

## FGMEA Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2011

The October meeting of the FGMEA Executive Board was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at the FEA office in Fairfax, VA.

### I. Call to Order

**Rob Stansbery, President** called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

**Board members in attendance were: Rob Stansbery, Carla Okouchi, Marian Schultz, Debbie Key, Rebecca Caldwell, Jeanette Essig, Deb Rudd, Joy Petty, James Laster (excused early), Meredith Ford, Jacob Walker, Carolyn Dorey, Bev Ogden, Emily Sternisha, and Camille Haberland.**

Board members who notified Rob that they would not be attending the October board meeting are: **Vanessa Utell, Jennifer Frazier, Rod Tompkins, Ellen Sillick-Nash, Margie Woods, Pam Hill, Mary Frances Dini, Marianne Tagge, Lee Larsen and Christian King.**

### II. President's Report: Rob Stansbery

#### A. Joys and Concerns

**Darshia Allwine (West Springfield ES)** recently and unexpectedly lost her brother. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Burke (Colin Powell ES)** on the birth of Morgan Lee Burke. Morgan was born on October 18.

Please inform Rob of any Joys and Concerns that you hear about concerning our members. Rob sends cards from FGMEA, but he needs help being informed of events that relate to colleagues.

#### B. Thank You's

Special thanks to **Mary Frances Dini and Vanessa Utell** for a marvelous in-service on October 3, 2011. Thanks also to our FCPS presenters **Michael Dennis** and **Adam Martinelli**, as well as to former FCPS teacher **Rachel Grimsby**.

#### C. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the first meeting of the year are sent to all General Music Teachers. Beginning with this meeting (October 25, 2011), minutes will only be sent to current FGMEA members. Cluster Chairs, please make sure to add Rob to your distribution lists.

#### D. Scheduling Task Force Update

At this time, Instructional Services has not yet approved the request to add Rob to the Task Force. **Michael Hairston** and other FEA staff are working on this matter for us. Michael sent a letter to School Board members regarding scheduling and other issues.

#### **E. May 2011 Minutes**

There were no responses to the request for corrections to the May 2011 minutes, so they will be "Approved as written." Rather than sending them out to the membership, the minutes of the May 2011 meeting will be posted directly to the website.

#### **F. Other Items**

If Board members have notes or documents to present at meetings, please email a copy to Marian ([Marian.Schultz@fcps.edu](mailto:Marian.Schultz@fcps.edu)).

### **III. Past President's Report: Carla Okouchi**

#### **Teacher Evaluation Task Force Update**

The Task Force met on October 24, 2011. Carla was seated with Peter Noonan. Carla verbalized to him what she has heard from members regarding the new teacher evaluation process.

FGMEA members are asked to email Carla with any further comments or suggestions about how general music teachers might measure student growth. Carla has received ideas/input from a few members, but she would like more persons to respond.

Some ideas from the Board on how to show student growth: Performance etiquette, videoing students performing, portfolio, rubrics. What is the data showing through these examples?

#### **Comments:**

**Jeanette:** Video tape beginning recorder classes – video after 9 weeks to show progress

**Rob:** What are General Education teachers using? SOLs? He expressed concern about the 6<sup>th</sup> grade assessment not being a valid instrument to assess student growth.

**Jeanette:** There is a mixture of people at the Task Force meetings. Input is equal and diverse. All voices are heard: principals, teachers, and parents.

Fairfax County will tailor the evaluation to meet the needs of teachers/students. The goal is to create a fair and equitable evaluation for all teachers.

The pilot begins in January 2012 for some teachers currently on the Evaluation Cycle.

**James Laster:** I am concerned about this plan not being a true evaluation. There has to be instructional time included to be a fair evaluation. There may be legal ramifications if we do not proceed with caution.

**Carla:** A true pilot should be more than 6 months.

**Rob:** Teachers who are being evaluated this year may be subject to this new evaluation beginning in January 2012.

#### **IV. Secretary's Report: Marian S. Schultz**

The September 27, 2011 Board Meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

The minutes were distributed to all general music teachers. Minutes of the remainder of the year's meetings will only be distributed to FGMEA members and posted on the website.

