

**Florida School Music Association
Board of Directors Meeting
The Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Hotel
1501 International Parkway
Lake Mary, Florida 32746**

**3:07 PM
FSMA Board Workshop Notes**

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Board Members Present

Dr. Benny Bolden, Jr. – President
Keith Griffis – President-elect
Dr. Allison Campbell - Florida School Board Association
Katie Campbell - Florida School Board Association
Anthony Simons, III - Florida Association of School Administrators
Kevin LeVine - Florida Association of School Administrators
Dr. Michael Antmann – Florida Bandmasters Association
Neil Jenkins - Florida Bandmasters Association
John Dupuis – Florida Music Supervision Association
Lauren Pardee, Florida Orchestra Association
Cheri Sleeper – Florida Orchestra Association
Jeff Bogue – Florida Vocal Association
David Verdoni - Florida Vocal Association
Dr. Jermaine Fleming – Florida Music Education Association
Christopher Gugel – Member-at-Large
Dr. Marcus Scott – Florida Association of School Administrators
Rebekah Ricks – Florida Parent Educators Association & Home Education Foundation, Inc.

Staff Members Present

Kathleen D. Sanz, PhD - Florida School Music Association, Executive Director
Valeria Anderson - Florida School Music Association, Director of Operations
Josh Bula, PhD – Florida School Music Association, Director of Technology

The workshop began at 3:07 PM.

President Bolden began the workshop by welcoming everyone and asking the board members to introduce themselves because there are new members serving on the board.

- Individual board members made introductions.
- Each member provided information about themselves and their respective day jobs.

- The audit and September 2025 financials were distributed for review before the discussion during the Board of Directors meeting.

President Bolden provided an overview of the agenda for the Sunday business meeting.

Review and discussion in groups to further discuss and wordsmith the procedures for the following:

- Ethics Committee – Chair: Kevin Levine; Members: Anthony Simons, Allison Campbell, Kathleen Sanz, Marcus Scott, Michael Antmann., Keith Griffis, Josh Bula, Christopher Gugel, and David Verdoni
- Accommodation Committee – Chair: John Dupuis; Members: Alice-Ann Darrow, Katie Campbell, Kathleen Sanz, Jermaine Fleming, and Lauren Pardee, Cheri Sleeper, Jeff Bogue, Neil Jenkins, and Rebekah Ricks

The meeting recessed at 4:30 PM

**Florida School Music Association
Board of Directors Meeting
The Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Hotel
1501 International Parkway
Orlando, Florida 32746**

Minutes

Monday, October 27, 2025

Board Members Present

Dr. Benny Bolden, Jr. – President
Keith Griffis – President-elect
Dr. Allison Campbell - Florida School Board Association
Katie Campbell - Florida School Board Association
Anthony Simons, III - Florida Association of School Administrators
Kevin LeVine - Florida Association of School Administrators
Dr. Michael Antmann – Florida Bandmasters Association
Neil Jenkins - Florida Bandmasters Association
John Dupuis – Florida Music Supervision Association
Lauren Pardee, Florida Orchestra Association
Cheri Sleeper – Florida Orchestra Association
Jeff Bogue – Florida Vocal Association
David Verdoni - Florida Vocal Association
Dr. Jermaine Fleming – Florida Music Education Association
Christopher Gugel – Member-at-Large
Dr. Marcus Scott – Florida Association of School Administrators
Rebekah Ricks – Florida Parent Educators Association & Home Education Foundation, Inc.

Staff Members Present

Kathleen D. Sanz, PhD - Florida School Music Association, Executive Director
Valeria Anderson - Florida School Music Association, Director of Operations
Josh Bula, PhD – Florida School Music Association, Director of Technology

The meeting called to order at 8:31 AM.

President Bolden asked for introductions.

- I. Welcome, Announcements
- II. The FSMA Mission statement was read for review.

