

**FMEA School Board Member of the Year  
2021-2022 Award Nominee**

# Melody Wagner

**Chairwoman, Fabulous County School Board  
Fabulous County Public Schools**



**Nominated by: Florida Elementary Music Educators Association (FEMEA)  
FEMEA Contact: John Smith, [mockemailaddress@fmea.org](mailto:mockemailaddress@fmea.org)**




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**Education**

1973 – Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Eastern New Mexico University  
2006 – Master of Management & Leadership from Webster University  
2008 – Certified Fund Raising Executive

**Employment:**

2018 – Current: Executive Director of the Marion County Children’s Alliance  
2016 – Current: Elected to the Marion County School Board  
2014 – Current: President,  LLC – Fundraising Consultant

**Employment Past:**

2005-2013 Executive Director, Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation  
1999-September 2005 Executive Director, Public Education Foundation  
1995-1999 Director of Education and Leadership for the Ocala Marion County Chamber of Commerce  
1992-1995 School Checks Coupon Book County Coordinator  
1973-1977 Third Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School

**Honors:**

- Interfaith Emergency Services “Legacy of Love” Recipient
- 2014 KTK 98.5 Inspire Award Recipient
- Metropolitan Rotary Club of Ocala 2005 Memorial Honoree and Paul Harris Fellow recipient
- Junior League of Ocala 2003 recipient of the “Three Who Care” Award for education
- Ocala Women’s Network 1999-2000 Woman of Distinction Award for Professional Leadership
- Graduate of Leadership Ocala/Marion Class X
- Phi Delta Kappa “Bob Jones Friend of Education” Award – 1990 and 1996

**Professional Associations:****Current**

- Ocala Women’s Network – Immediate Past President
- Association of Fundraising Professionals – North Central Florida Chapter –Past President
- Non-Profit Business Council of the Chamber Economic Partnership
- Florida Public Relations Association Ocala Chapter

**Community Service:****Current**

- Central Florida Master Choir Board of Directors & choir member
- St. Paul’s United Methodist Chancel Choir member
- Marion County Children’s Alliance Board of Directors
- Take Stock in Children Mentor

**Past**

- Ocala Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors
- 2014-15 Golden Apple Chairman
- Past President of Lady Gator Boosters of the University of Florida
- Board of Directors Gator Boosters of the University of Florida
- Public Policy Institute Board of Directors
- University of Florida Phillips Center Performing Arts Advisory Board
- Consortium of Florida Education Foundations – Past President (48 counties are members of CFEF)
- Volunteer Music Director for St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
- Leadership Ocala/Marion Board of Regents – Chairman 2008-09



██████████ CFRE, has been a fundraising executive for 18 years where she served as Executive Director of the Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation and the Public Education Foundation of Marion County before starting her own fundraising consulting business. ██████████ developed a strong board of directors at each organization, implemented strategic fund development plans, and raised over ten million dollars.

In October of 2013, she established her own fundraising consulting business, ██████████ ██████████, LLC, where she worked to strengthen non-profits by analyzing organizational fund development plans, board development, strategic planning, and coaching Executive Directors and top level management. She has consulted with over a dozen non-profits in Marion County Florida including the Discovery Center, the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County, Open Arms Village, the Fort King Heritage Association, Ocala Civic Theatre, Marion Cultural Alliance, Interfaith Emergency Services, the Community Foundation of Ocala/Marion, and others.

In August ██████████ was elected to District 2 of the Marion County School Board and currently serves as the chairman. In August of 2018 she was hired as the Executive Director of the Marion County Children's Alliance.

Her community and professional associations include Ocala Women's Network, the Central Florida Master Choir Board of Directors, and the Marion County Children's Alliance Board of Directors. She has served on the Ocala Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, the Public Policy Institute Board of Directors, the Ocala Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association Board of Directors, the Board of Regents for Leadership Ocala/Marion, the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, and as a mentor for Take Stock in Children ██████████ active in the Chancel Choir at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocala and the Central Florida Master Choir.

