

FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes September 27, 2011

The September meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at the FEA Office.

I. Call to Order

Rob Stansbery, President, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Board members in attendance were: **Rob Stansbery, Michael Dennis, Joy Petty, Deb Rudd, Mary Francis Dini, Vanessa Utell, Camille Haberland, Rebecca Caldwell, Lee Larsen, Bev Ogden, Jeanette Essig, Marian Schultz, Debbie Key, Carla Okouchi, Jennifer Frazier, Emily Sternisha, Jacob Walker, Christian King** and **Rod Tompkins**.

Special guests present were: FCCDA President **Jessica Lardin**, Fairfax Education Association (FEA) Vice President **Kimberly Adams** and Fine Arts Office Coordinator **Tamra Ferreira**.

Board members who notified Rob that they would not be attending the September Board meeting are: **Meredith Ford, Elyn Sillick-Nash, James Laster, Margie Woods** and **Pam Hill**.

II. President's Report: Rob Stansbery

Rob welcomed the Board to the first meeting of 2011-2012.

Rob thanked members who have been hard at work in their respective roles. Many Board members have already accomplished a great deal of FGMEA work. Special thanks to **Emily Sternisha, Debbie Key and Dori Eggan** for their work preparing the August in-service luncheon, and to **Rod Tompkins** for all of his work on the website and online membership process.

Special thanks to **Marian Schultz** for stepping forward to take today's minutes.

- Every attempt will be made to have minutes out to the membership by the end of the week in which Board meetings are held. Rob will review the minutes this week with Marian and then they will be sent to Board members for review. Rob asked Board members to carefully review the minutes and respond to Marian and Rob with additions, suggestions, and corrections.

Rob has received a number of e-mails from new teachers thanking FGMEA for the gift cards presented to them at the fall in-service. They expressed appreciation for the assistance as they are setting up their classrooms and getting settled in FCPS.

Rob introduced the special guests attending the meeting:

- **Kimberly Adams**, Vice President of the Fairfax Education Association (FEA), spoke for FEA President **Michael Hairston**. Michael has been working on our behalf to discuss

issues that are happening in the schools regarding General Music. Michael is meeting with Instructional Services leadership regarding General Music teachers' concerns.

- **Tamra Ferreira**, Fine Arts Coordinator, addressed her priorities as new FAO Coordinator, including thoughts about the future of Fine Arts programs and the development of a collective vision for all Fine Arts programs in the county. Another priority is the fine tuning of the 6th Grade Assessment delivery and making the process easier than last year. The issue of schedules is also at a forefront in the FAO.
- **Jessica Lardin**, President of the Fairfax County Choral Directors Association (FCCDA) and Choral Director at Annandale High School, would like more visibility between her organization and FGMEA. FCCDA is in the process of incorporating the organization. Jessica and Rob are both eager to facilitate communication between FCCDA and FGMEA.

On Monday, September 20 a group of FGMEA members met with representatives from FEA regarding scheduling concerns. This was prompted by letters sent directly to FEA from FGMEA members. **Cara Okouchi, Charlie Ring, Gretchen Lynch, Jennifer Fraizer** and Rob attended for FGMEA; **Michael Hairston**, FEA President, **Joanne Karsh, Joia Jones, and Jake Lemann** attended for FEA. Discussion included issues such as inequity in scheduling between schools and teachers as well as a perceived inequity between elementary and secondary scheduling, the ambiguity of scheduling regulations and the lack of administrative adherence to the existing regulations. FEA will continue to assist FGMEA in exploring how best to resolve these issues. One action in particular that the group decided to take is to make an attempt to get Rob included on the scheduling task force currently in progress. **Joanne Karsh** is conducting some research into who is responsible for the task force and she will be working with Rob on this request.

Carla Okouchi spoke about her participation in the Teacher Evaluation Task Force. 19 teachers are on the task force; most are FEA members. Seven principals, seven assistant superintendants and 2 parents are also participating. The resulting Teacher Evaluation will be piloted beginning in February 2012.

Proposed evaluation processes will address 7 standards for evaluation. The last of the 7 standards will be Student Academic Progress, which will make up 40% of the evaluation total.

Carla asked FGMEA members to consider the following questions and email her with thoughts and suggestions or bring them to the October Board meeting:

- What is going to be equitable and fair? How do GM teachers figure into the equation, and how do we collect the data? (Measuring is a key concern for number 7). What are some common assessments that we use? Can the 6th grade music assessment be an instrument for achievement?

III. Vice President's Report: Michael Dennis

Michael will begin attending FEA Representative Assembly meetings in October. He asked FGMEA members to email him with concerns they would like raised at FEA meeting.

FGMEA will again be conducting a survey of members regarding scheduling, as we have for several years. The survey will contain the same questions as last year:

- Is every student in your school (grades 1-6) currently receiving at least 60 minutes of general music instruction every week?
- Do all fifth and sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in a large group choral rehearsal on a regular basis during the school day?

Michael suggested adding Kindergarten to the first question, as Kindergarten is now full-day at all schools. **Jeanette Essig** pointed out that Kindergarten is not included in the regulation regarding 60 minutes of music instruction. After discussing possible changes to the wording of the questions, the Board decided to keep the existing survey questions intact for the sake of validity, but to add a third question specifically addressing kindergarten instruction.

MOTION: FGMEA shall add a third question to the annual fall survey: Is every kindergarten student in your school currently receiving at least 60 minutes of general music instruction every week?

Motion made by: **Lee Larsen**. Seconded: **Rebecca Caldwell**.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed adding additional questions to the survey. **Marianne Tagge** asked if one is able to teach General Music through Chorus or vice versa? **Carla Okouchi** suggested that we address the issue of reasonable time for classes, as some teachers are currently teaching 60 minutes per class in one session. **Rob Stansbery** noted that we have resisted adding questions in the past because doing so would make the instrument too tedious and reduce participation.

