

**Madison Metropolitan School District
Madison, Wisconsin**

Art Rainwater, Superintendent

**Board of Education
Minutes for: FINE ARTS TASK FORCE
February 26, 2007**

**Doyle Administration Building
545 West Dayton Street, Room 209
Madison, Wisconsin**

Julie Palkowski, Fine Arts Coordinator, started the meeting at 4:30 p.m. The Fine Arts Task Force reached a quorum at 4:40 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rae Altira-Soncea, Deborah Bradley, Michelle Kaebisch, Anne Katz, Anne Lambert, Eileen Potts Dawson, John Robinson, Barbara Schrank, Leotha Stanley, Mary Thurrell, Jane Doughty, Lisa Brown, Cinnamon Rudd-Haack

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Corley, Doug Marschalek, Lynn Watrous Eich, students representing La Follette, West, Shabazz

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Palkowski, Kathy Lyngaas, Barbara Lehman, Sandra Bolles – Recording Secretary

UW-Madison student Stephanie Lehrman was also in attendance.

1. *Introduction of Fine Arts Task Force Members*

Julie Palkowski introduced herself and then asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves and tell a little about their background. She stressed the need for the Task Force to respect our time constraints and end on time.

2. *Selection of Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons*

Mary Thurrell nominated Leotha Stanley for the chairperson. Leotha declined due to schedule conflicts since most of the meetings are scheduled for Tuesday evenings and he is otherwise occupied. Barbara Schrank was nominated by Jane Doughty. The motion was seconded by _____. She accepted and asked that there be co-chairs. Mary Thurrell moved that the Fine Arts Task Force have co-chairs. It was seconded by Jane Doughty and the motion was approved.

There was a discussion as to whether the meetings could all be moved to Mondays. It was decided that the calendar would be changed to move all the meetings to Mondays from 4:30-6:30 pm. Barbara Lehman asked if there were any additional nominations. None were brought forward. The Task Force by consensus accepted the new co-chairs Barbara Schrank and Leotha Stanley.

3. *Rules regarding the public meetings of the Fine Arts Task Force*

Barbara Lehman discussed the use of Robert's Rules of Order. She told the task force that the public meetings are formal and that the agenda needs to be adhered to. The agenda is reviewed by the Madison Metropolitan School District Legal Department and posted before each meeting.

4. *Organization of the Fine Arts Task Force*

Discussion of the makeup of the Fine Arts Task Force. There is a need to keep the Fine Arts Task Force diverse (diverse meaning comprehensive). We need to allow for time for people to address the task force, go to schools, and seek community involvement. The Fine Arts Task Force should invite a variety of community members to seek diverse fine arts program development ideas.

There was a discussion of language use in the charge, i.e., minorities and the term fine arts. As a task force, we would try to agree on language to characterize the recommendations to the charge.

5. *Process the Fine Arts Task Force will use to Respond to its Charge*

- Review MMSD K-12 Fine Arts demographic data.
- Define community vision and goals for MMSD K-12 Fine Arts education.
- Provide recommendations for enhancing for MMSD K-12 Fine Arts opportunities and programming.
- Provide recommendations for increasing enrollment of under-represented populations in the Fine Arts areas.
- Make recommendations regarding priorities for district funding of Fine Arts.

6. *Charge of the Fine Arts Task Force*

a. *Identify community goals for Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) K-12 Fine Arts education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular classes and activities*

A distinction was made as to co-curricular being an after school activity while extra-curricular would be open to students across the district such as Madison School and Community Recreation.

b. *Recommend up to five ways to increase minority student participation and participation of low-income students in Fine Arts at elementary, middle, and high school levels*

A discussion of what Fine Arts participation means ensued. For instance, all K-6 students take art and music classes. Only some of the students take strings. There was a request made for data on the next agenda.

c. *Make recommendations regarding priorities for district funding of Fine Arts*

The Fine Arts Task Force needs to investigate values and beliefs about fine arts programming as well as prioritizing funding. What is important for fine arts?

7. *Ground rules for the Fine Arts Task Force's Work See Appendix 1*

The following ground rules were discussed.

- Start and end on time
- Attention to the task—no side conversation or other distraction
- Everyone has equal voice and gives 100% participation
- Use the tools of productive communication:
 - pausing
 - paraphrasing
 - probing for specificity
 - putting ideas on the table
 - paying attention to self and others
 - presuming positive intentions
 - pursuing a balance between advocacy and inquiry

Robert's Rules of Order will be followed for all major decision making and the structure of the meetings. The group will work for consensus decision making in order to be unified. The ground rules will be reviewed again in May to ensure intent and consistency of the rules.

We need to add, "Seek ways to include diverse perspectives in the work of the Fine Arts Task Force."

Five minute break to set up projector.

8. *MMSD K-12 Fine Arts Program*

Julie Palkowski presented a PowerPoint entitled "MMSD Fine Arts" which gave an overview of the program at present. See attachment.

She also presented the DVD "Fine Arts in the Madison Metropolitan School District which will be aired on Channel 10 and is accessible on the MMSD website.

Members of the task force worked in groups to come up with the positives and the opportunities for change of the Fine Arts program.

Positives:

- caring community
- dedicated teachers
- willing students
- great community resources
- endless capability for creativity
- impressionable, enthusiastic students
- variety of offerings
- arts staff is exemplary
- tools & equipment pretty good at some schools
- vibrant arts community

Opportunities for Change:

- lack of money
- not enough time for classes
- K-5 arts teachers have too many students per week, little planning time
- a tepid commitment of the Board of Education and of the academic and administrative staff
- no integration into the curriculum
- cut arts first: lowers teacher morale, outstanding teachers leave district, students move to districts that have programs they are interested in
- very few "minorities/low income"
- rest of staff are indifferent
- not enough time for classes
- access to high school level arts classes in the summer
- access to non-traditional music offerings (i.e. World Drumming)
- professional development for non-traditional arts
- fees – information for opting out
- not enough materials/support
- increasing class sizes, less one-on-one
- course offerings, equipment, supplies and teachers depend on which school you attend

9. *Next Steps that the Fine Arts Task Force will take to respond to its charge.*

Again, the Fine Arts Task Force worked in groups to come up with the following next steps:

- include/seek out/hear from many different voices/perspectives/viewpoints
- need data:
 - demographics of arts programs
 - breakdown of fees for participation
 - amount of money each school raises for its arts programs
 - previous task force/committee findings
- visit schools—see arts at work
- start to question the status quo
- start to identify possible funding sources
- publicize the work of the committee—get community involved/interested
- get parent and student input as to what courses they want/need
- look at national models
- identify available data on why arts is so important and find effective ways to get the word out
- develop and train advocates
- funding possibilities outside the budget

- hear from Ruth Robarts
- get community input

The next steps for the March meeting are:

- Discuss personal beliefs of the Arts
- Review data on demographics

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Leotha Stanley and seconded by Anne Katz to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Motion was carried.

Leotha Stanley told how he is currently working with the students at Chavez and invited the members of the Fine Arts Task Force to their concert at the Overture Center on April 23rd.

Julie Palkowski thanked everyone for coming.