She has been recognized for her leadership skills by receiving the Junior League of Ocala's "Three Who Care" Award, the Ocala Women's Network "Women of Distinction Award" and the 2005 Metropolitan Ocala Rotary Club's distinguished Memorial Honoree. ██████████ recognized in 2006 by the Ocala Star Banner as a top 10 leader among women professionals. In 2014, she was recognized by WKTK Radio Station with the *Inspire Award* for working women. In February 2018, she was awarded the Interfaith Emergency Services Foundation's *Legacy of Love Award* for her commitment and leadership to non-profits in Ocala/Marion County.

██████████ originally from New Mexico, has resided in Ocala, FL since 1973. She is married to ██████████ an Ocala attorney. They have three children, ██████████ and ██████████. She is blessed with 6 beautiful grandchildren.

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Education - Eastern New Mexico 1973  
Master of Arts in Management & Leadership – Webster University 2006  
Certified Fundraising Executive certification – 2008



## Summary of Achievements, Contributions, and Service

- ♪ Fully supports music education in FCPS, which has resulted in enhancing K-12 music education in FCPS
- ♪ Spear-headed and promoted the immediate creation of a new FCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on only K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theatre/Dance, based on what she saw and heard at the FMEA Awards Banquet two years ago, supporting FMEA 2017 Administrator of the Year award winner. These areas were covered at the county level before this by a coordinator who also focused on Media K-12 and K-12 Textbooks.
- ♪ Lead the most recent 2018 Referendum Steering Committee to continue our Fabulous county 1-mill tax referendum that supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, and vocational programs (and was passed on August 28, 2018 with 72% of voters supporting the tax!)
- ♪ Advocates for music education on a regular basis at public and private educational events, music performances (including individual school performances and large-scale all-county musical events), parent organization gatherings, and county business events and meetings, by speaking about the importance of music and arts education, as well as the importance of the local 1-mil referendum (example: <https://www.youtube.com/mocksitewithconcertonit>, starting at minute 43:15)
- ♪ Attends multiple school, community, and district music performances on behalf of FCPS and works at school and community music performances by helping with student movement, safety, visibility, parent involvement, and more!
- ♪ Financially supports the music and arts education in Fabulous county with a generous budget of \$2/student for music education and \$2/student for arts education (funded by the 1-mil tax referendum) to help provide the highest music and art educational experience possible for all FCPS students
- ♪ Supports and pursues exemplary programs of standards-based, sequential music curriculum offered as part of the school day, throughout elementary (for every 700 elementary students, the school receives a full time general music educator), middle and high schools (every secondary school receives at least one, if not multiple, full time music educators offering a variety of music courses)
- ♪ Works tirelessly through-out the community to ensure that music education (and arts education) is valued as a high priority, core subject for our all students
- ♪ Supports and encourages teachers to take leadership roles and arts education advocacy roles at the county and state levels





# MADISON STREET ACADEMY

## of Visual and Performing Arts

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[REDACTED]

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Dear FMEA Awards Committee,

As the 2017 Florida Music Education Association Administrator of the Year, I am honored to write this recommendation letter on behalf of [REDACTED] current Marion County School Board Chairwoman, for the 2019 Florida Music Education Association's School Board Member of the Year award.

[REDACTED] recognizes the importance of music education and strives to fully support music education, which has resulted in enhancing the K-12 music education in Marion County. [REDACTED] promoted the creation of a new MCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on only K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theatre/Dance. She also headed the most recent Referendum Steering Committee to continue our Marion county 1-mill referendum that supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, and vocational programs. She works tirelessly through-out the community to ensure that music education is valued as a high priority, core subject for our students. [REDACTED] impact on our school district and community are notable and distinguishable.

I cannot think of a more deserving School Board Member than [REDACTED] receive this award. Every decision she makes in her job is made with the best interest of the students in Marion County. [REDACTED] shows that music education is a vital part of a successful education, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement that she provides to our schools and students. It is with deep respect and gratitude that I nominate [REDACTED] for the 2019 Florida Music Association's School Board Member of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Principal  
Madison Street Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

**"Success through the integration of the Arts and Academics"**  
- An Equal Opportunity School District -



# Marion County Public Schools

*Developing Successful Citizens –  
Every Student, Every Day*



September 5, 2018

Ref: Florida Music Education Association 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award

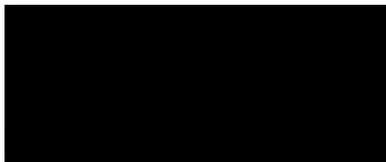
Dear FMEA Judges,

As Superintendent of Schools for Marion County, I am honored to nominate [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award.