Motion: *It was moved by Simons, seconded by Scott, and carried unanimously to approve Christopher Gugel to vote in Jeanne Reynold's position.*

Approved

III. Review and acceptance of the agenda with flexibility

Motion: *It was moved by LeVine, seconded by A. Campbell, and carried unanimously to accept the Agenda with flexibility.*

Approved

IV. Approval of Interim Action Minutes

Motion: *It was moved by A. Campbell, seconded by K. Campbell, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of March 2, 2025 as presented.*

Approved

Motion: *It was moved by A. Campbell, seconded by Simons, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of May 18, 2025 virtual meeting as presented.*

Approved

V. Financial Reports:

Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position)

Budget vs. Actual (Statement of Activity)

Motion: *It was moved by Scott, seconded by LeVine, and carried unanimously to accept the FSMA September Financials as presented.*

Audit Report – Andrew Ferguson, an auditor from James Moore & Co., presented the audit report

Motion: *It was moved by LeVine, seconded by Scott, and carried unanimously to accept the FSMA audit as presented.*

Motion: *It was moved by K. Campbell, seconded by LeVine, and carried unanimously to approve Dr. Jermaine Fleming to vote as the FMEA representative on the FSMA board.*

Approved

VI. Executive Director's Report – Kathleen D. Sanz

a. Membership 3-year comparison was shared and discussed

b. Government Relations/Advocacy

○ Christopher Gugel provided an update

○ Legislative Platform is in progress. The committee is waiting on a review of the FADSS, FASA, FSBA platforms before finalizing.

○ Florida Seal of Fine Arts- discussion about the acquisition of acceleration points for students that could impact the school

and district grades. Seeking legislators to file the bill or amendment.

- Teach Music Florida Coalition
 - HB 875 – “Florida Statute 1012.39 1 (d) Part-time, nondegree teachers of fine and performing arts. Qualifications must be established for nondegree teachers of fine and performing arts courses in the course code directory. The qualifications for such teachers must require:
 1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as required by s. 1012.32.
 2. Documentation of education and successful experience, including documentation of:
 - a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.
 - b. Completion of 3 years of successful full-time experience or the equivalent of part-time experience in the teaching specialization area.
- c. Professional Learning
 - Summer Leadership is scheduled
 - The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways in Music Education committee has been formed to discuss CTE certification.
 - d. Music Is Education Coalition
 - e. Music For All is looking to expand their offerings and focus.
 - f. Virginia Public Schools Report on *Chronic Absenteeism and the Arts in Virginia Public Schools* was presented.
 - g. Division of Arts and Culture grant was submitted to the Division of Arts and Culture for the 2025-2026 school year. The panel was paused. One of the new requirements requires a Letter from the board to support the programming provided by the grant.
Motion: *It was moved by K. Campbell, Seconded by L. Pardee, and carried unanimously to approve Dr. Bolden to draft a letter of support on behalf of FSMA for the Division of Arts and Cultural grant.*
Approved
 - h. CFAE Staff Updates – a committee has been formed to conduct the President/CEO position search.

Break held 9:56 AM – 10:15 AM

VII. Component Reports:

- a. Florida Bandmasters Association Report – Michael Antmann
Written Report – See attachment
- b. Florida Orchestra Association Report – Lauren Pardee
Written Report – See attachment
- c. Florida Vocal Association Report – Jeff Bogue
Written Report – See attachment

VIII. Additional Reports:

- d. Florida Music Supervision Association – John Dupuis
Written Report – See attachment

- e. Florida Music Education Association – Kathy Sanz
 - Florida Collegiate Advocacy Day – February 10, 2026
 - Florida Teach Music Coalition
 - FMEA Membership/Component
 - FMEA Councils
 - Professional Learning Conference – January 14-17, 2026

- f. Florida School Board – Katye Campbell/Allison Campbell

- g. Florida Association of District School Superintendents – No report

- h. Florida Association of School Administrators – Marcus Scott, Anthony Simons, Kevin LeVine

- i. National Federation of High Schools (NFHS)
 - a. Membership – FSMA holds membership in NFHS
 - b. Points of Interest
 - Workforce Development
 - Safety
 - Repetitive Strain Injuries
 - Event Safety: Annual Review of Emergency Action Plan
 - Climate-Related Safety Concerns
 - Access
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - NFHS Learn is the professional learning platform for the NFHS.

