



**FLORIDA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION – 72<sup>nd</sup> year**  
**DISTRICT MEETING #4 MINUTES**  
(ver. 08-07)

<b>DISTRICT NUMBER: 2</b>	<b>MEETING DATE: April 21, 2008</b>
<b>MEETING NUMBER: 4</b>	<b>LOCATION: The Stryker's</b>

**Item 1: Call to Order and Introductory Remarks**

7:00 PM Meeting called to order

Thank you to the Stryker's for hosting tonight's meeting and for providing such a wonderful dinner!

**Item 2: Members and Guests Present**

Craig	Bean	Marianna High School
Norma	Bean	Marianna High School
Jamie	Birdwell	A. Crawford Mosley High School
Michelle	Birdwell	Surfside Middle School
Jim	Colvin	
Nicholas	Efstathiou	Bay High School
Harry	Patzig	Walton High School
Bill	Qualls	Bay Haven Charter Academy
Bill	Shiple	Holmes County High School
Rebecca	Thomas	Cottondale High School
Raymond	Walton	Marianna High School

**Item 3: Reading of Previous Minutes**

Posted on website and hard copy available

**Item 4: Treasurer's Report**

Current Budget Status: excess of \$8000 in account

Proposed Budget for Next Year: Went over budget in detail

Discussed considering a separate Middle School and High School Concert MPA's

- Concern has always been financial
- Possibility if Middle Schools paid an additional \$100 assessment fee to cover judges/expenses
- If we separate, it would we could only have one day of Middle Schools MPA and one day for High School MPA
- Saturdays are better for getting adjudicators, since most of them are active directors and need to be with their own bands getting ready for their MPA's

Motion to accept proposed budget (Bean/Efstathiou) **PASSED**

## Item 5: Announcements, etc.:

## Item 6: Music Advocacy Issues with FBA and FSMA

Our district did a really good job of letting Senator Gaetz know we didn't want the required PE bill. Please stay current and keep applying lots of pressure on the "practical arts" bill. Visit the FSMA website link Legislative Information frequently <http://www.flmusiced.org/LegNew/Content/Default.aspx>

### **Our newest challenge has appeared and we need your assistance!**

**SB 1914** (Senator Gaetz) accepted an amendment which allows "practical arts" into the required fine arts credit for high school graduation. The language in this bill now reads:

5. One credit in fine or performing arts, which may include speech and debate or practical arts. (Line 382)

We anticipate that if this passes there will be huge consequences for arts programs in high schools. It is our belief this required credit, in many places, has been responsible for holding music and art opportunities in place for our students. We also believe that all students should have at least one experience in an arts course for graduation given the changes in the coming creative economy and workforce.

The next stop for this bill is the floor of the Senate.

### **ACTION REQUIRED TODAY!**

Contact your state senator with the message:

"Oppose SB 1914 which adds "practical arts" to the one credit for fine or performing arts. That phrase must be removed!"

Phone calls and emails should be directed at your own state senator (see below). It is important to take this action now – and again, when we know that the bill is moving to the Senate floor (another alert will be sent when it is scheduled).

Please motivate all booster organizations, community arts supporters, and anyone else who may be able to influence a senator on this topic. This is a "heavy lift" and will require large numbers from constituents of the senators.

### **To find your state senator**

**If you do not know who your state senator is follow these 6 steps – 1)** Do not use this window for emailing, but click on [this link](#) (read on). **2)** Once you know your senator, click [here for the Florida Senate](#) and **3)** select your senator from that list. (It is important to use the second link, NOT the first one, to send an email). **4)** Click on the email address provided in the senator's information and **5)** paste "Oppose SB 1914" in the subject line. **6)** Paste the talking points (as many or as few as you wish) into the body of the email – and then personalize the email in some way. Remember NOT to send emails from a school district system! Phone calls may be the most effective tool at this point, in any case.

**If you know who your state senator is follow these 5 steps -- 1)** go directly to the [Florida Senate](#) and then **2)** select your senator. **3)** Click on the email address provided in the senator's information and **4)** paste "Oppose SB 1914" in the subject line. **5)** Paste the talking points (as many or as few as you wish) into the body of the email – and then personalize the email in some way. Remember NOT to send emails from a school district system! Phone calls may be the most effective tool at this point, in any case.

You may also want to utilize the "[Click here to find your representative by school name](#)" link to be certain of the senator that represents your school's area (it might be different than your home address).

