

## **FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes**

### **March 22, 2011**

The March meeting of the FGMEA Board was held on Tuesday March 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, Rob Stansbery, Debbie Key, Mary Frances Dini, Camille Haberland, Joy Petty, Bev Ogden, Gayla Kobialka, Charlie Ring, Rebecca Caldwell, Lucinda Sexton, Michael Dennis, Lee Larson, Ellyn Sillick-Nash, James Laster, Meredith Ford, Emily Sternisha, Kelly Harbison, Jennifer Burke, Misha Chernov, Deb Rudd, and Jennifer Frasier.**

Board members excused: **Pam Hill, Christian King, Lianne LaFleur, Rod Tompkins, Carolyn Dorey, and Dori Eggan.**

Fine Arts office: **Jeanette Essig**

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

- **FGMEA Board**
  - Thank you to the committees who emailed their Year at A Glance. If you are still working on it please email me a copy ASAP.
- **“Create A Jingle” Training Sessions**
  - Thank you to Jeanette Essig for sharing an informative training session for the second round of music assessments. The testing window is from April 11-May 13, 2011.
- **School Board Meeting**
  - Carla attended the February 24, 2011 Fairfax County School Board meeting. She would like to congratulate **Lee Larsen** and his group of students who opened by singing the National Anthem. Members of FCFT and FEA were in attendance wearing blue for solidarity. The Presidents of FEA and FCFT spoke on behalf of teachers in an effort to address the issue of TIME. A paper link chain created by three schools board representing the many hours beyond contract our teachers work was placed before the school.
- **Contact Team**
  - On Friday, March 18, 2011 Carla attended a meeting with Supervisor Linda Smyth in the Providence District. FEA has small groups meeting not only with School Board members but extended this to the Fairfax County Government Board of Supervisors. We are working together towards funding our school system and the teachers who make it top notch.
- **Joys and Concerns**
  - It is with great sadness that we share the death of **Jaquie Yorge's** mother. The FGMEA board sent a card with our sincere condolences.

### III. Past President (*Joy Petty*)

- **FGMEA BOARD 2011-2012 Slate of Officers**
  - Joy presented the Board with next year's proposed slate of officers.

### IV. Vice President's Report (*Rob Stansbery*)

- **ACCF CDs**
  - On Friday March 18, 2011 Rob sent an email clarification to all General Music Educators indicating that the CD price is **\$20.00**. Teachers need to check their order forms and ask their students for the \$5.00 difference if they have only paid last year's price of \$15.00.
- **FEA RA** (*Charlie Ring*)
  - FEA would like to start a **Silent Witness** program to help support teachers who are asked to meet with administrators about serious issues. Many teachers do not know that they have due process rights that are sometimes not adhered to. Teachers are allowed to have another person in the room (acting as a silent witness) when they are being interrogated by administrators. Charlie will ask FEA to send us more information on this program.
  - The PE Bill passed the state House and Senate. We are waiting for the Governor to veto or sign the bill. This will happen by March 29. Please spread the word but be careful that you are stating facts. Rob commented that the bill does not specifically call for a reduction of music time, in fact it does not address this at all. The bill also does not lower the state minimum of 60 minutes a week of music. Jeanette suggested that teachers should read the letter that Dr. Dale sent to the Governor regarding this.
  - **RALLY-** All FGMEA members, friends, coworkers, and families please attend the Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on **Tuesday, March 29, 2011. FCFT and FEA will be having a rally outside the Government Center on at 5:30 p.m. wear BLUE. The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. when the superintendent will present the FCPS budget followed by public comment. We need LARGE NUMBERS to make an impact upon the Board of Supervisors!** The address for the Fairfax County Government Center is: **12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.**

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

- The February minutes were approved as written.