[REDACTED] currently the chairperson of the Marion County School Board and is committed to all Marion County Public Schools, the students, and staff members. She is more than just a strong supporter of the arts programs and a positive voice in support of the millage referendum. With her community connections with the arts [REDACTED] took the lead in the millage referendum supporting quality and effective programs, which includes art and music. Her impact on the entire school district and community are notable and distinguishable.

It is without hesitation that I recommend [REDACTED] as the recipient of the Florida Music Education Association 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award. Please consider this application portfolio in a most positive light as she truly epitomizes what this award means and I am proud to have her as an elected official on the Marion County School Board.

Sincerely,



Superintendent

HM/cw





September 4, 2018

To Members of the FEMEA Awards Committee,

I am both excited and pleased to recommend School Board Chairwoman for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award. Both as a music instructor and as Marion County Public School's Teacher of the Year for 2017, I had numerous opportunities to experience the love of, commitment to and support of Music and the Arts for which Chairwoman has consistently advocated in our county.

As a member of the Referendum Steering Committee, which the Chairwoman assembled, I witnessed the kind of dedication, hard work and commitment that are a part of her character which assures that music education for K-12 students throughout Marion County will be a living and exciting part of their school day. She gathered together a diverse group of educators, business and community leaders to ensure that music, art, physical education, vocational education and media/library education would receive sorely needed funding through the continuation of a 1-mil tax referendum without which such essential education would not happen. Throughout the steering committee process, she never wavered in her focus on making music education a priority in our schools and demonstrated the sort of behind the scenes diplomacy and tough mindedness that made it a reality on August 28th of this year.

As a music teacher for students with special needs, an essential part of my job is being able to readily access support and educational resources in a timely fashion. In this regard, she was instrumental in the creation of the MCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position, focused solely on K-12 Art, Music and Theatre/Dance. Our program has received invaluable resources as a direct result of her foresight. I can't count the number of times I have received support and direction from our coordinator which greatly impacted the quality of education my students received.

As Marion County School District's Teacher of the Year I was frequently invited to participate in public events throughout the community, and whether from the podium or the pews, she was always there advocating the need for music education in our schools.

It is with all of these labors and accomplishments in mind that I enthusiastically recommend Chairwoman for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

*J. ....*

Marion County School District Teacher of the Year, 2017  
2018 Florida Teacher of the Year Finalist  
Hillcrest School, Ocala, Florida



# Marion County Public Schools

*Developing Successful Citizens –  
Every Student, Every Day*



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my privilege to send a letter of support on behalf of [REDACTED] Board Chair of the Marion County School Board. She is being nominated by Marion County music educators and the Florida Elementary Music Educator Association to receive the honor of being named Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year. [REDACTED] is an advocate for the arts in Marion County Schools and she is a strong supporter of programming that nurtures and fosters student interest and talent.

[REDACTED] fully supports music education, which has resulted in enhancing the K-12 music programs in Marion County Public Schools. She strongly supported the creation of a new MCPS Coordinator for Fine Arts position focusing only on K-12 music, K-12 art, and K-12 theatre/dance. The Coordinator of Fine Arts is a part of the Elementary Education Department and I am able to see first-hand the benefits of having an individual to support fine art teachers, from developing yearly curriculum maps created for music, art, and theatre/dance teachers to offering professional development that is relevant and specific to fine arts content.

[REDACTED] also headed the most recent Referendum Steering Committee to continue Marion County's 1-mil referendum that supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, and vocational programs. She understands the importance this revenue plays in providing and maintaining quality fine arts instruction to K-12 students.

She also works tirelessly throughout the community to ensure that music education is valued as a high priority, and a core subject for students. [REDACTED] often spotlights student and school achievement during board meetings, and she knows that in addition to academic success our students have so many other talents to share and to showcase to our community.

I urge you to strongly consider [REDACTED] for this award. She truly has our students' best interest in mind when making decisions as a board member. She understands the importance of music education in schools. She knows that when students are excited or feel successful in a subject, and when they get to make great music by themselves or with others, they will want to come to school every day and they will want to learn!

