



**FLORIDA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION – 73<sup>rd</sup> year**  
**DISTRICT MEETING #1 MINUTES**  
(ver. 08-08)

<b>DISTRICT NUMBER: 2</b>	<b>MEETING DATE: August 25, 2008</b>
<b>MEETING NUMBER: 1</b>	<b>LOCATION: A. Crawford Mosley HS Bandroom</b>

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

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
- Introductions for all present
- Thank you to the Mosley HS Band Boosters for providing the wonderful meal!

**Item 2: Members and Guests Present, Mentor Assignments**

Jamie	Birdwell	A. Crawford Mosley HS
Jason	Bennett	Arnold HS
Nicholas	Efstathiou	Bay HS
John	Harcus	Bozeman
Richard	Davenport	Chipley HS
Rebecca	Thomas	Cottdale HS
Jim	Colvin	Everitt MS
Richard	Bouton	Graceville HS
William	Shipley	Holmes County HS
Craig	Bean	Marianna HS
Lou	Lyda	Merritt Brown MS
Neil	Gray	Mowat MS
Allan	Williams	Roulhac MS
Michelle	Birdwell	Surfside MS
Kamber	Rafferty	Walton MS
Norma	Bean	
Karen	Bouton	

**Item 3: Reading of Previous Minutes**

Minutes from previous minutes are posted on the website

**Item 4: Treasurer's Report**

End of Past Year's Statement: \$1000.00 in account; \$8000.00 returned from FSMA  
Proposed Current Year Budget: Budget is available on website; was raised by 5% to allow for increase in adjudicator honorarium as approved at July Board meeting

**Item 5: Next Meeting Date and Place**

November 3, 2008  
Bay High School Bandroom (Nick Efstathiou, host)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Meeting

## **Item 6: Music Advocacy Issues-FBA/FSMA**

Presentation by Karen Bouton, FEMEA President-Elect

- **Build relationships with candidates**
- **Find articulate band parents that will ask the questions and get answers**
- **Jennifer Jones, Bay Arts Alliance, will do presentations on these amendments for all counties in our district**

### **Constitutional Amendments – Nov. 4**

Three constitutional amendments on the Nov. 4 ballot could change public education, funding for public education, and the system of public education, itself.

It is extremely important to read the explanations of the amendments carefully, as the titles related to the amendments do not necessarily represent the action taken.

These three amendments together, if approved by voters, will probably cut arts education from many public schools and will drastically change how education systems function:

- The public schools, as stated in one of the amendments, become the “minimum” for education and no longer the exclusive way the state supports education.
- Funding for schools could be changed dramatically and the replacement for \$9.5 billion is poorly defined and many questions remain about how the schools would be funded. Additionally, while it would appear to be a bonus for property owners it is possible that the ways new revenue would be generated by the legislature could be more onerous than property taxes.
- By removing the prohibition between church and state, vouchers will be widely available for students to leave public schools and take the student funding with them.

The purpose of the three amendments is to allow the state to provide vouchers, so that state revenue for student tuition will be entirely portable – able to be used by any private or public school.

Please oppose these three bad amendments at the November ballot box and mobilize your network of boosters and community arts supporters, as well.

### **Eliminating State Required School Property Tax and Replacing with Equivalent State Revenue – Amendment #5**

Amendment #5 – “Replacement of ad valorem taxes required by the legislature with other funds for education” prohibits continuing to use property taxes (ad valorem taxes) as part of the “required local effort” for the Florida Education Finance Program. This removes approximately \$9.5 Billion from state revenues.

According to the amendment language to replace those revenues, the legislature may

- repeal exemptions on sales tax
- increase of one percentage point to the state sales tax (would produce about \$3 billion),
- reduce other component of the state budget,
- or find other revenues identified or created by the legislature.

While the amendment specifies that education cannot be funded in 2010-2011 for less than was appropriated in 2008-2009, there is no provision that education funding for future years cannot be less.

FMEA urges a “NO” vote on this amendment.

Link to complete amendment #5 language:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/12-6.pdf>

## **Religious Freedom – Amendment #7**

Amendment #7 entitled “Religious Freedom” repeals the prohibition between church and state. The language specifically removes the statement that state revenue is prohibited from being used in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination, or any sectarian institution.

As there is little question that religious freedom is already available in Florida and the United States, the only purpose for this amendment is to allow unrestricted use of state tax dollars for vouchers to redirect state revenue from public to private schools.

FMEA urges a “NO” vote on this amendment.

Link to complete amendment #7 language:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/12-8.pdf>

## **Public Funding of Education – Amendment #9**

Amendment #9 contains two issues and the most important change is easy to overlook. It changes the title of a section of the Constitution from “Public Education” to “Public funding of education.” This section of statute is the one which has guaranteed a standard the legislature must uphold: “Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality of free public schools.....”