Lunch: 11:47 AM – 12:18 PM

IX. **Committee Reports/Updates:**

- Ethics Committee – Chair: Kevin Levine; Members: Anthony Simons, Allison Campbell, Kathleen Sanz, Marcus Scott, Michael Antmann., Keith Griffis, Josh Bula, Christopher Gugel, and David Verdoni
Motion: *It was moved by Scott, seconded by A. Campbell, and carried unanimously to adopt the Ethics policy.*
Approved

- Accommodation Committee – Chair: John Dupuis; Members: Alice-Ann Darrow, Katie Campbell, Kathleen Sanz, Jermaine Fleming, and Lauren Pardee, Cheri Sleeper, Jeff Bogue, Neil Jenkins, and Rebekah Ricks
Motion: It was moved by K. Campbell, seconded by L. Pardee, and carried unanimously to adopt the Accommodations policy.
Approved

Student Eligibility Committee - Chair: Kathleen Sanz; Members: Lauren Pardee, Rebekah Ricks

Motion: *It was moved by LeVine, seconded by A. Campbell, and carried unanimously to suspend Robert's Rules of Order.*

Approved

OPEN DISCUSSION

Open discussion was held.

Motion: *It was moved by L. Pardee, seconded by K. Campbell, and carried unanimously to reinstate Robert's Rules of Order.*

Approved

X. Unfinished Business

- a. Professional Learning
Leadership Training, July 12-15, 2026 (nominations needed)
Location: Orlando Marriott Airport Lakeside Hotel

XI. New Business

- FMEA has three groups to petition to become councils.
- Florida Contemporary Music and Media Association
 - Florida Guitar Education Association
 - Florida Steelband Education Association

XII. Future Dates

- a. Spring Meeting
Sunday, March 1-2, 2026
Location: Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Hotel
- b. Virtual Meeting
May 17, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

XIII. **Good of the Order**

Dr. Bolden thanked everyone for their time and devotion to the work of the board.

Congratulations to Dr. Marcus Scott for being nominated as Administrator of the Year for FMEA.

Motion: *It was moved by Scott, seconded by Simons, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.*

Approved

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM



Florida Bandmasters Association
Report to the FSMA Board of Directors
October 2025

1. Finances:

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented at the FBA business meeting on July 7-8, 2025.
As of June 30, 2025:

FBA Operating Account (\$ 42,518.78)	\$152,975.22
FBA Commissioning Acct. MM (\$ 33,409.81)	\$ 33,410.09
FBA Transfer Acct. MM (\$ 27,856.26)	\$ 40,603.89
FBA Severance Account CD (\$ 50,251.61)	\$ 50,251.61
FBA Hall of Fame CD (\$ 48,407.35)	\$ 48,407.35
FBA Emergency Fund MM (\$132,951.92)	\$132,951.92
FBA Reserve Investment Account (\$118,901.11)	\$118,901.11

The 2025-26 FBA State Office Operation budget was approved.

2. Adjudication:

FBA adjudicator board approval and re-approval seminars took place in July 2025 during the FBA Summer Conference.

1. Solo/ensemble initial and renewal training
2. Concert & Sightreading initial and renewal training
3. Auxiliary initial and renewal training
4. Jazz initial and renewal training
5. Marching initial and renewal training
6. Standards and Ethics

Adjudication board approval and re-approval training seminars will also occur at the 2026 FMEA Conference.

Dates for Adjudication Concert & Jazz Internships will be sent to all District Chairs by December 1.

Dates & Sites for Marching Adjudication Internship were shared with District Chairs.

3. Music Performance Assessments:

Each of the 23 FBA Districts annually conduct Music Performance Assessments for Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble, as well as for solos and small ensembles using board approved adjudicators.

Adjudicators at all district MPAs will now receive \$250 honorarium for their first four hours, and \$35 for each additional hour after. The daily meal per diem will now be \$60 per day.