Thank you,



Director of Elementary Education





# Marion County Public Schools

*Developing Successful Citizens –  
Every Student, Every Day*



September 6, 2018

Dear FMEA Awards Committee Members:

It is my honor to recommend [REDACTED] for the School Board Member of the Year Award. [REDACTED] as elected in 2016, and by the end of the 2016-17 school year, she had convinced the other school board members, the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent that the Performing and Visual Arts are so integral to the education of Marion County students, they formed a new position at the district level for an arts specialist to assist performing and visual arts teachers with standards-based curriculum and relevant professional development.

[REDACTED] supports and advocates for Marion County's arts teachers and programs, and is very visible in the schools and at district arts events, demonstrating the value she has for the arts. She also formed a Referendum Steering Committee and worked tirelessly advocating for the continuation of Marion County's 1-mil referendum that supports arts education, physical education, media/library education, class size reduction, safe schools, and vocational programs.

[REDACTED] who is a musician, understands that music is a core subject that contributes to educating our children as a whole, and her advocacy for arts education has resulted in improved quality of arts programs and improved funding for arts programs in Marion County.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Fine Arts Program Specialist  
Marion County Public Schools  
[REDACTED]





# Marion County Public Schools

*Developing Successful Citizens –  
Every Student, Every Day*



August 31, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award.

[REDACTED] fully supports music education, which has resulted in enhancing the K-12 music in Marion County Public Schools. Mrs. McCall has promoted the creation of a new MCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on only K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theatre/Dance.

[REDACTED] has also headed the most recent Referendum Steering Committee to continue our Marion County 1-mill referendum that supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, and vocational programs. She also works tirelessly throughout the community to ensure that music education is valued as a high priority, core subject for our students.

It is my belief [REDACTED] is an asset to School Board of Marion County and is deserving of the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award.

If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Deputy Superintendent

JG/re





August 29, 2018

Dear Members of the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association,

It is my great honor to nominate Marion County School Board Chair [REDACTED] the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year.

[REDACTED] is a former elementary school teacher, who went on to help establish and then serve as director of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County. She subsequently went on to other positions in our community and is currently serving as chairperson of the Marion County School Board. In all positions, music has enriched [REDACTED] life. She is a member of the Central Florida Master Choir and works closely with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. It is this passion and love of music that drives her to make music education an integral part of a student's education.

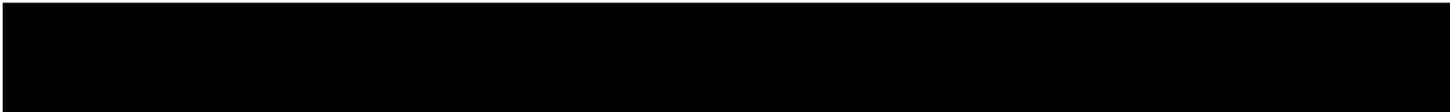
[REDACTED] as school board chair, championed the creation, funding and staffing of a new school district position, that of Fine Arts Coordinator. This new position focuses exclusively on K-12 Music, Art, Theatre and Dance. It is the first time Marion County has had a position designed entirely to support the arts and the teachers of the arts. Most recently, [REDACTED] spearheaded the Referendum Steering Committee to advocate and campaign for the renewal of a half mil sales tax that will support elementary music, elementary art, physical education, library media services and vocational programs. In a community that does not always welcome tax increases, this was a big assignment. I am thrilled to report that in the primary election, the tax was approved with over 72% of the vote.

One of [REDACTED] most prominent campaign promises was to support the arts in education. She spoke avidly about the role music education enriches children's lives and helps students perform better academically. She has lived up to this promise, and has still continues to promote the music and the arts in local schools. In the more than two decades I have been involved with Marion County Public Schools, I have not found a person who has been more supportive of the arts in education and [REDACTED] does not just pay lip service to the idea, she puts ideas into action for the benefit of our children.

