

**FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes  
November 23, 2010**

The November meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday November 23, 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, Kelly Harbison, Jennifer Burke, Rebecca Caldwell, Pamela Hill, Lee Larsen, Charlie Ring, Emily Sternisha, Christian King, Lucinda Sexton, Misha Chernov, Mary Frances Dini, Michael Dennis, and Jennifer Frazier.**

Board members excused: **Dori Eggan, Deb Rudd, Rod Tompkins, Camille Haberland, James Laster, Bev Ogden, Lianne LaFleur, and Meredith Ford**

Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig**

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

- *Thank You's* Thank you to Margaret Hannan and Alisa Keiffer for hosting our All County Choral Festival Music Reading Session at Kings Glen Elementary School. Thank you to our social committee for providing refreshments. We take our hats off to Michael Dennis and Jennifer Frazier for organizing such a great session with Joann Gregoryk. Thank you to Bev Ogden and the music committee for a fabulous job getting music out to everyone! And we'd like to thank Jeanette Essig for filming our guest conductor. During a time of Thanksgiving we certainly appreciate the time, dedication, and attention to detail our participating general music teachers put forth for our All County Choral Festival.

- Thank you to Bev Ogden and Danielle Menard for organizing the annual "New Teacher Shower." Thank you also to the FGMEA Board members who shared their wonderful lesson plans. Each year I'm always impressed with the creative ideas and the ways technology can enhance the delivery of our instruction!

- *FACE*

The Elementary Scheduling Committee is being formed to address the many scheduling concerns received this fall. This group will be analyzing scheduling models. FCPS administrators will be forming a committee as well and we hope to work with them to share our recommendations. Please email Christian Donlon (Face Co-Chair) at [cdonlon@verizon.net](mailto:cdonlon@verizon.net) if you are interested in serving.

- **Joys & Concerns**

Congratulations to **Odori Pendleton** (former FCPS) general music teacher who while teaching at Hybla Valley Elementary School made the cover of the National Music Educators Newsletter!

Congratulations to **Bonny Tynch**, general music teacher at Cunningham Park who was featured in FCPS publication "About our People." Bonny presented "Developing Artistry in Elementary Singers," at the national conference of the American Orff Schulwerk Association, which was held November 3 through 6 in Spokane, Washington. Workshop participants took part in a choral rehearsal and learned vocal building strategies and musicianship rules to use in their classrooms and choir rehearsals to foster healthy singing techniques in their students.

### III. Vice President (*Robert Stansbery*)

#### - **Economics and Personal Finance at Secondary Level**

The Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia School Board have added a required class for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on economy/personal finance. Implementation was delayed until 2011-12 due to school budget issues. This class WILL eliminate one elective so it could have a huge impact for all of us. It is too late to try to reverse this but there will be a chance for us to make suggestions on how to deal with the issue.

#### - **Budget Concerns**

The FCPS budget "cut list" was expected to have been released in October but we have not seen it yet. There is some concern that the list may not be made public until the last minute.

#### - **FEA RA report** (*Charles Ring*)

Please attend the **December 2, 2010** School Board meeting at Luther Jackson Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m. We're showing solidarity by wearing blue in support of a 2% mid-year salary increase and reinstating our 66 custodial positions.

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

Minutes approved as written/corrected

### V. Treasurer's Report (*Debbie Key*)

October 26, 2010 ending balance was **\$17,175.05**. With deposits/credits of \$75.00 and withdrawals/debits of \$1,055.73. Current balance as of 11/23/10 was **\$16,194.3**

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

#### - **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Assessment**

- **Concern** (Margie Woods) Teachers in elementary schools that do not have 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are feeling left out of the All County Choral Festival. At this time those schools have organized an honor choir to give their 5<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to participate in a large group choir.

- Thank you to all teachers who are up and running with assessments in schools. Thank you also for sending questions. One often asked question has been about 504/ IEPs. In this first year of all schools giving the assessment, special support from the Special Education team at your school is not required. Keep whole assessment as much like a regular lesson as possible. Relax and know that by next year, we will know more answers and be able to answer all questions. We will be in touch about how to submit scores.

- Instructional Services will be meeting in December to talk about the teaching minutes regulation. This is not a fully-formed committee yet- this is just the first meeting to start the ball rolling.

- The private teacher listing will have some changes this year. The only private teachers listed by name will be those who are FCPS employees because they have already been background checked and fingerprinted. Teachers and music lesson providers who are non-FCPS will have only website links listed.

## VII. Committee Chair Reports:

- **Membership** (*Lianne LaFleur*)

Lianne would like the FGMEA Board to consider making home email addresses a REQUIRED field on the membership forms for next year. Board decided that this is a good idea.

Mary Frances Dini wondered if student teachers in the county could become members of FGMEA? Carla said yes they are more than welcome to join, however they will not have the right to vote on organizational matters. Associate members are general music teachers not employed by FCPS. Privileges include: participation in FGMEA workshops, attendance at FGMEA meetings, and receipt of the FGMEA newsletters.

