

**Madison Metropolitan School District  
Madison, Wisconsin**

**Art Rainwater, Superintendent**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by Co-Chair Leotha Stanley

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rae Altira-Soncea, Richard Corley, Jane Doughty, Amanda Bodoh, Erin Casper

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Palkowski, Sandra Bolles – Recording Secretary

Also present were board members Shwaw Vang and Ruth Robarts.

**1. *Approval of Minutes***

**It was moved by Mary Thurell and seconded by Anne Katz to approve the minutes of the Fine Arts Task Force meeting dated February 26, 2007. Motion unanimously carried by those present.**

**2. *Public Appearances***

There were no public appearances.

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

Leotha Stanley introduced Board Members Ruth Robarts and Shwaw Vang. Shwaw Vang talked about the ideal fine arts program and budget issues. Ruth Robarts discussed the need to determine the community goals for a comprehensive K-12 Fine Arts program. Further discussion of the purpose behind the Fine Arts Task Force, the budget, the need for alternative funding, the need to increase minority and low-income student participation ensued. Anne Katz brought up the need for access to fine arts. Ruth Robarts re-iterated the need for a comprehensive program for all kids. She explained that it would be difficult for classroom teachers to participate and that the Fine Arts Task Force is not here to critique the current MMSD Fine Arts program and staff shouldn't have to defend current practices. Anne Katz added that the Fine Arts Task Force needs to energize the community.

**4. *Review MMSD Superintendent's Proposed Budget Cuts for the 2007-08 MMSD Fine Arts Program***

Barbara Schrank shared a PowerPoint presentation she prepared showing the MMSD administration proposals for budget cuts for the 2007-08 fiscal year for the Fine Arts Program (a copy of the presentation is attached to the original of these minutes). The proposals include a higher student-to-teacher ratio for elementary visual arts and music classes than the 15:1 ratio in prior years. The proposal also includes the elimination of the Fifth Grade Strings Program. Task Force members were interested in reviewing at a future meeting the changes that have taken place in the past five years in the MMSD.

**5. Review Ground Rules and Processes for the March 26, 2007 Fine Arts Task Force Meeting**

Fine Arts Task Force members were asked to remember the following ground rules:

- Start and end on time
- Attention to the task—no side conversations or other distractions
- Everyone has an 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.

**6. Fine Arts Task Force Members' Beliefs and Values regarding Fine Arts**

Fine Arts Task Force members shared their personal views/beliefs about fine arts, dreams for fine arts, and perspectives about MMSD program fine arts beliefs (a copy of the group member responses are attached to the original of these minutes).

**7. MMSD's Fine Arts Vision for the MMSD**

Julie Palkowski reviewed the MMSD Fine Arts Vision created by MMSD Fine Arts staff members in the fall of 2006:

"The MMSD Fine Arts Vision is to provide the broadest range of introductory through advanced experiences in all of the fine arts. These experiences encourage participation and engagement through lifelong learning in the arts.

The Madison Metropolitan School District's Fine Arts program will explore art forms of the world community. All students will be able to learn to create, explore, and appreciate the arts through dynamic activities that connect their individual experiences to the diverse world in which they live."

**8. Demographic Data regarding Students who are Enrolled in the MMSD Fine Arts Program**

Leatha Stanley presented district demographic data (a copy of the presentation is attached to the original of these minutes).

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

The Fine Arts Task Force members would like to see the following at the next meeting:

- comparison of Fine Arts portion of total MMSD budget for the past five years, teacher FTEs for the past 5 years
- demographics by course
- fine arts requirements by state law, curriculum guidelines, and BOE recommendations

**10. Other Business**

Anne Katz talked about a roundtable discussion held on Arts Wisconsin's Arts Day on March 7. The topic was "Integrating Art and Design into the Curriculum" and the discussion participants were arts and arts education leaders from around Wisconsin.

**11. Adjournment**

It was moved by John Robinson and seconded by Mary Thurell to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by those present.