

FMPA Minutes January 9, 2012 MP Conference Room

Members present: Sue Burton, Glenda Esslinger, Brenda Dennis, Jeff & Kellie Smoker, Dan Deitsch, Cathy Zimmerly, Penny Sauer, Marsha Grubbs, Kim Fain, Ric Towner, Sean O'Neill, Jason McKee, Rick Canter, Renee Keith, Bill Fessler, Heidi Johnson, Laurie Matzko, Joan Gordon

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the November 2011 minutes made by Kim, second Glenda. Passed.

Correspondence: Sue to write sympathy cards to Tad Lasonczyk Memorial (former music teacher) and Mike Morgan for the passing of his mother. Also will write a thank you to Bill Newell and Susan Hopp for their generous donation of CSO tickets to the Finneytown music program.

President's Report: Penny thanked all who have helped w/PEM Memorial concert, luminaries, concerts, Sing for a Cause, orchestra performance at Museum Center, etc.

Finneytown had 8 musicians in the high school honor band, which was second only to Milford in number of students participating.

Dropping admission fees for concerts: Per Superintendent Robertson, music is considered curricular where theater, sports, etc. are extra-curricular. Students participate for a grade. Thus administration's belief that we should not charge admission fees for performances. Since this policy was started for the Dec. concerts, FMPA memberships have slowed (9 new vs. 30 at last yr's Dec. concerts). Admin. did increase the music budget some to help offset the change. Memberships have accounted in the past for 20-25% of FMPA budget.

Penny took names of those who may attend the OMEA Outstanding Support Organization awards ceremony in Feb. in Columbus.

Band report: HS/Whitaker Band 1/9/12

- 1) Congratulations to the high school band students that participated in OMEA District 14 Honor Band yesterday afternoon: Janelle Bouman, Megan Zimmerer, Heather Gamble, Alina Murphy, Kristi Cowan, Kara Sauer, Maureen Hickey and Alex Brown
- 2) There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30 PM in the Band Room. There will be a meeting for chaperones immediately following the regular meeting.
- 3) The Marching Band will begin rehearsing for their Disney trip this Wednesday at X-Period.
- 4) Congratulations and Best Wishes to Kristi Cowan, who will be representing Finneytown in the All-State Orchestra next month in Columbus.
- 5) All High School Solo & Ensemble entries must be in by this Friday.
- 6) Upcoming Band Dates:

Disney trip: February 2-6 HS Solo & Ensemble Contest: 2/11 MS/HS Band Concert: 3/8 7:00 PM
Exchange Concert with North Olmsted Bands: 3/22 7:00 PM Band Festival for Charity: 3/24 10 AM

Respectfully submitted, Rick Canter

Jeff/Kellie Smoker: Will have marching band camp committee meeting after usual band camp mtg. end of February. Would like to divide the labor/organizing this year. Discussed need for one more shelf in instrument storage room. Motion: to spend up to \$100 for materials to build another shelf, out of proceeds from Cheryl S.'s "repurposing old band uniforms" fundraiser. Motion by Kim, second by Renee. Passed.

Choral report. Jason McKee **January 2012 Minutes**

1)**Thank you** to Glenda Esslinger, Brenda Dennis, and Colleen Grogan for all of their hard work in the first half of this school year. My job would be much harder without your support!

2)**OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Choir** will be held at Princeton High School. We will be sending 14 students, and all forms and flo-throughs have been accounted for! This year's honor choir is Saturday, January 21, and will be conducted by Mrs. Cheryl West, renowned conductor of the Indianapolis Youth Chorale and music education professor at Butler University.

3)**HS Solo & Ensemble:** Finneytown students will again perform at Elder High School this year on Saturday, February 11th. Student registration fees are \$15 for solos and \$20 for ensembles. Students will need to make arrangements for an accompanist and can check with Brenda Hartman. Brenda will play for students for \$25, and we may have another staff member available for accompanying. All fees and registration information is due no later than this Friday. We will need a flow-through check for all high school students attending written to OMEA District 14 Treasurer.