That sentence is rephrased by the amendment to read –

“This duty [education] shall be fulfilled, at a minimum and not exclusively, through adequate provision by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public schools.....”

Thus – the free public school system is reduced to a minimum system of education and is a “non-exclusive” method of providing education to Florida children. When this provision is coupled with the provisions of amendment #7, tax dollars will be enabled to flow freely into private and religious schools, simultaneously removing those same dollars from public school districts.

The second section which is widely touted as the key provision of this amendment is the 65% rule which establishes that school district must spend 65% of school funding on classroom instruction – a standard most school districts already exceed since teacher salaries are usually considerably in excess of 65% of any school district budget.

FMEA urges a “NO” vote on this amendment.

Link to complete language for amendment #9:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/12-10.pdf>

## **Item 7: Announcements**

FMEA Awards Nomination forms are in the Florida Music Director Magazine.

## **Item 8: Communications/Distribution of Packets**

## **Item 9: Unfinished Business**

## **Item 10: Committee Reports**

## **Item 11: New Business**

**Membership Dues & Enrollment Forms** - due September 1 (earlier if you want uninterrupted FMEA and MENC magazine delivery)

**STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO AUDITION FOR ALLSTATE IF BAND DIRECTOR IS NOT AN FBA MEMBER.**

Send to: FMEA, or PAY DUES ON-LINE AT [www.flmusiced.org](http://www.flmusiced.org)

**FSMA school dues** payment (to FSMA by September 15)

**Classification Forms** due October 1 to the District Chairman. Principal and Director Signature Required  
Report the enrollment of your ENTIRE SCHOOL, not just your band program.

Senior High: Report grades 9, 10, 11, 12 or 10, 11, 12 as appropriate

Junior High: Report Grades 7, 8, and 9 (unless you plan to not use any 7th graders in any phase of MPA, then only count 8th and 9th graders)

Middles School: Report Grades 7 and 8 only

FINE: 50.00 for submitting this form late (Payable to FBA) \$100.00 on the 8th calendar day after the deadline.

Form is on the FBA website: [www.flmusiced.org/fba](http://www.flmusiced.org/fba)

**All State Auditions:** (forms are in August Bulletin and on [www.flmusiced.org/fba](http://www.flmusiced.org/fba) )

**Site: Surfside Middle School**

**Date: Monday, September 15, 2008**

**Deadline: September 10, 2008**

**Fees: \$10 per student per audition**

LATE FINES: \$50.00 for submitting forms late (Payable to FBA) \$100.00 on the 8th calendar day after the deadline. ***Band director must be a member of FMEA/FBA by September 1 in order to have students audition for all-state.***

### **Recording Equipment**

1. Jamie Birdwell
2. Jason Bennett
3. Neil Gray
4. Nick Efstathiou

### **Script Reader**

1. Jim Colvin
2. Rodney Dasinger
3. Craig Bean
- 4.

### **Monitor**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- Be sure to go through mock audition process with your students

**Small School Honors Band** and 7-8th Grade Honor Band Nomination:

Forms are in August Bulletin and on [www.flmusiced.org/fba](http://www.flmusiced.org/fba)

Completed forms and fees should be sent to the respective chairman whose name and address are on the form.

**Marching Band MPA:**

Date: **Saturday, October 25 2008**

Site: **Tommy Oliver Stadium/Bay HS (Nick Efstathiou, host)**

Entry Form Due Date (to district chairman): **October 1, 2008**

No assessment money collected at this time.

Encourage attendance - \$5.00 per person

Assistance needed from Middle School/Junior High directors

Nominations for the Oliver Hobbs Award (see latest "Florida Bandmaster"): None

Nominations for the Tom Bishop Award (see latest "Florida Bandmaster"): None

**Item 12: District MPA Dates and Sites**

**Solo and Ensemble MPA:**

**February 13 – 14, 2009**

**Baptist College of Florida, Graceville**

**Jazz Band MPA:**

**February 13, 2009**

**Graceville HS Bandroom, Graceville**

**Concert Band MPA:**

**March 13, 2009 (Friday)**

**Chipley High School/Richard Davenport**

**March 14, 2009 (Saturday)**

**Arnold High School/Jason Bennett**

**Item 13: District MPA Adjudicators**

Email suggestions to chairman

**Item 14: Nominations for Adjudicators List (secret ballot)**

None

**Item 15: Suggestions to State Committees**

None

**Item 16: Proposals to the Executive Board**

None

**Item 17: Correspondence**

None

**Item 18: For the Good of the Association**

Review the marching band etiquette guidelines that were prepared by Martha Stark and published in the FBA handbook.

Remember that each director is responsible for knowing the rules, policies, and guidelines published in the FBA handbook.

**Item 19: Adjournment**

7:54 PM Motion to adjourn (Lyda/Gray) **PASSED**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Michelle Birdwell*