

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2011

The November meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday February 22, 2011 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, Ellyn Sillick-Nash, Debbie Key, Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobiarka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison, Lianne LaFleur, Michael Dennis, Jennifer Frazier, Misha Chernov, Dori Eggan, Jennifer Burke, Rebecca Bostrom, Camille Haberland, Lee Larsen, James Laster, Emily Sternisha, Bev Ogden, and Rod Tompkins.**

Board members excused: **Rob Stansbery, Deb Rudd, Mary Frances Dini, Pamela Hill, Charlie Ring, Christian King, and Lucinda Sexton.**
Fine Arts Office: **Jeanette Essig and Jennifer Himes**

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

Welcome Back!

- Request for all FGMEA chairs to work on updating outline of duties for the March 22, 2011 meeting. Your year at a glance will be helpful for those who will be filling your roles next year.
- **FEA Postcard Campaign** has been very successful.
 - Several School Board members are looking towards ways to work with FEA on addressing the issue of time.
 - A paper link chain of "time" teachers spend away from students and working before or after contract hours will be shared at the next school board meeting.
 - Members who are able to attend the School Board meeting please remember to wear BLUE.
 - For everyone who is too busy to be there to show your support, we are asking you to send an email message supporting Michael Hairston after his speech.
- **FEA Lobby Day** On January 24, 2011 Carla joined other members of FEA for the annual bus trip to Richmond for "Lobby Day". Members of VEA flooded the building to speak with legislators about supporting:
 - Budget amendments from Delegate Tata and Senator Houck to provide a 3% salary increases to school employees.
 - To Protect the VRS defined benefit program, reject the notion of re-imposing the 5% employee contribution.
 - Protect the General Fund the percentage of the state budget going to public education is at an all-time low.
 - Restore the "Hold Harmless" funds appropriated in Chapter 874.Urged legislators to **OPPOSE SB966 & HB1644 "P.E."** bill sharing concerns about funding, additional P.E. staffing, facility issues and safety, and ultimately time taken away from the Fine Arts programs. Carla is pleased to share that all the legislators her group spoke with voted against this bill. However, it passed in both the House and the Senate. *We need more members on the bus next year!*

- **FACE** Thank you to those who have contacted the VA General Assembly members concerning the HB1644 and SB966 that will require students to have 150 minutes of P.E. instruction a week. Over the weekend we asked everyone to contact Governor McDonnell urging him to veto SB966. Sample letters were sent out to FGMEA members.
<http://www.governor.virginia.gov>
- **Joys & Concerns** Cards were sent to the following past and present members on behalf of FGMEA. **Nancy Pope** (*Retired General Music Teacher and long time member*) shared our condolences on the loss of her mother. **Lucinda Sexton's** husband is recovering from a recent heart attack. **Gayla Kobialka's** husband is recovering from emergency surgery.

III. **Past President's Report** (*Joy Petty*)

- **FGMEA Board 2011-2012** Nomination committee has begun process. A slate of officers to be voted upon will be presented at the FGMEA General Membership meeting in April.

IV. **Vice President's Report** (*Rob Stansbery*)- *given by Joy Petty*

- **All County Choral Festival Conflicts** – Many schools have reported that they have conflicts between ACCF site rehearsals and Area Orchestra/ Area Band rehearsals. Many schools have not been able to compromise. Some suggestions offered by Board members are:
 - Email the band/orchestra teachers ahead of time and offer a compromise.
 - Choose ACCF kids who are not in Area Band or Area Orchestra
 - Allow the students to miss one ACCF site rehearsal (to attend a band/orchestra rehearsal) only.

Carla wondered if many band and orchestra teachers do not realize that although they have 7 rehearsals, we only have 3 site rehearsals. Can the Fine Arts Office send out an email letting them know? Jeanette said that the FAO would like teachers to compromise when there are conflicts. However, she will ask JD Anderson to send out an email regarding this. Jeanette would also like to remind us to let the band and strings teachers know which students are involved in ACCF. Sometimes there are conflicts with Solo & Ensemble Festival and if the instrumental teachers know ahead of time, it may be possible to have the student go to Solo & Ensemble in a different district.

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

- **MOTION: Ellyn Sillick-Nash made a motion that the November minutes be approved as written and corrected.** Seconded by Emily Sternisha. **The motion passed.**

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

- **SB966 (PE bill)**- The FCPS school Board, Principals Association, and Physical Educators do not support the bill.
- **All County Choral Festival Program** Teachers may now enter information of student participants in ACCF into the database on Blackboard. Account name is user ID and the password is ACCF in capital letters. It is important that all information is correct by March 3, 2011 for the printing of our programs.
- **Sixth Grade Assessment training**- Jeanette is looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming trainings. Materials are being printed and folded. The Music Assessment will be placed into eCart.

- **Summer Curriculum Development-** Summer Curriculum Development will be happening again this year and Jeanette is looking for people to participate. Look for an announcement and more information in an upcoming Supergram.
- **Elementary School Schedule Task Force-** A small group has been assembled by FCPS to look over sample models and discuss possible changes to the regulations. Questions were raised such as “Are we preserving enough time to teach the Fine Arts?”

VII. Treasurer’s Report (*Debbie Key*)

- The November 23, 2010 ending balance was **\$16,193.32**. With deposits/credits of \$30.00 and withdrawals/debits of \$3,128.62 the current balance as of 2/22/11 was **\$13,095.70**.