4. Summer Conference:

FBA held its summer conference in Orlando on June 6-9, 2025

Summer Conference - 2026 (July 7-10): Double-Tree Orlando at Sea World

Keynote: Wycliff Gordon

5. 2025 STATE MPA DATES AND SITES

State S&E Northwest: TBA

State S&E North: March 16-17, 2026: Matanzas High School (Palm Coast)

State S&E North Central: March 16-18, 2026: Seminole High School (Sanford)

State S&E South Central: March 19-21, 2026: Horizon High School (Orlando)

State S&E South: TBA

6. HALL OF FAME

Hall of Fame: Stetson University: November 15 & 16, 2025

Hall of Fame: Richard Davenport and Melvin Maxwell

Roll of Distinction: Dr. Patrick Dunnigan and Fred Schiff

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Antmann, EdD
FBA - President-Elect



Florida Bandmasters Association
Report to the FSMA Board of Directors
October 2025

1. Finances:

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented at the FBA business meeting on July 7-8, 2025.
As of June 30, 2025:

FBA Operating Account (\$ 42,518.78)	\$152,975.22
FBA Commissioning Acct. MM (\$ 33,409.81)	\$ 33,410.09
FBA Transfer Acct. MM (\$ 27,856.26)	\$ 40,603.89
FBA Severance Account CD (\$ 50,251.61)	\$ 50,251.61
FBA Hall of Fame CD (\$ 48,407.35)	\$ 48,407.35
FBA Emergency Fund MM (\$132,951.92)	\$132,951.92
FBA Reserve Investment Account (\$118,901.11)	\$118,901.11

The 2025-26 FBA State Office Operation budget was approved.

2. Adjudication:

FBA adjudicator board approval and re-approval seminars took place in July 2025 during the FBA Summer Conference.

1. Solo/ensemble initial and renewal training
2. Concert & Sightreading initial and renewal training
3. Auxiliary initial and renewal training
4. Jazz initial and renewal training
5. Marching initial and renewal training
6. Standards and Ethics

Adjudication board approval and re-approval training seminars will also occur at the 2026 FMEA Conference.

Dates for Adjudication Concert & Jazz Internships will be sent to all District Chairs by December 1.

Dates & Sites for Marching Adjudication Internship were shared with District Chairs.

3. Music Performance Assessments:

Each of the 23 FBA Districts annually conduct Music Performance Assessments for Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble, as well as for solos and small ensembles using board approved adjudicators.

Adjudicators at all district MPAs will now receive \$250 honorarium for their first four hours, and \$35 for each additional hour after. The daily meal per diem will now be \$60 per day.

4. Summer Conference:

FBA held its summer conference in Orlando on June 6-9, 2025

Summer Conference - 2026 (July 7-10): Double-Tree Orlando at Sea World

Keynote: Wycliff Gordon

5. 2025 STATE MPA DATES AND SITES

State S&E Northwest: TBA

State S&E North: March 16-17, 2026: Matanzas High School (Palm Coast)

State S&E North Central: March 16-18, 2026: Seminole High School (Sanford)

State S&E South Central: March 19-21, 2026: Horizon High School (Orlando)

State S&E South: TBA

6. HALL OF FAME

Hall of Fame: Stetson University: November 15 & 16, 2025

Hall of Fame: Richard Davenport and Melvin Maxwell

Roll of Distinction: Dr. Patrick Dunnigan and Fred Schiff

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Antmann, EdD
FBA - President-Elect



Florida
Orchestra
Association

FSMA BOARD MEETING
FLORIDA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION, President-Elect Report
OCTOBER 26-27, 2025

Total Membership: 562

FOA Executive Committee: Andrea Szarowicz, President

Lauren Pardee, President-Elect

Laurie Bitters, Past-President

Tom Silliman, Finance Director

Cheri Sleeper, Executive Director

July Executive Board Meetings/New District Chair Training:

We recently held a series of productive Executive Board and Committee meetings, as well as new District Chair training, as we continue to move FOA in a forward-thinking direction.