I can think of no other candidate more qualified to receive this award than [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Executive Director  
Public Education Foundation of Marion County



# UNITED SERVICE UNIT

SERVING CITRUS • HERNANDO • MARION • SUMTER COUNTIES

August 31, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives me great pleasure to write this recommendation on behalf of [REDACTED] current Chairwoman of the Marion County Public Schools, for the Florida Music Education Association School Board Member of the Year. Over the past several years the Marion County School Board, under [REDACTED] leadership, has made music education and the Fine Arts a districtwide priority. There is no better evidence of this than her recent promotion of our new Marion County Coordinator of Fine Arts position. This position will ensure a premium is placed on Music, Art and Theatre/Dance throughout our local school district.

In addition, Chairwoman [REDACTED] served as lead community advocate for our recent Marion County Referendum Steering Committee. This committee was instrumental in the recent passage of our local millage referendum which supports Music Education and the Fine Arts in our schools. Without her leadership and subsequent passage of the referendum, funding would not be available to continue these vital programs full-time. She is a tireless advocate for music programs throughout the district and local community.

School board members have the unique ability to shape an entire school community – students, teachers, and families. [REDACTED] has done just that for the Marion County Public Schools. Given the obstacles that the Arts face in public education and elsewhere today, the Florida Music Education Association needs quality school board members to embrace and support these vital programs. [REDACTED] demonstrates these qualities and for that reason her nomination should be given the utmost of consideration.

Educationally yours,

[REDACTED]  
Executive Director, Florida Education Association  
Serving Marion and Sumter Counties



September 6, 2018

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award.

From: [REDACTED] Executive Director, Marion Cultural Alliance, Inc.

On behalf of the Marion Cultural Alliance's Board of Directors, I am pleased and honored to nominate Marion County School Board Chairwoman [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award.

Her passion stems from the important part music has played in her life since majoring in Vocal Performance at Eastern New Mexico University. [REDACTED] has carried her love for music into her adult life. She developed the first music program for St. Paul's Pre-School and was its music teacher for many years, she served as the Choir Director at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and served on the boards of Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Ocala Symphony Orchestra, and the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. [REDACTED] sings with the Central Florida Master Choir and participates in community events, including our annual Applaud the Arts- our community's largest gathering of artists and arts enthusiasts.

Because she understands the impact music education has on students, she worked diligently to create the new MCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theatre/Dance. This has resulted in the development and implementation of exemplary programs of standards-based, sequential music curriculum offered as part of the school day throughout elementary, middle and high schools.

[REDACTED] fully supports music education, which has resulted in enhancing K-12 music in MCPS.

We applaud [REDACTED] as she works tirelessly through-out the community to ensure that music education is valued as a high priority, core subject for our students.

Marion Cultural Alliance  
at Brick City Center for the Arts

Marion Cultural Alliance, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services #13001. Contributions to this organization are tax-deductible. Please verify registration and file a charitable contribution on your annual tax return. Please consult your tax consultant.



# Marion County Music Association

mcmapres@gmail.com



- President  
- President  
- Treasurer  
- Secretary

September 2, 2018

Dear Awards Selection Committee,

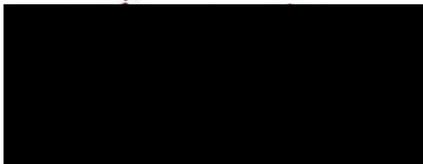
It is my honor and pleasure to recommend Chairwoman [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Educators Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award. Chairwoman [REDACTED] has been a member of the Marion County School Board since 2016. During her brief tenure, she has unequivocally demonstrated her support of music education in Marion County. She promoted the creation of a new Coordinator of Fine Arts position for MCPS which focuses only on K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theater/Dance. She also headed the most recent Referendum Steering committee. Thanks to her efforts, we were successful in passing our 1-mill tax referendum with an overwhelming 72% vote. This referendum supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, vocational programs, and school safety.

[REDACTED] is a well-known face in the Central Florida arts community having previously served on the Board of Directors with the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and currently serving with the Central Florida Master Choir and Ocala Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. [REDACTED] makes arts education a priority in Marion County, working tirelessly throughout the community to ensure that it is considered a high valued, core subject for our students in grades K-12.

Not only does Mrs. [REDACTED] support music education through her advocacy efforts, she is also an ever-present participant in our local performances. She previously acted as Master of Ceremonies for our 2018 Marion County Elementary Honor Choir concert.

[REDACTED] continuing commitment to high-quality music education in Marion County is an outstanding example of leadership in public education. We value her continued efforts as a partner in music education advocacy and are pleased to support her nomination for School Board Member of the Year.