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

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Assessment**
  - Jeanette said that it was delightful to see everyone's faces at the Assessment training meetings.
  - We have run into a problem with the copyright of the sample poem used in the preview lesson. Jeanette has written a poem to replace it and will send out more information soon.
- **ACCF**
  - The database of participants is now closed.
  - A mock-up of the concert program has been sent to the printer.

- **Summer Curriculum Development**
  - Many people have applied to participate in the Summer Curriculum Development program. Applications will be looked over this week.
- **Middle School Choral and Elementary Choral programs**
  - Margie Woods has told Jeanette that many middle school choral directors have said they would like to reach out to the elementary choral teachers, to touch base and connect. The Board brainstormed many different ways this could be accomplished such as:
    - Inviting MS teachers to observe the Saturday ACCF rehearsal (this would have to be planned ahead because of traffic and other logistics)
    - Having the MS teachers come to visit the ES choral rehearsals
    - Holding ES concerts in the MS auditoriums
    - Combining our fall inservice with the MS Choral fall inservice (like we combined this year with band and strings)
    - Invite the MS teachers to come into your school as guest clinicians to work with your choir
    - Invite MS/HS groups to perform at ES concerts.
    - Jeanette suggested that we look into having a vertical meeting next year during the February inservice. This has not happened in the past few years because of Global Awareness trainings.

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

- There is no activity to report since the last Board Meeting. The current balance remains **\$13,095.70** as of 3-22-2011.

## VIII. Committee Chair Reports:

- **Cluster Chair Reports** (*Carolyn Dorey, Gayla Kobialka, Meredith Ford, Kelly Harbison*)
  - A Cluster III/IV member has a concern about the time it takes to grade the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessments. The member believes it would be helpful to be given administrative leave to grade our assessments like the teachers who grade VGLA are given. Mary Frances noted that an Art teacher in her school was able to get a substitute in order to have time to grade the art assessments. Jeanette says that she will pass this suggestion along, but unfortunately does not believe it is likely to happen. However, teachers may be pleasantly surprised if they bring the suggestion to their administrators.
- **Membership** (*Lianne LaFleur*)
  - No report
- **Choral Festival** (*Michael Dennis and Jennifer Frazier*)
  - **Committee Assignments-** Michael hopes to have committee assignments planned over the upcoming teacher workdays.
  - **ACCF Co-Chair 2011**
    - Jennifer announced that she had three candidates for ACCF Co-Chair. One of the candidates is a Board member, so she left the room while a motion was made and voted upon.



## IX. New Business:

- **FGMEA Retired Membership** Carla would like the board to discuss their thoughts and ideas on how our retired general music teachers can support efforts to preserve our music programs.
- **FGMEA Honors Retirees** Last year, FGMEA purchased two musicals and donated them to the Fine Arts Library in honor of our General Music teachers that were retiring in 2010.
  - **MOTION (Carla Okouchi): I move that we purchase the musical “Go Fish” in honor of our 2010-2011 school year retirees, with the amount not to exceed \$100.** Seconded by Rob Stansbery. **Motion passed.**
- **FGMEA Donation to Japan** FGMEA, along with the Fine Arts Office, has always tried to help these causes in the past. The people of Japan are in great need of donations to the Red Cross. The Board members discussed several ways to do this:
  - We could get teachers together to give recitals to raise money to donate.
  - We could have a “drop a buck in the bucket” or spare change campaign at the ACCF concert.
  - We need to remember that any money we collect must be reported to the IRS and may make us go over the \$25,000 income limit for our type of organization.
  - There is an organization that will make a \$2 donation to Japan for every paper crane that is sent in. We could have students make these cranes at ACCF and then we would not have to worry about collecting any actual money. Mary Frances will send Carla more information about this program.
- **Final Board Meeting of the 2010-2011 School Year-** The final Board meeting of the year will be at Rob Stansbery’s house. Board members will be asked to bring a dish to share.

## X. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

***The next FGMEA Board meeting will be Tuesday May 24, 2011***

***Location: Rob Stansbery’s house***

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellyn Sillick-Nash