IV. Secretary's Report: Rob Stansbery

Rob noted that the minutes of the May 2011 Board meeting were never approved by the Board and distributed to the membership due to a number of reasons. He will send out the minutes of that meeting with the minutes of the current meeting. He asked Board members who attended the May meeting to look over the minutes and reply with suggested changes or additions. A report will be made at the October meeting about the minutes of both meetings.

V. Treasurer's Report: Deb Rudd

Deb distributed her report for the period ending September 27, 2011. The account balances are as follows:

Ending balance 05/31/11: \$17,172.25

Deposits/credits: 1,055.05

Withdrawals/debits: 2,438.22

Ending Balance 09/27/11: \$15,789.08

Deb noted that the cost of the August in-service luncheon exceeded the budgeted amount, and that the use of Paypal for membership dues payment has a small cost. **Bev Ogden** asked if the use of Paypal and online registration has affected membership numbers to date. **Debbie Key** will look into comparing this year's membership numbers with previous years' data. **Jeanette**

Essig asked if members visit the FGMEA site more since they had to use it register and pay dues.

VI. Fine Arts Office Report: Jeanette Essig

Jeanette thanked FGMEA for providing the lunch for the August in-service.

219 teachers are registered at this time for assessment training sessions. All teachers are required to attend. The substitute code is on the memo attachment sent by email.

Assessment windows are as follows:

- Connect with Film: November 8 – December 2, 2011.
 - Scores are due Monday, January 30, 2012
- Create a Jingle: April 10 – May 11, 2012.
 - Scores due Friday, June 8, 2012

Communication avenues include the General Music Public Folder on Outlook, FGMEA website, Blackboard, and eCART. Eventually all curriculum items will be found on eCART; Blackboard will be used solely for administrative items. Jeanette asked that the General Music All e-mail distribution list be used sparingly and with caution as the General Music Public Folder is often a more appropriate avenue.

Many teachers have contacted the FAO with feedback about ATEC and instrument repairs. Jeanette noted that ATEC is willing and able to do instrument repair, and they do excellent work. She asked teachers to be patient in dealings with ATEC as they are a small company and band instruments are the priority. A student with a broken cello or flute is not able to participate in band/strings, whereas in General Music instrumental activities are part of a program, not the entire program. Additionally, she asked teachers to plan repair requests, as summer is not the best time to get repairs done. Repairs on instruments valued less than \$75.00 should not be sent. Scheduled maintenance according to schedule by cluster is as follows:

- January, clusters I/VIII
- February, clusters II/III
- March, clusters IV/V
- April, clusters VI/VII

Jeanette noted that FCPS has instituted a hiring freeze. All disciplines have a substitute hiring freeze, including General Music.

VII. Committee Chair Reports:

A. In-service: Mary Frances Dini, Vanessa Utell

The fall in-service date is Monday, October 3, 2011. It will be held at Kings Glen ES from 2:15-4:30 p.m. Clinicians will include:

- **Michael Dennis:** *Introduction to Responsive Classroom for Music Teachers*

- **Adam Martinelli;** *Does music still move you (and your students)?* If you have a favorite movement lesson, please bring it to share. Adam would like to have a document to post of the ideas.
- **Rachel Grimsby:** *Sing, move and play your way to recorder success*

Rob Stansbery noted that it has become necessary to book clinicians a year in advance for the fall in-service as we do for ACCF.

The 2012 fall in-service will be held on Monday, October 1, 2012. David Frego will present on Dalcroze Eurhythmics for a fee of \$450 plus transportation and housing expenses. Details will be announced as they become available.

Mary Frances asked if non-FGMEA members should be invited to FGMEA-funded in-services, and if those who pay for membership are funding in-services for those who do not pay for membership. Discussion followed regarding this matter, and the Board decided that all General Music teachers will continue to be invited to FGMEA sponsored in-services, but that a speaker will address FGMEA membership at the beginning of such events, and encourage new membership.

Mary Frances asked about materials from past in-services so that they can be reviewed. Rob said that the minutes from previous years would contain this information. **Joy Petty** responded that one will find minutes from previous meeting on the website, and minutes from farther back may be found at the FA Library in the FGMEA archives.

B. Membership: Debbie Key

There are 125 current members of FGMEA. Further information about membership results will be forthcoming.

C. Social: Debbie Key, Emily Sternisha

Debbie noted the expense of the August in-service luncheon. At \$1,040.70 already spent, we are \$362.00 over budget in this area. This is a result of increased numbers at the in-service (including secondary choral teachers) and increased food prices.

After discussion on the matter, the Board decided that only beverages will be provided by FGMEA at the October in-service. Teachers who attend will bring food items to the in-service.

Emily requested a Costco or BJ's Club card in order to facilitate buying food for social events.

MOTION: FGMEA shall acquire a membership card to a wholesale store.

Motion made by: **Lee Larsen**. Seconded: **Emily Sternisha**.

The motion passed unanimously.

Emily will pursue the acquisition of a membership card to either Costco or BJ's.

D. Choral Festival: Jennifer Frazier, Rebecca Caldwell

ACCF 2012 will be held on April 27th and 28th at Hayfield Secondary School. The music read-through will be held November 14, 2011 at Kings Glen ES. The site rehearsals are being arranged. ACCF information for teachers may be found on 24-7.

E. New Teacher: Camille Haberland

General Music teachers new to FCPS include 23 novice teachers and 7 with experience. A few are working part time contracts.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

The next FGMEA Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at the FEA Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Marian S. Schultz
Acting Secretary FGMEA