A few highlights include:

- The introduction of two new awards for our students and members — the **Rising Star Award** and the **Student Composition Contest** — in addition to our traditional Hall of Fame recognitions.
- The **Handbook Committee** is working diligently to revise and clarify our handbook, rules, and regulations to better support our members.
- Our **Finance Director** is doing a fantastic job keeping our organization fiscally responsible and outlining all the necessary details to help District Chairs be successful — special thanks to Tom for his excellent work!
- And finally, our **Executive Director** continues to foster an open, positive, and collaborative atmosphere across the organization.

Together, we're making great strides toward a stronger and more connected FOA community.

FALL FOA CONFERENCE 2025:

We are excited to announce the return of the FOA Fall Conference following the cancellation of our 2024 event due to Hurricane Milton. The **Fall Conference 2025** is scheduled for **October 16–18, 2025**, and will be held at the **Hilton Orlando**.

This year's conference features two outstanding keynote speakers:

- **Creston Herron**, University of Kansas
- **Dr. David Pope**, Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music

In addition to these exceptional keynote presentations, the conference will offer a variety of professional development sessions tailored to meet the needs of orchestra directors at all levels, as well as feature the Boone High School Chamber Orchestra as a lab ensemble, providing valuable hands-on experience for both clinicians and attendees. These opportunities are designed to foster continued growth, inspiration, and connection within our FOA community.

All-State Final Reductions

Immediately following the conclusion of Fall Conference activities, we will host the All-State Final Reductions. We are looking forward to another year of outstanding student performances across the five orchestras at the All-State Conference in January 2026.

District Concert MPA 2026 Dates:

District 1 MS/HS: February 24 (Maeanna Callahan, District Chair)
District 3 MS/HS: February 24-25 (Samantha Grice, District Chair)
District 6 MS/HS: February 20-21 (Victoria Senko, District Chair)
District 7 HS: February 19-21 (Justin Swaim, District Chair)
District 7 MS: March 4-5
District 8 MS: March 2-5 (Lisa Coyne, District Chair)
District 8 HS: March 9-11
District 9 MS/HS: February 21 (Jacob King, District Chair)
District 10 MS/HS South Site: February 23-24 (Michelle Eggen, District Chair)
District 10 MS/HS North Site: February 25-26
District 11 MS/HS: February 18-20 (Thomas Durante, District Chair)
District 12 MS/HS: February 20-21 (Andrew Beckner, District Chair)
District 13 MS/HS: March 10 (Richard Ballinger, District Chair)
District 14 MS/HS: March 7 (Jeff Adkins, District Chair)
District 15 MS/HS: TBD (Tosha Knibb, District Chair)
District 16 MS/HS: March 17-19 (Richard Yaklich, District Chair)
District 17 MS/HS: TBD (Yelena Dumais, District Chair)
District 18 MS/HS South Site: February 24-25 (Joseph Bigler, District Chair)
District 18 MS/HS North Site: February 26
District 19 MS/HS: March 6 (Mindy Curtis, District Chair)

State MPA 2026 Dates:

Concert MPA: April 13-15, Titusville High School, Titusville FL
Solo and Ensemble: March 28, Florida Southern College, Lakeland FL

In summary, the dedication, expertise, and collaboration of our leaders and members continue to drive FOA forward. We are deeply grateful for the time and passion of those who contribute to our shared mission. With these initiatives underway and the continued teamwork across our committees and districts, FOA is well-positioned for another productive and inspiring year.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lauren Pardee

President-Elect

Florida Orchestra Association



FLORIDA VOCAL
ASSOCIATION

FSMA BOARD MEETING
FLORIDA VOCAL ASSOCIATION, President-Elect Report
OCTOBER 26–27, 2025

Total Membership: 806

- Associate: 4
- Collegiate: 36
- Full Active: 708
- Introductory (New Teacher): 34
- Retired: 24

FVA Executive Committee:

Jeannine Stemmer – President (Interim)
Jeff Bogue – President-Elect
David Pletincks – Past-President
David Verdoni – Executive Director

Leadership Update

In May, **Mike Dye resigned** as Executive Director. **David Verdoni** stepped into the role **one year earlier than expected** and has transitioned smoothly.

