

**Douglas County School District  
Music & Arts Study Group Meeting  
Administrative Services Building  
Monday, January 5, 2015  
3:30 p.m.**

*Minutes Approved  
January 15, 2015*

## MINUTES

Present:

**Committee Members:**

Shannon Brown, GES Principal  
Brian Fitzgerald, Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department/  
President, Douglas County Arts Council  
Sharla Hales, Community Member  
Keith Lewis, PWLMS Principal  
Tammy Owens, Music Teacher  
Vanessa Littrell, Music Teacher

Present:

**Personnel:**

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent  
Brandon Swain, Education Services Director, Area 4

### **1. Call to Order (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Noonan called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian Fitzgerald moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Brown.

Motion carried, 5/0.

### **2. Public Comment No. 1**

There were no members of the public in attendance; therefore, no public comments were offered.

### **3. Work Session Reports and Discussion**

Dr. Noonan informed the group Tammy Owens, a music teacher who was present for this meeting, had met today with the music teachers throughout the district during their collaboration time. Ms. Owens shared results of their discussion and provided a handout listing current music offerings for students of all grade levels, average class sizes, performance schedules and continuity of music standards. An after school program is provided that is not taught during the school day, essentially a club, that also performs for the community. Ms. Owens reported receiving a band and choir stipend for some of her extra time spent teaching. There were currently no stipends offered for before school band for elementary teachers. GWHS was noted to have a stipend for band and glee club. Transportation for students is paid by the district for stipend activities.

Dr. Noonan stated the total number of students served and teacher caseloads could be additional information for the report.

Elementary students performed for their peers and parents both during the school day and in the evening. Elementary students received music class for exposure, more than for mastery of music with the documentation of content shown within lesson plans. The current program provided for half a year of music and half of a year or art. Ms. Owens offered to propose a schedule for elementary schools, with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade moving on to the middle schools next year, that would offer a twice a week, 30 minute opportunity for students. This increase could occur due to time gained in the teacher's schedules. A suggestion was made to have grades 5-8 attend instrumental classwork at middle schools.

Performances were noted to be the outcome of the music program but a small percentage of the time involved. A student's performance was not used as an indicator of competency in the subject area. Secondary student performances were mainly in the evening. Secondary students toured the elementary schools to help spark interest in choir and band activities. The jazz band and madrigals was reported to have had 25 performances outside of the school day, over the winter. Donations in varied amounts had been received from the community in support of band.

With regard to Common Core Standard requirements, students were reported to be balking at incorporation of writing into music courses.

Mrs. Hales arrived at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Owens noted newly hired music teachers were working as team members and building their coursework. Teachers were highly qualified in specific music areas and not necessarily placed in positions based on their professional strengths. Credentialed music teachers varied in their emphasis between vocal and instrumental areas. A request was made that the district hire only credentialed music specialists.

Dr. Noonan stated the ability to staff at the current level would need to be determined prior to scheduling classes. It was noted music programming could shift from an emphasis on different grade levels to ensure a high quality of instruction was received without increasing expense.

Discussion ensued regarding teachers who rotated between schools and the fact that moving instruments from room to room, or another location, required a lot of effort.

Music teachers listed resources they would enjoy having, such as an appropriate venue for performances that could be shared among all arts classes; possibly having classes dedicated to teaching specific instruments; incorporation of scheduling changes and inclusion of music teachers in student scheduling conversations; split prep time for elementary music teachers; improving hiring procedures to include a music teacher; funding hiring of specialists such as an accompanist; staff sharing; designating a day as a "no sports day" after school to allow for all students to participate in music; incorporating a district wide supervisor; adding piano keyboarding to coursework and compensation for time worked after the school day in preparation for the music committee meetings.

Dr. Noonan wrapped up by stating the teachers had compiled a lot of information for the committee to utilize. The next meeting would be a time for all committee members to absorb this input, prioritize points made and discuss the information provided further.

#### 4. Public Comment No. 2

There were no members of the public in attendance; therefore, no public comments were offered.

#### 5. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Submitted by,



Carolyn Moore  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meeting held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.