#### **IV. Fine Arts Office Report: Jeanette Essig**

Jeanette was happy to see everyone at the October training. She commented that the input given at the training regarding the interior design for music classroom space was helpful to have. Jeanette is working to compile a list of those comments, and will email out the list of ideas that she will share at the meeting with design and construction.

Following the training sessions, several teachers emailed Jeanette with questions regarding the standards based report cards. (Mostly teachers in the field test schools who are actually working in that mode this year.) Those questions are starting a good dialogue.

- For example, a question came up regarding inclusion students which has led to scheduling a meeting next week at which Instructional Services folks in Art, Music and P.E. will meet with Judy Heard and the Special Education office to discuss how to grade low incidence students (those students who may be in a self-contained classroom, but come to specials under the inclusion model).

If a teacher sees a group of children only once a week because of band/strings—and that one time is then interrupted by fire drills, field trips and assemblies, then the teacher might have to indicate “not assessed” on the report card.

Regarding inclusion students, teachers should do their best to meet IEP requirements, with the understanding that the level of daily support for those students varies.....and the assessment should reflect actual practices of a school.

**Jacob** asked if sixth grade students who are in a middle school setting take the assessment, to which Jeanette replied that they do not.

#### **VI. Treasurer's Report: Deb Rudd**

<b>Ending Balance 09/27/11</b>	<b>\$15789.08</b>
Deposits/credits	1325.00
Withdrawals/debits	256.55
<b>Ending Balance 10/25/11</b>	<b>\$16857.53</b>

#### **VIII. Committee Chair Reports**

##### **A. In-service: Rob Stansbery for Mary Francis Dini and Vanessa Utell**

Mary Francis and Vanessa are very pleased with the outcome of the October 3, 2001 in-service. Based on the surveys that they have received, all scores were 4's and 5's. They are going to wait until the next Board meeting to present further findings to allow for a bit more time for teachers to turn in the surveys.

There are concerns about FGMEA members paying dues for events while non-members attend without paying dues. One idea is to allow access to hand outs only to FGMEA members via the website. Further discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

### **B. Fall 2012 In-Service**

A change has been made to the contract with David Frego, next year's clinician. He wanted to extend the workshop. This change includes an alteration to the time frame with no extra charge. Next year's in-service will be on Monday, October, 1, 2012, from 2:30-5:30 pm. The last hour of the in-service (4:30-5:30) will be a stand-alone session of additional information and instruction.

**Jeanette:** 5:30 is late and the traffic is heavy at that time of day. She suggested ordering pizza and eating on site so that workshop participants can wait out the traffic.

### **C. Membership: Debbie Key**

Our membership numbers are slightly less than at this point last year. Possible reasons include new teachers who have not joined and retirees who were members and who are no longer members. At this time our dues payments total \$2,305. This compares with \$2,580 at this time last year. Questions were raised regarding the benefits of the online membership process. **Bev** suggested that we wait another year to determine if the online process will make a difference.

### **D. Choral Festival: Rebecca Caldwell**

Rebecca is in the process of inquiring about hotels. It looks to be about \$110 -140 for costs for one night, including a AAA discount.

The read-through session will be held on November 14, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., at Kings Glen ES. The chairs have been ordered.

All of the site rehearsal schools are arranged. We are in the process of assigning schools to sites. There are some new sites this year.

### **E. Newsletter: Rob Stansbery for Lee Larsen**

Please send the following to Lee for the FGMEA newsletter:

- funny things your kids say for *The Mouth of Babes* section
- professional accomplishments or student group performances/accomplishments for Kudos

- pictures of FGMEA members at in-services, Orff or Kodaly workshops, etc
- Email Lee with any questions that you have. He would like to have the winter issue out in mid-December.

#### **F. Social Committee**

**Emily Sternisha** followed up with the information regarding FGMEA acquiring a Costco card for bulk purchases for events such as ACCF, as approved by the Board in September. A business card with 2 names on the card will cost \$55.00 per year. Such an account would provide good savings in bulk for our needs.

- **Rob:** FGMEA is not eligible for a tax exempt card. Virginia tax law requires an organization to be a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4) to be eligible for sales tax exemption. FGMEA is a 501(c)(6) organization.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Rob Stansbery adjourned the meeting @ 5:25 pm.

**The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at the FEA office in Fairfax.**