Jeannine Stemmer was selected to serve as **interim president** because David Verdoni became executive director. Membership will vote at the FMEA conference in January to confirm her as the new president of the association.

To help move business forward before the spring semester, FVA has added an **October meeting** to its annual calendar.

Summer Conference

The **FVA Summer Professional Development Conference** was held July 23–25, 2025, in Altamonte Springs. The event offered teacher workshops, reading sessions, and networking opportunities, along with a **6th Grade Honor Choir** that provided a valuable musical experience for students and directors alike.



FLORIDA VOCAL ASSOCIATION

Policy and Rubric Updates

FVA is introducing a **new Auxiliary Form** based on member feedback. The updated version removes narrative fields and replaces them with dropdown options to provide clearer, more consistent information for adjudicators.

The **Adjudication Committee** is also finalizing **revised MPA rubric language**, refining rating descriptors for better clarity and consistency.

At the upcoming board meeting, members will vote on a **motion directing the Executive Director and Ethics Committee** to draft new **MPA Sanctioning Policies**, which may include the **reinstatement of disqualification** as a disciplinary option in rare/extreme circumstances.

2025 State MPA Participation Summary

Central State Solo & Ensemble – 55 schools / 920 students

South State Solo & Ensemble – 39 schools / 579 students

North State Solo & Ensemble – 21 schools / 338 students

Panhandle State Solo & Ensemble – 5 schools / 78 students

Central State Concert – 94 entries

South State Concert – 60 entries

North State Concert – Cancelled

2026 State MPA Schedule

North State Solo & Ensemble / Concert – April 6–7, 2026 – Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee

Central State Solo & Ensemble / Concert – April 20–24, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland

South State Solo & Ensemble – April 10–11, 2026 – Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach

South State Concert – April 14–16, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church, North Palm Beach

Panhandle State Solo & Ensemble / Concert – TBD



FLORIDA VOCAL
ASSOCIATION

Summary

FVA continues to focus on clarity, consistency, and meaningful professional growth for its members. With strong leadership, updated policies, and expanding participation, our organization remains well-positioned for another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Bogue

President-Elect

Florida Vocal Association

Florida Music Supervision Association Report (FMSA)

Submitted by: John Dupuis, President

As I begin my tenure as President of the Florida Music Supervision Association (FMSA), I do so with a deep sense of gratitude and honor. This organization has a long tradition of dedicated leaders who have carried forward the vital work of advocacy, support, governance, and hands-on engagement in music education across our state. Their efforts have strengthened programs, empowered educators, and ensured that music remains an essential part of the educational experience for all students.

I would like to extend special thanks to our outgoing president, Dr. Chris Burns, for his exceptional leadership over the past two years. Under his guidance, FMSA has continued to grow in both vision and impact, and his thoughtful leadership has left the association well-positioned for the future.

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue building upon this strong foundation. Together, we will work to champion music education at every level, foster meaningful collaboration among colleagues, and advocate for the resources and opportunities our students and educators deserve. I am humbled to serve in this role and energized by the work we will accomplish together.

Florida Seal of Fine Arts

The implementation of the Florida Seal of Fine Arts, established through House Bill 523, continues to gain momentum statewide. This prestigious designation honors high school graduates who demonstrate outstanding achievement in music, theatre, dance, and visual art, highlighting the importance of the fine arts in a well-rounded education.

- **AICE courses** have now been added to the list of qualifying music courses available for students pursuing the Florida Seal of Fine Arts designation. This addition broadens the opportunities for students to earn the Seal while recognizing the rigor and value of advanced coursework in the arts.
- There is possible legislation regarding the addition of **Acceleration Points** for students who earn the seal. (Sponsoring Senator: Senator Gates)
- **FMEA Conference Session** Presentation: Don West, Beth Cummings and John Dupuis

FMSA Fall Conference with NAFME Collegiates

We are looking forward to an exciting series of events at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee this November. Final details regarding specific dates and times are forthcoming; however, the tentative schedule is as follows:

- **Sunday, November 9** – Engagement with *cNAfME* (Collegiate National Association for Music Education). This session will provide opportunities to connect with future music educators, share insights, and support their growth as they prepare to enter the profession.