4)**HS Choir Contest:** Because Reading HS has stepped up to host the District 14 event, our requests to attend the District 13 event have been approved. The 3 high school choirs will attend the OMEA District 13 choir event on either Friday, March 16th or Saturday, March 17th. Fees are \$170 per group with a \$10 fee for the change of district; this total comes to \$540 written to OMEA. Once again Chorale will be singing in Class AA; the Women's Chorus in Class A; and the Men's Chorus in Class B.

5) There seems to be a great deal of interest in continuing the pop a cappella ensemble at Finneytown. Planning is underway for making this a "seasonal" ensemble that will rehearse strictly after school. Audition information will be announced soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason McKee

Jason also introduced the new student teacher, Sean O'Neill from MU. He will work w/both bands and choirs at various levels til May.

Jason reports that Sing for a Cause raised \$6,200 for the Alzheimer's Association.

MS Choirs: Glenda Esslinger – no report. Sue will check w/Angela to see if Glenda's mom Diana Sohmer joined FMPPA.

Orchestra Report. Heidi Johnson

FUSION performed in the Union Terminal/Museum Center rotunda (to rave reviews) on Dec. 17th and also at Whitaker Elementary (2 performances) the last day of school. The students loved the group, even asked some of the kids for their autograph! However, there was an interesting moment.....Below is a copy of the article I submitted to Elementary PTA newsletter:

Dr. Stephanie Kessler: Principal, Instructional Leader.....& Wild Animal Tamer?

It was the last day of school before the holiday break. The students were already restless, with visions of sugar plums (or whatever) dancing in their heads. Half of the classes had attended the first performance of the new High School Electric Orchestra "FUSION" in the school cafeteria and the reviews were great! Dr. Kessler congratulated these classes for their behavior and said "We finally have a group that is louder than the students!"

The rest of the classes filed in for their turn to hear "FUSION" play holiday tunes by Trans-Siberian Orchestra and classics like "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Deck the Halls". Everything was going great until.....right in the middle of "Frosty the Snowman" some students sitting at the top of the seating area started talking and pointing. There arose such a clatter that Dr. Kessler rose to see what was the matter! And what to her wondering eyes did appear? A BAT on the back wall!!!! And the orchestra played on.....

Well, Dr. Kessler didn't 'bat' (pun intended) an eye. She calmly walked into the kitchen area, found a large clear plastic bottle with a lid, walked up those steps to the back wall and just scooped that bat right into that bottle! When the song ended, she took a few minutes to show the students what a live bat (who wasn't very happy about missing the concert and/or being in a bottle) looks like, and then took it around to the classrooms who had attended the first performance so they could see it as well.

Meanwhile, "FUSION" finished their performance with a rockin' piece by Trans-Siberian Orchestra called Wizards in Winter, and everyone was happy--with special thanks to our very own wild animal tamer: Dr. Kessler!

OTHER NEWS: For a variety of reasons, I decided to cancel taking FUSION to the Eclectic Strings Festival in Atlanta this year. I will still be attending the conference on my own and hope to bring back valuable information and exciting ideas! (American String Teachers Conference, March 21-24, Atlanta, Georgia)

**since I will be gone for 3 days to Atlanta, I have decided not to attend OMEA in Columbus this year.

MS Honors Orchestra will be held at Princeton High School on Friday-Saturday, January 27-28. The students representing Finneytown are: Keir Adams, 1st Violin; Luke Brueggemeyer,

2nd Violin; Stevan Rademann & Heather Gast, Viola; and Sam Rice, Cello. Performance will take place on Sat. Jan. 28 at 4pm.

There will be 2 strings students (and possibly a 3rd--she's still deciding) attending the HS Solo & Ensemble adjudicated event this year at Elder HS on Saturday, Febr. 11: Jeff Grogan & Abby Bolling. (Rachel Gast is still deciding....)

