

UMPS Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Co-Presidents Ann Sepersky and Sarah Wheeler, who welcomed everyone to the UMPS meeting and thanked them for attending.

Introductions

The UMPS Board introduced themselves:

- Co-Presidents: Sarah Wheeler and Ann Sepersky
- Vice President: Mary Yank
- Treasurer: Lynn Nguyen
- Secretary: Trevor Grove – not present
- Communications: Ryan O’Neil – present virtually

Others in attendance went around the room and introduced themselves. 18 members attended in addition to the board.

Prior Meeting Minutes

- Previous meeting’s minutes are available on the UPMS website.
- Tim Ohm moved to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Mary Yank. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

- Lynn Nguyen reviewed for the group the inflows and outflows of funds during the prior month.
- Full Treasurer’s report is filed at fhsumps.weebly.com → Board Info → Meeting Minutes and Reports → 2023/24
- A motion was made by Kelly Thill and was seconded by Amy Murray to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

Educator Updates

Allison Umhoefer, Chris Dunmire and Rebekah Stege were available for the meeting, but the notes below were reviewed by the group in attendance:

FEBRUARY 2024		
ENSEMBLE	UPDATES	UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>WSMA DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP - WE NEED ALL FHS AND FPMS BAND, CHOIR, AND ORCHESTRA FAMILIES TO SIGN UP FOR AT LEAST ONE SHIFT! THANK YOU!</u>		
FHS Orchestra, Choir, and Wind Ensemble: Congratulations and thank you to all students on their meaningful performances and messages shared at the 5th grade “informance” on January 5! This is an important part of incoming middle schoolers’ music selection process, and students represented themselves and our programs very well. Here are some photos from the event!		



BAND

[2023-2024 FHS Bands Calendar](#)

[TENTATIVE 2024 MARCHING BAND SEASON CALENDAR](#)

Congratulations to all students, 6-12, on a wonderful Festival of Bands experience, both in clinics with Ms. Patty Schlafer and in performance! Thank you to all volunteers and audience members!

We were excited to host 13 members of the 8th grade band to pep band on January 25! We are looking forward to formally having them be a part of the FHS Band!

6-8:

- We are a couple of weeks into our Solo/Chamber music unit. Students are learning new practice habits and better ways to map out their time spent on their instruments.
- FPMS Bands has launched a website in order to more effectively communicate with families, and increase our internet presence as a music department.
- FPMS students participated in their first clinic experience.

9-12:

- **Jazz students will be participating in the New Trier Jazz Festival on Saturday, February 3.** Report time is 8 AM, and we will return around 11 PM. Throughout the day, students will listen to other schools perform, participate in jam sessions and master classes, receive feedback from a clinician, and attend an evening concert with the Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra. Students should bring \$ for lunch and dinner, or pack food.

Saturday, February 3:
New Trier Jazz Festival (FHS Jazz), all day

Friday, February 9:
FHS Basketball Pep Band A, 6:15-8:15 PM

Thursday, February 22:
FHS Basketball Pep Band B, 6:15-8:15 PM

Saturday, March 2:
WSMA District Solo &

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final call for WSMA registrations and payment! (Invoice here) • NEWSIES pit orchestra rehearsals are well underway, and the students sound fantastic! Buy your tickets to the show at sabercenter.ludus.com! 	<p>Ensemble Festival at Franklin HS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>March 14-17: FHS Spring Musical, NEWSIES (Tickets on sale now!)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Saturday, April 27: WSMA State Solo & Ensemble Festival at UW-Parkside</p> <p>Monday, May 13: FPMS Spring Choir Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, May 14, 7:00pm: FHS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Thursday, May 16: FHS Spring Choir Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Thursday, May 23: FHS Spring Band Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm: FPMS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Thursday, May 30: FHS & FPMS Spring Jazz Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Saturday, June</p>

		8: Franklin High School Commencement
CHOIR	<p>6-8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in the midst of our Solo-Ensemble Unit Project! Each student has selected a solo from our contest list and is working in groups through lessons, research, practice, and music theory to grow as a solo musician. They are off to a GREAT start! How can I help? Encourage your singer to practice their song 5-10 minutes a few times a week. These extra repetitions will help build confidence as they internalize what they are learning in class! Final call for WSMA registrations and payment! (Invoice here) <p>9-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high school choirs are working on their solo ensemble projects. This unit gives lots of opportunity for self-guided practice and direction as they prepare a piece (or pieces!) from the WSMA contest list. We are off to a good start as students are finishing up learning pitches before refining their technique and musicianship! How can I help? Check in with your singer to make sure they are staying up-to-date on their practice and research (packet) work—these are not due until the end of February, but many singers wait too long and have to scramble to finish! Final call for WSMA registrations and payment! (Invoice here) 	
ORCHESTR A	<p>6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th graders are becoming pros at reading and performing various rhythms! Now, they are working on memorizing note names on the staff. <p>7-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-12 grade orchestra students are focusing on individual musical growth through solos during the month of January. They have been practicing the skills taught in sectionals - proper playing position, intonation, shifting, and more! Soon, students will receive their orchestra music for the spring concert. Final call for WSMA registrations and payment! (Invoice here) NEWSIES pit orchestra rehearsals are well underway, and the students sound fantastic! Buy your tickets to the show at sabercenter.ludus.com! 	

Fundraising Updates

- Third Thursday: Sarah W. reported Dog Haus fundraiser check arrived from Jan 2024 for \$287. This is a good amount and they were a great partner to work with – would use again.
- Spring Craft Fair:
 - Booths are sold out and there's a waiting list. Chairs from last fair will continue to volunteer in their capacities.
 - Date is March 9, 2024.

Events

- Jazz band travels to New Trier Jazz festival on 2/3 – Wheeler offered to arrange bus snack donations. Cash only concession at the event.

Board Positions

- Since both UMPS Co-Presidents are retiring from the board after this year, we will at the least need one new member to serve as President. Elections will be held this spring; please consider running for President or Fundraising Chair.

Advocacy

- Robust discussion with all present regarding advocacy at the district level to bring back individual lessons in the younger grades, reintroduce instrument/ensemble opportunities at the elementary schools, provide educator positions to fulfill these endeavors. The historical changes (2018, stopping lessons, move to start band/choir/orchestra in 6th grade instead of 5th grade, limiting elective opportunities at the middle school by moving from 7 class periods to 6, economic inequities of parents having to choose private lessons for students to have a real chance at performing to grade level in ensembles.
- Brainstorming ways to increase parent involvement both in advocacy and volunteer hours
 - Having UMPS meetings at FPMS
 - Themed meetings strategically throughout the year (inviting 6th grade parents in the fall to field questions prior to student making course choices for the next academic year)
 - Videos of parent/student testimonials of the benefits of their music education experience in Franklin.
 - Utilizing district and community resources to communicate call for volunteers for WSMSA solo ensemble.

Other Business

None

There was a motion by Sarah Wheeler to adjourn, second by Tim Ohm; motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.