Additional information will be shared as soon as dates and times are officially confirmed.

FVA Summer Conference

The Florida Music Supervision Association (FMSA) was honored to be invited to present at the Florida Vocal Association (FVA) Summer Conference this past July. This opportunity allowed us to share valuable insights with choral directors from across the state, highlighting both practical career support and the role of music supervisors in advancing arts education.

Our sessions included:

- **Interview Tips and Strategies** – offering guidance for educators as they prepare for professional opportunities, with a focus on preparation, performance, and effective communication.
- **Music Supervisors: What We Do For You!** – providing an inside look at how supervisors support teachers, advocate for programs, and work to ensure strong, sustainable music education in every district.

A sincere thank you to the dedicated Music Supervisors who gave their time and expertise to represent FMSA at this conference: John Dupuis, Emily Lopez, Jason Locker, Craig Uppercue, Rhea Skaggs, Don West, and Lindsey Williams. Your leadership and collaboration continue to strengthen our statewide community of music educators.

Update from the State

This year's Early Childhood Music Grant will provide a total of \$400,000 (96% reduction from three years ago) in funding for participating schools across Florida. While this represents a significant reduction from the original \$10 million allocation two years ago, the grant still offers valuable support for early music education initiatives.

We strongly encourage schools to continue participating in this program. By maintaining robust engagement and demonstrating strong participation numbers, we send a clear message to the state about the importance and impact of early childhood music education. Consistent involvement will help strengthen the case for future funding and ensure that music remains a vital part of Florida's youngest students' educational experience.

Continued Support for Non-Supervisory and Underserved Districts

One of our guiding principles remains equity in access to quality music education.

- We are continuing to actively work to connect non-supervisory districts with mentor supervisors, providing resources and frameworks to build sustainable arts leadership capacity.
- This includes targeted virtual support, shared documents, and guidance aligned to both instructional and policy goals, particularly relevant as the Seal of Fine Arts grows.

FMSA Bylaws

At the request of the Florida Music Education Association, a bylaws committee has been established to ensure that our organizational framework reflects clarity, consistency, and alignment with the overall mission of FMEA. This 10-member committee,

representing a diverse range of voices and expertise, will convene in September to carefully review, discuss, and refine the proposed bylaws.

The committee’s work will focus on strengthening governance, defining organizational structures, and ensuring that the bylaws provide a solid foundation for FMSA’s continued growth and sustainability. Once finalized, the revised bylaws will be submitted to FMEA for approval.

Bylaws Committee Members:

1. John Dupuis, President FMSA
2. Emily Lopez, Secretary FMSA
3. Dr. Skip Pardee, President FMEA
4. Dr. Christopher Burns, Past President FMSA
5. Jason Locker, Past President FMEA
6. Craig Uppercue
7. Cleve Maloon
8. Dr. Lindsey Williams
9. Joseph Luechauer

FMEA January Conference: FMSA Sessions & Sessions sponsored by FMSA

Title	Day	Date	Time	Location
1. FMSA Business Meeting	Wednesday	14-Jan	5:15pm	TCC 301
2. Meet the Supervisors	Friday	16-Jan	3:10pm	TCC 112
3. School District Exhibit. Friday 1/16, 4:15pm, TCC 112	Friday	16-Jan	4:15pm	TCC 112
4. Tuned In: Championing Your Program (Lindsey Williams)	Thursday	15-Jan	2:05pm	TCC 112
5. In Tune With The Mind (Gary Hernandez)	Thursday	15-Jan	4:15pm	TCC 417
6. The Florida Seal of Fine Arts: Awarding Excellence (Don West, Beth Cummings, John Dupuis)	Friday	16-Jan	1:00pm	TCC 103