### **Talking points About SB 1914**

- The arts include music, dance, theatre, and visual art. These are the only courses that are offered during the school day that require a student to tap their own creative, imaginative, and innovative skills at even the most basic levels of skill development. Without these courses, students are entirely focused on linear, sequential tasks. Students need arts courses that teach how to synthesize details into the big picture, to understand non-verbal communication, and to be creative enough to know what to do when there isn't a single, "right" answer.
- We have to stop treating the arts as a non-essential subject. It is essential as our economy changes. More and more business leaders are saying they want creative, innovative, and

imaginative people in their workforce. How can we provide that without provide some experience in the arts?

- While the bill language puts the “practical arts” requirement on the fine arts credit it should be noted that few of those courses have anything to do with the arts and those that do are focused on skills rather than artistic/creative elements. Calling them “practical arts,” is, in fact, complete mis-direction, since all of these courses are “career and technical” courses which have nothing to do with how to be creative. A better place for this credit requirement would be to allow it to substitute in another area, such as the 4th year of math, or the 3rd year of science.
- There should be no “fight” between the arts and workforce electives – both fields are important for success in the creative economy – and there would not be if there were sufficient periods in the day and sufficient funding to provide learning opportunities for all Florida students.

To: Component Association Boards –

Thanks for your efforts on emails and communications with senators regarding Senate Bill 1914. The effort needs to continue throughout this week or until there is a more information. Please keep those communications going!

**Update:** House Bill 7045 has passed the House of Representatives and is very similar to SB 1914, but does NOT have the “and practical arts” on the fine arts credit. SB 1914 has been referred back to committee and is not yet scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor. It, of course, is the bill that adds “and practical arts” to the fine arts graduation credit.

**What happens next?** HB 7045 has been sent to the Senate which could either 1) take up HB 7045 or pass it as is, or 2) substitute SB 1914 for HB 7045, pass it and send it back to the House for their approval. Of course, any bill must pass both chambers to become law.

Any new communications (phone calls! or emails) to senators should say, “We prefer HB 7045 which does not add “and practical arts” to the fine arts credit.” Links for communicating can be found in the Alert of April 17 at <http://www.flmusiced.org/LegNew/Content/Default.aspx>.

The outcome of this will be hugely important to the way music and other fine arts programs exist across the state!

## **Item 7: Unfinished Business**

Complete adjudicator evaluation forms for Solo/Ensemble and Concert MPA’s please fill these out and turn in whether it is positive or negative. Feedback is important.

## **Item 8: Committee Reports**

N/A

## **Item 9: New Business**

### **Meeting dates for 08-09**

**Meeting #1**

**August 25, 2008**

**A. Crawford Mosley HS/Jamie Birdwell**

**Meeting #2**

**November 3, 2008**

**Bay High School/Nick Efstathiou**

**Meeting #3**  
**January 29, 2009**  
**Holmes County High School/Bill Shipley**

**Meeting #4**  
**April 20, 2009**  
**The Stryker's**

### **Item 10: District Adjudicators for Next School Year**

Please email any suggestions to the chairman

### **Item 11: Nominations for State MPA Adjudicators**

Frank Wickes

### **Item 12: Nominations for Adjudicators List (secret ballot)**

None

### **Item 13: Suggestions to State Committees**

None

### **Item 14: Proposals to the Executive Board**

None

### **Item 15: Correspondence**

None

### **Item 16: For the Good of the Association**

Upcoming Concerts:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Troy Dothan Community Band in Concert Tony Whetstone's final concert as conductor	ChIPLEY HS
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Cottdale High School Band Spring Concert	Gym
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Surfside Middle School Band Spring Concert	AHS Auditorium
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Bay Haven Charter Academy Spring Concert	Cafetorium
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Marianna High School Band Spring Concert	Auditorium
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Mosley High School Spring Concert	Gym
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00 PM	Holmes County High School Spring Concert	Auditorium

#### **Summer Convention:**

July 10-12, 2008 at the Altamonte Springs Hilton

Job Openings Next Year:

Teachers of the Year:

Retirements:

#### **MPA dates for 2008-2009:**

**Marching MPA** –October 25, 2008 at Tommy Oliver Stadium

**Solo and Ensemble MPA** - February 13 – 14, 2009 at Baptist College of Florida

**Concert MPA** – March 13-14, 2009

## **Item 17: Next Meeting Date**

August 25<sup>th</sup> at Mosley High School Bandroom (Jamie Birdwell, host)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Meeting

## **Item 18: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn Walton/Colvin (PASSED)

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Michelle Birdwell*