VIII. Committee Chair Reports:

Membership (*Lianne LaFleur*)

- An updated list of members has been distributed. We now have 190 members. There are about 260 general music teachers in the county, so please encourage your colleagues to join. It is not too late!

Choral Festival (*Michael Dennis and Jennifer Frazier*)

- **Artwork Selection for program-** Board members voted on the artwork and 10 pictures will be sent to the printer to see how they scan. Michael and Jennifer will choose those that scan the best for the program.
- **Procedure changes for ACCF-** More people will be assigned as Row Captains so there will be substitutes and the Row Captains can have a break. This means that some people who are assigned to committees with shorter time commitments will may be assigned to two duties. Michael is also looking for people to help plan and direct the Kiss and Ride to make it run more smoothly this year.
- **Progress of co-chair 2011-2012-** Jennifer will be sending out an email with the list of requirements to fill this position. Names of interested candidates will be presented at the next FGMEA Board meeting.
- **Meeting at ACCF-** The FGMEA General Membership meeting will once again be conducted at the annual All County Choral Festival to elect officers and vote upon any Constitution changes.

Social (*Misha Chernov, Jennifer Burke, Dori Eggan*)

- **ACCF food-** FGMEA will provide breakfast and snacks on Friday and lunch on Saturday. This means that teachers will need to remember to bring their own lunches on Friday. Lunch will be provided for the pianist and the guest conductor on both days.

Ways and Means (*Emily Sternisha*)

- **ACCF T-shirt update-** The student order form and the master order form have different due dates listed. We will be changing the deadlines to **March 14-** anything ordered before this date will be delivered to the schools and orders received after the date will be delivered at the Festival. Emily will be emailing the site rehearsal coordinators about how they can get a sample shirt to show the singers at the upcoming site rehearsal.

IX. New Business:

Fine Arts (*Jennifer Himes*)

- **IFTA Scholarship-** Jennifer made a request that FGMEA fund \$750.00 scholarship for Institute For The Arts this summer. IFTA would like to make a matching scholarship so that two elementary students are awarded this opportunity. The applications are different this year so that the selection panel will have more information about the students. Students will still need a music teacher recommendation and Principal's signature (verifying financial need) on their applications. IFTA is also asking the Cluster Offices for a donation that IFTA will match so that more students can participate in the program.
- **IFTA Registration-** IFTA brochures will be coming in the mail to students and teachers soon. Registration will open on March 14.

MOTION (Bev Ogden) I make a motion that FGMEA funds a \$750 scholarship for the IFTA 2011 summer to the student of a FGMEA member. Seconded by Kelly Harbison.

Discussion: Several Board members remarked on the amazing amount of talent in IFTA- both teachers and students. This is a very special program that the county has. How will financial need be assessed? It will be determined by school principals by using the Free/ Reduced Lunch list. It was pointed out that the student who receives the matched funds from IFTA will not necessarily be a student of a FGMEA member.

Motion passed.

FGMEA Retired Membership (Carla Okouchi)

- **New Membership Option-** Some teachers join FGMEA and retire from teaching part-way through the year. Currently, they retain their membership for the rest of the year. We would like to consider having a (non-voting) membership option for retired teachers to continue being involved for years after they have stopped teaching. How can we use these experienced teachers to help our efforts? Bev mentioned that she believes there is an "associate membership" tied to our FGMEA Constitution that would cover this.

MOTION (Joy Petty): I move that the retired membership be tabled until the next meeting. Seconded: Lianne LaFleur and James Laster. **Motion passed.**

Clusters (Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison)

- **Chorus conflicts-** Several schools have had students pulled out of the school chorus for failing math eCart grades. Some teacher report that they are not able to have chorus during the school day and are expected to teach it after school. Some teachers shared that their chorus rehearsal time has been reduced to 15 minutes. Jeanette understands that there are many challenges- there are even schools where some students are not being given the general music time they need. Chorus is counted as general music in these schools. This comment led to discussion about how this changes the accuracy of our 6th grade assessments since some students do not take the assessments at all because they are not receiving general music at all.
- **Intervention time-** Some general music teachers are concerned about how Intervention time is being used. Several schools require GM teachers to work with students but the time is mostly supervising students. One teacher reports that she spends Intervention time checking assignment books and helping the students pack up at the end of the day. Some schools have Intervention time well planned and the GM teachers are given lesson plans or concepts to focus on during the time. Jeanette says that one of the reasons that there are so many different ways that Intervention time is being used is that these directives are coming from the Cluster offices. Different clusters have different ideas about Intervention time.

Technology/ Website (*Bev Ogden and Rod Tompkins*)

- **Pictures of Board members-** Pictures are still needed. If your picture is not on the website yet, please email it to Rod. The pictures can be casual or funny. If there is anything you would like to see added to the current website, please send suggestions.
- **Website use-** Rod reports that fewer than half of FGMEA members have logged into the website at all. This means that people are not reading the Board meeting minutes. Carla would like members to continue making use of the website. We **do not** want to go back to the way we were distributing minutes years ago by making paper copies(save a tree), stuffing envelopes (time/ money), and sending them through the Pony. Cluster chairs should keep reminding the members about the website.

IX. Adjournment: meeting 5:47pm

The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tuesday March 22, 2011

Respectfully submitted,
Ellyn Sillick-Nash