- **Choral Festival** (*Michael Dennis and Jennifer Frazier*)

*Music Committee*- Thank you to Bev Ogden and our music packing committee you all did a fabulous job! Bev reported that the committee has distributed all music. She noted that this year has been the smoothest ever! She commended Amanda Pilmer and the rest of the committee for a job well done.

*ACCF Music Read-through*- was a BIG success!

*Site Rehearsal Hosts* have received information to prepare for upcoming rehearsals starting in February. Michael hopes to contact each site rehearsal host in order to be sure that the correct voice parts are being rehearsed.

*Rehearsal CD* – The CD has been recorded, mastered but not duplicated. One disc per school will be in pony around mid-December. To avoid confusion about voice parts, each disc will have track listings that are specific to that particular school/ rehearsal site.

*Fung Yang Song*- There will be a new copy of Fung Yang posted to 24/7 that has pronunciation in the score under the Chinese words.

*Next Year's Festival*- Barbara Tagg (conductor) is working with a composer to have a piece commissioned that we don't have to pay for! The composer may write a grant for funding.

- **Grant Advisory Committee** (*Christian King & Lucinda Sexton*)

*FGMEA Grants* We received 7 grant applications this year. We are very excited to be awarding 2 grants! Blown away with quality of grant applications this year! The grant winners are: **Dori Eggan** (collaboration with local theater to come in and work with students) and **Jennifer Lucas** (purchasing Appalachian Dulcimer kits).

- **New Teacher** (*Camille Haberland*)

*New Teacher Shower* (*Joy Petty*) On behalf of the teachers in Great Beginnings Bev and Danielle want to thank those on the Board who participated in the 'shower' on Monday. Our new teachers were so appreciative and overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The stuffed animals, laminated fingering charts, SmartBoard lessons, and other lessons and manipulatives were very much appreciated by the new teachers. Bev will share some thank you notes at the next Board meeting.

- **Newsletter** (*Lee Larson*)  
If you have any items for the December newsletter please submit them.
- **Technology/Website** (*Bev Ogden and Rod Tompkins*)
- Most content on the website is now available to current FGMEA members only. This includes meeting minutes, newsletters, board info, forms, the photo and video galleries and the Links page. The Home, About, Join and Contact pages are still available to the general public.
- A user account has been created for each member that provided a home e-mail address.
- All users have been e-mailed a unique username and password for access to the restricted content.
- Users can login to their profile to change the password. Requests for a username change need to be submitted via email to Rod Tompkins or Bev Ogden.
- About 26 members have not responded to individual requests for a non-FCPS e-mail address. They must provide Rod or Bev with a home e-mail address to receive a username and password.
- Changes were made to website directories to prevent access to members-only content via search engines such as Google, Yahoo, etc.
- Content still needed! We still don't have photos from all board members, many past newsletters, and a current copy of the constitution. Whenever possible, photos should be high resolution and documents should be in original format, not converted to PDF.  
*Please submit all content via email to Rod or Bev.*

### VIII. New Business:

- **Newsletter** (*Lee Larson*)  
Rebecca Caldwell suggested that Lee might consider submitting items from our "Kudos Section" to FCPS Supergram "About Our People" - the editor is Andy Grunig ([andy.grunig@fcps.edu](mailto:andy.grunig@fcps.edu)). Another great venue for us to spotlight our wonderful music teachers!
- **Ways and Means** (*Emily Sternisha*)  
**MOTION by Emily Sternisha:** *I motion for the order of 500 ACCF t-shirts that will cost approximately \$3,000.00 (\$6.00 ea.) in January, 2011. **Secinded by:** Jennifer Frazier*  
**Motion passed.**

Number of T-Shirts left over from ACCF 2010:

Small: 2	Medium: 0	Large: 4	X-large: 7
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January 2011 Purchase Order Numbers:

Small: 200	Medium: 200	Large: 75	X-Large: 25
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Total shirts: 500

Total amount: \$3000 (\$6-a piece)

- **Resource** (*Rebecca Caldwell & Pamela Hill*)

An index of lessons is being developed and Pam would like the Board to offer any suggestions and feedback before the index is sent to members.

- **Clusters** (*Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison*)  
*Clusters VII & VIII*

A member is concerned about the change in the Elementary Grade Handbook's General Music Comment Section. They "appreciate the addition of a comment about fully participating in music" and "showing respect to others in music," but are concerned about the other behavioral comments that have been removed, such as "exhibits self control," "listens attentively in music," and "exhibits appropriate behavior when interacting with peers." They also expressed that they feel an "improvement" comment should be added for both academics and behavior in the General Music section. Comment by Joy: These comments are reflective of the new report card that is coming out next year. Comments that weren't relevant on this new report card were removed. Also many that were not often used were removed.

**IX. Adjournment: meeting 5:34pm**

***The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 22, 2011***

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellyn Sillick-Nash