

UMPS Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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:

- o Co-Presidents: Sarah Wheeler and Ann Sepersky
- o Vice President: Mary Yank
- o Treasurer: Lynn Nguyen
- o Secretary: Trevor Grove
- o Communications: Ryan O'Neil

Others in attendance went around the room and introduced themselves. 22 parents attended.

Prior Meeting Minutes

- Hard copies of the previous meeting's minutes were not available this month, but were available on the UPMS website.
- Trevor Grove moved to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Tim Ohm. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Lynn Nguyen reviewed for the group the inflows and outflows of funds during the prior month, which included rental fees for the upcoming craft fair (inflow) and volunteer t-shirts for WSMA (outflow). Net change of +\$1835.69 for the period.
- Full Treasurer's report is filed at fhsumps.weebly.com → Board Info → Meeting Minutes and Reports → 2023/24
- A motion was made by Mary Yank and was seconded by Adam Depp to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Educator Updates

Several music educators were in attendance and the following notes were reviewed:

MARCH 2024		
ENSEMBLE	UPDATES	UPCOMING EVENTS
BAND 2023-2024 FHS Bands Calendar TENTATIVE 2024 MARCHING BAND SEASON CALENDAR	6-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument Fitting Nights: We were able to fit over 100 band students over the two nights. Thanks to White House of Music staff, and UMPS representation for coming together to make positive connections with incoming families. • Solo and Ensemble: We had 66 events representing Forest Park at District. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We are currently wrapping up in class performances before shifting gears for the spring concert cycle. • Jazz Band: After completing our first concert experience, we are looking forward to adding new tunes to our repertoire list. Particularly, Funk and Latin charts for the FPS Jazz Cabaret. 9:12:	March 8-9, Optional State Basketball Pep Band March 9: March into Spring Craft Fair, 9 AM-3 PM @ FPMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Sign-Up • Performer Sign-Up March 14-17: FHS Spring Musical, NEWSIES (Tickets on sale now!)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Trier Jazz Festival was a terrific experience for our FHS Jazz Ensemble on February 3! They participated in clinics, master classes, a director's big band, listened to schools across WI and IL, and attended the headliner concert with the Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra, as well as NT Jazz 1. • Thank you to members of the FHS Jazz Ensemble for performing at the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce annual awards dinner on February 22! • Congratulations to all students on their solo & ensemble performances, and thank you to all volunteers! At FHS, 91 students participated in 130 events, and 41 students are currently state-bound in 36 events. Thank you to all of our amazing chairpeople and volunteers! • NEWSIES pit orchestra: Please check your email for rehearsal and performance info for the next two weeks! • On Thursday, March 7, the UW-Eau Claire Wind Symphony will be visiting FHS during the school day for a performance and side-by-side rehearsal experience with our FHS music students! We look forward to welcoming back alumnus Zach Heder (FHS '22)! • All band students have the opportunity to perform as part of the Girls' State Basketball Pep Band March 8/9 at the Resch Center - sign up via the link to the right! • Wind Ensemble auditions will be taking place the week of March 18. Audition info can be found via the link to the right. • Marching Band student leadership team applications for the 2024 season are due via Google Classroom by Tuesday, April 2! 	<p>March 18-21: FHS Wind Ensemble - Virtual Auditions Due</p> <p>Tuesday, April 2: Marching Band Leadership Team Applications Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Google Classroom • Join code 67u3ugf <p>Saturday, April 6: FPS Jazz Cabaret, 5-9 PM, FHS Cafeteria</p> <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>
CHOIR	<p>6-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to all our performers at Solo-Ensemble! Our singers represented Forest Park so well—congratulations on this achievement! • All of our singers have completed their solo unit culminating in their solo performance for classmates or family members. I am so proud of how much they have grown through this process! Bravi! • We are beginning our spring concert repertoire this week! So excited to be returning to our ensemble focus! 	<p>Thursday, May 16: FHS Spring Choir Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm: FPMS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Thursday, May 23: FHS Spring Band Concert, 7 PM</p>
ORCHESTRA		<p>Thursday, May 30: FHS & FPMS Spring Jazz Concert, 7 PM</p> <p>Saturday, June 8: Franklin High School Commencement Ceremony at American Family Field, 4 PM</p>

District Music Department Update

- Ms. Lyndee Rynders, General Music Teacher & Music Dept. Coordinator, joined the meeting to discuss concerns that were raised recently by parents about the state of music education in the district.

- She gave a brief recent history of certain changes beginning in 2017/18 and noted that a variety of factors have gotten us to where we are:
 - DPI mandate that changed requirements for physical education
 - Test score focus
 - The new middle school, which shifted 6th graders out of the elementary schools and into the middle school
 - The previous district administration, which was opposed to students being pulled out of other academic classes for music education/lessons
 - COVID and the resulting drop in band/orchestra/choir participation rates in general
- These factors and perhaps others resulted in the loss of pull-out music lessons, the loss of music staff FTEs, and changes to the middle school curriculum that have made it more difficult for students to choose band/orchestra/choir
- The current administration is open to new ideas and some level of change. The recommendation was to coalesce around one big idea and push for that, rather than raising large numbers of issues to address.
- Music staff are working on identifying those ideas and parents are encouraged to share ideas as well.

WSMA Recap

- The group shared what went well and areas for improvement that were observed during last weekend's district WSMA festival.

Fundraising

- Third Thursday: Sarah W. mentioned that this month is Georgie Porgie's, followed by two months at Culver's. It was suggested that we have some kind of greater presence at these evenings, which could include student performances if there is interest.
- Spring Craft Fair:
 - Volunteers needed! Sign up has been emailed.
 - Need a new Craft Fair chairperson for future years in order for it to continue.

UMPS Scholarships

- Four scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to seniors who have participated in music at FHS and who plan to continue their education beyond high school.
- Applications will be available soon; seniors of band/orchestra/choir are encouraged to apply!

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 and/or Fundraising Chair.

Jazz Cabaret

- April 6, 2024
- Theme this year is "A Night at the Movies." Volunteers/coordinators needed for decorations and catering.

Other Business

- 2024 marching band show theme was revealed as "From the Ashes"

There was a motion by Sarah Wheeler to adjourn, second by Trevor Grove; motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:11.