Crocker, and Lucinda Sexton who shared that day. Thank you to Jeanette Essig and Margie Woods for coordinating the 6th Grade Music Assessment training sessions. And a special thank you to the pilot school teachers who shared ideas and answered the various questions brought up by teachers.

-FEA Annual Department Request

Carla was asked to submit the required documents to maintain our department within the Fairfax Education Association. Elected officers of FGMEA are required to be members of FEA.

-FEA RA report

Special guests were present to encourage everyone to go out and vote on November 2, 2010! NEA Executive Committee Member Princess Moss was also in attendance. She shared that our organization is focusing on helping struggling schools with the priority schools campaign. For more information visit www.neaprioritieschools.org

FEA is joining forces a coalition of Fairfax County Unionized Employees. This partnership is with the Firefighters, Police, Emergency Response, and others employees in preparation for budget talks.

FEA continues to keep the pressure on our School Board to use the Jobs Bill Stimulus Funds for a 2% mid-year COLA and re-instating the 66 custodians who were laid off.

- There was an update on the Jobs Bill money (go to the website to see the latest: www.fairfaxea.org)

We voted to establish an Action Plan to deal with the increasing pressure being placed on all of us. It was clear from the issues raised by the FEA reps that everyone is at a breaking point with the amount of work and lack of compensation.

-Joys & Concerns

Congratulation to Rod Tompkins who is celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary! Congratulations to Vanessa Utell on the birth of her daughter Grace Cecilia Utell on October, 25, 2010 at 8:49 p.m. She is 7 lb. 13 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Proud parents are doing very well.

III. Vice President (Robert Stansbery)

- Time To Teach Survey 2010

127 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?” 53 respondents answered “Yes” and 74 answered “No” for a positive answer rate of 41.7%.

This is an 8.3% decrease in positive responses from 2009. The four-year trend is below:

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Respondents	130	137	140	127
“Yes” responses	58	57	70	53
“No” responses	72	80	70	74
Positive percentage	44.6%	41.6%	50%	41.7%

In response to the question, “Does every student in fourth, fifth and sixth grades have the opportunity to participate in a minimum of 45 minutes per week of string orchestra instruction, every student in fifth and sixth grades have the opportunity to participate in a minimum of 45 minutes per week of band instruction, and every student in fifth and sixth grades have the opportunity to participate each week in a large group choral rehearsal?” 84 respondents answered “Yes” and 43 answered “No” for a positive answer rate of 66.1%.

This was the first time that this question was asked in our annual survey.

IV. Secretary’s Report (*Ellyn Sillick-Nash*)

Minutes approved as written/corrected

V. Treasurer’s Report (*Debbie Key*)

October ending balance was \$17,131.17. With deposits/credits of \$330.00 and withdrawals/debits of \$286.12 balance today stands at \$17,175.05.

Non-Profit Status was maintained by submitting the 990e postcard with the IRS. As a non-profit organization we need to make sure to keep our funds under \$25,000.00 to avoid additional paperwork that would need to be filed.

MOTION by Debbie Key to add the following words in the FGMEA Constitution under the Treasurer’s job description: “The Treasurer will work with the president, who is the principal officer of the organization, to file a 990e postcard with the IRS within 15 days of the preceding tax year. The tax year is June 1st to May 31st.” and also “The income should be limited to \$25,000.00 per year; otherwise, a long tax form will need to be file.”

Seconded by Christian King

Discussion: Charlie Ring wondered if the income limit would mess up our accounting. Debbie said that it will not. She mentioned that we will need to be careful because we have had two years recently where our income was \$19,000. Lee Larsen asked if the new higher cost of the ACCF CD’s will cause our income to be too high. Debbie said that the higher cost is in what we need to pay the Wygals and the IRS cares how much money we make not how much we spend.

The motion passed.

VI. Fine Arts Office Report (*Jeannette Essig*)

- 6th Grade Music Assessment Training

Jeanette said that she appreciated the fine questions and the level of attention from the teachers attending the trainings. She also appreciated how the teachers worked together. The testing packets are ready and will go out in the pony on October 27.

Teachers will soon get a checklist sent via email that will list the things that need to be done to be ready when the testing window opens.

- **National Symphony Orchestra**
While the NSO field trips have been a big priority during budget cuts, money is still tight. Unfortunately, this means that there will not be money any time soon to pay for substitutes so that General Music teachers can attend the concerts.
- **Regulations**
A committee is in the process of forming to suggest changes to the regulation that dictated the minimum amount of music that elementary students must have. We do not expect to see any changes for this school year.
The FGMEA Board discussed the importance of having Elementary General Music teachers on this committee. Jeanette said that J.D. Anderson will be involved in this.
- **Private Teacher List**
Jeanette has been out of the office frequently in the last month and has not been able to send the private teacher list yet. She expects to send the list soon.