FINNEYTOWN NIGHT AT THE SYMPHONY was a great success. Approx. 185 tickets were distributed to students & their families, faculty and staff members, friends and neighbors. We enjoyed seeing & hearing Emmauel Ax perform a Mozart piano concerto and hearing Prokofiev's 5th Symphony (one of my personal favorites--and the orchestra was awesome!).

Just a side note: Abby Bolling left Sunday for Michigan, in training to get her 1st guide dog! The MS students had a question/answer day so they could learn how to be around a service dog (when they can and cannot pet it, how it will help Abby, what she had to do to be accepted into the program, etc.). I think they learned a lot!

The Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra Concert Orchestra (formerly Blue Ash Youth Symphony) performed on the Finneytown PAC stage on Sunday, Dec. 11th. Their conductor, Dale Swisher, was very appreciative of the space--he kept commenting on the acoustics and how the musicians could hear each other, etc..... :)

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi M. Johnson

Heidi hopes to take Fusion to the March 2013 Eclectic Strings Festival in Providence, RI. Also, the CSYO is interested in returning to our stage in April for their next performance.

Heidi

MS Orchestra: Joan Gordon - Nothing to report.

MS Band: Congratulations to those who participated in MS Honor Band. Aidan Matzko 1st chair percussion, Sarah Germann 5th chair percussion, Katherine Germann 1st chair flute, Molly Brown 3rd chair Alto Sax, Belinda Baty 12th chair clarinet. Mr. Kennedy and his wife are expecting their first child around the week of band camp this summer.

Elementary Music: Kim Fain reports she is switching Kroger card DC money over to band, etc.

Uniforms: Brenda Dennis reports that all the musicians are dressed. ☺ Discussion re: very old black skirts/white tops, old choir stuff 7+ yrs. Old. Brenda will count for Jason to fill out a disposal form for the board of ed.

Marching Band Uniforms: Gearing up for Disney, re-outfitting as needed for those who have grown.

Membership: See previous info in president's report re: admission fees and memberships.

Newsletter: Renee Keith – newsletter submitted for printing, should be mailed by Friday.

Website: Bill Fessler - nothing to report.

School Board Rep: Anita Ruffin reports in absentia that she will again be our Board of Ed representative.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Zimmerly

Finally received boosters payment for summer mailing.

Heidi plans to buy a printer for her office. She asked if funds could be taken from the equipment budget rather than orchestra budget, and Rick agreed.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Marsha, second Brenda. Passed.

New Business

Dinner Before the Show planning – Ric/Jen to coordinate Bid-N-Buy, request help soliciting donations. Dan D. to help approach the Business Association. Suggestions given including Spirit Wear, wildcat earrings, band pillows/bags.

A suggestion was given that we invite the boosters Wildcat mascot

Main entrée - Penny contacting LaRosa's (later note: they are willing again this year)

Salad – Midwest Fresh, Mike Bell – Kelley Hickey contacted. Marya has run the salad bar in the past, can she do so again?

Set-up/Décor/Clean-up – Penny and Jane K.

PreSale tickets, will-call organizing – Renee

Kitchen crew - ?Angela – Glenda to help

Desserts/2L – Marsha, Laurie to help, poss. Colleen

Entertainment coordinating – **no volunteer**

Ticket table workers – Kellie, Sue

Emcee - ?Jay Valerio

Coffee – Dawn M.? Penny to ask

Sue to ask Angela for the membership list of volunteers to be disseminated

Tad Lasonczyk Memorial – a donation of \$25 to this fund was decided on as a way to honor the memory of Finneytown's first high school choir director. Motion by Ric, second Cathy. Passed.

Mike Morgan – a card will be sent to him in sympathy for his mother's recent death.

Waycross funding – has been cut by Springfield Twp.

A motion to adjourn was made by Glenda and seconded by Renee. The motion passed. Adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Burton

Secretary