VII. Committee Chair Reports:

- ***Membership drive update (Lianne LaFleur)***
Lianne reported that we are currently at **183** members! Some FGMEA Board members need to remember to pay their dues.

We are 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.

Lianne would like to propose that we offer a \$5.00 membership fee for long-term substitutes as well as new teachers to FCPS. This is the current price offered to 1st year teachers.

MOTION made by Lee Larsen to change the membership fee for long term substitutes to \$5.00.
Seconded by Rob Stansberry.
Motion passed.
- ***Choral Festival (Michael Dennis and Jennifer Frazier)***
No report.
- ***Inservice (Mary Frances Dini and Deb Rudd)***
Deb Rudd and Mary Frances would like to thank Jack Layne, Caroline Crocker, and Lucinda Sexton for stepping in to present at our first big inservice. Deb and Mary Frances are looking for ideas for future in-services. Anyone with suggestions for topics or clinicians should contact Deb. The committee will be putting together a file of possible in-service session ideas.

- ***Grant Advisory Committee (Christian King & Lucinda Sexton)***
FGMEA grant applications due Monday, November 1, 2010. Christian presented a amended application to be used next year. The application has wording changes to clarify that the grant money is awarded to the school and not the individual teacher. The application's signature page also states that while the purchased materials are property of the school, it is for the grant-writing teacher's use while he or she is at that school. Christian said that this year's grant winner will have to sign this new signature page. Another change that the Grant committee will make is to have the check written out to the school instead of the individual teacher.
- ***New Teacher (Camille Haberland)***
 We welcome Erik Blydenburg, and experienced general music teacher to Old Creek Elementary School starting November 1, 2010. We now have mentors for all new teachers. The Mentor Log Site is up and running. Several mentees requested to observe their mentors. Another mentee asked to be observed by mentor in her environment at school. At this time there is still no money available for observations. Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to consult with their principals.
- ***Resource (Rebecca Caldwell & Pamela Hill)***
 The Private Music Teacher list will be updated and distributed when Jeanette sends out the email. James Laster asked if we could have more information about the private teachers added to the list such as training and background. Many parents just look at the list and call a potential private teacher without knowing anything about the person. Rebecca said that this is meant to be a short list and website addresses for some teachers are on the list. The teachers' websites should have the information that parents need.

VIII. New Business:

- ***Constitution (Charlie Ring)***
 Charlie asks that Board Members look over their job descriptions in the Constitution and let him know if any information needs to be added. Constitutional changes are voted on in the spring.
- ***Newsletter (Lee Larson)***
 Please continue to send in articles about 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. Lee is always looking for more for the "Kudos" column. Let him know if you have completed your Master's degree, or received special certifications or awards.
- ***Public Relations (James Laster)***
 Please send James your concert dates and information that you would like to have distributed and publicized. He has created a new form for members to use. This form will be attached to the email message used to distribute the Board meeting minutes.

A gmail account (Google calendar) has been created for members to log in and update any performance information. You can have this sent to private email account so you can see all the performances upcoming. The Board discussed if it would be possible

to have a shared Outlook calendar. For now, James will continue working on the Google calendar until we come up with an alternative.

James contacts news media once a month to tell them information about upcoming performances and special events. One school was lucky enough to have a news reporter pick up the story. Having more publicity about your event can lead to a larger audience turnout.

- ***Technology/Website (Rod Tompkins and Bev Ogden)***
- **MOTION by Christian King that we distribute the Board Meeting minutes via the FGMEA website as opposed to sending them out through FCPS email and that an announcement with a link to website is distributed to cluster chairs when minutes are posted.**

Seconded by Lucinda Sexton.

DISCUSSION: Should we send the minutes out using personal email accounts?

Unfortunately it becomes a hassle since there are a lot of bounce-backs from incorrect email addresses, spam filters and such. Joy wondered if the cluster chairs' jobs will be changed if they are not actually sending the minutes. The Board decided that cluster chairs will still be sending board meeting information although via a link. There was more discussion about if people will still read the minutes if they have to take an extra step to get to them?

Motion passed.

- ***Ways and Means (Emily Sternisha)***
 - o Emily asked if the Board thought that the ACCF shirt design should be changed. It is cheaper to keep using the same design.
- ***Clusters (Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison)***
 - o Question/Concern from Cluster III/IV member: *Could dates for ACCF should be sent out as soon as possible in order to get them on school master calendars as soon as possible?* Jeanette responded that some high schools don't "open" their calendars to us and book outside events (us) more than a year in advance. That often keeps us from planning to far in advance and it also limits the high schools we can choose from because of time concerns.

IX. Adjournment: meeting 5:41pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ellyn Sillick-Nash
November 8, 2010