Sincerely,



Marion County Music Association, President



Signature Brands, LLC



September 5, 2018

Dear Committee Members:

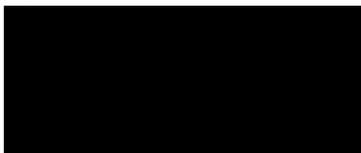
It is with great pleasure, I support School Board Member & Chair, [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award!

I have known [REDACTED] for many years and have observed her passion and dedication for our community. Most recently, I was honored to be selected as the Vice President for the Referendum Steering Committee that she led. The 1-mill referendum successfully passed with 72% of our voters supporting the continuation of the tax. These funds will support music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, vocational programs, and school safety.

In addition, I routinely observe her leadership with the School Board. She is truly an ambassador for our children and a seeker of solutions. She diplomatically manages sensitive and challenging topics while remaining steadfast with her principles and values. As a community member, I have confidence in her decision making and respect her position on issues.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I'm hopeful you will reach the same conclusion and select [REDACTED] as your School Board Member of the Year!

Sincerely,



Human Resources Director  
Signature Brands, LLC





# Shady Hill Elementary

*~An Equal Opportunity School District~*

September 6, 2018

Dear FMEA Awards Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation in support of Chairwoman of the Marion County School Board, for the FMEA 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award nomination.

Chairwoman recognizes the importance of music education for ALL students. In the many recommendation letters and summary of qualifications you have read over many different attributes that make the Chairwoman most deserving of this award. But allow me to tell you a story that I believe epitomizes exactly why she should be named the FMEA 2019 School Board Member of the Year.

At the FMEA 2017 professional development conference, Mock Name of MCPS won the FMEA 2017 Administrator of the Year award. Our newly elected MCPS Superintendent was not able to join him in his award acceptance, so Chairwoman jumped at the chance to support one of her principals. When we sat down to breakfast and started talking over all the awards that other schools were receiving in other counties, Chairwoman's first reaction was, "And why isn't Marion county receiving any school music education participation awards?" I explained that it was really quite simple—our MCPS Coordinator of K-12 Music was also coordinator of a million other areas, and could not (nor did not) spend the time needed to cultivate truly inspiring and exemplary K-12 music education programs within our schools. I went on to explain that we needed what most other counties in this state have—a county coordinator that only focuses on fine arts. Her response was simple and definite—"Okay, then. I will make this happen." And within a few short months after that conference, the county staffing plan for the next school year included the first-ever K-12 Fine Arts Coordinator. She saw, she heard, and she made it happen. A true advocate of music education.

In my ten years working in MCPS, I have never met a more deserving advocate for music education than Chairwoman. A chairwoman that not only supports music education for all students, but supports every facet of making music education successful. Chairwoman is not only the most deserving of this award, but is truly your FMEA 2019 School Board Member of the Year.

Sincerely,

Music Educator, Shady Hill Elementary, MCPS  
District 5 Chair, Florida Elementary Music Educators Association  
Emerging Leader, Florida Elementary Music Education Association



# Shady Hill Elementary

~An Equal Opportunity School District~

August 29, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to Marion County Public School Board member and Chairwoman [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was elected to the School Board in August of 2016, and has a vested interest in serving the students of Marion County and providing them with a high quality, well-rounded education. [REDACTED] was a teacher, an Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation, and has worked with many non-profit organizations around Marion County.

[REDACTED] has had many additional leadership roles in Marion County and has served on the board of directors for the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. She has also served with the Central Florida Master Choir and the Ocala Symphony Orchestra.

[REDACTED] has a passion for Music Education and fully supports school and district programs and initiatives, which has resulted in the enhancement of K-12 Music education in Marion County. She promoted the creation of a new Marion County Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on only K-12 Music, Art, and Theatre and Dance. She was also the head of the most recent Referendum Steering Committee to continue our Marion County 1-mill referendum that supports the Arts and Vocational Programs.

She values Music in our schools and makes it her priority to promote Music education and become engaged with our schools. She attends not only district-wide Music events, but also attends Music performances at our schools. Before performances, she often speaks to the crowd about the importance of Music in our lives and the positive impact it has on our students.

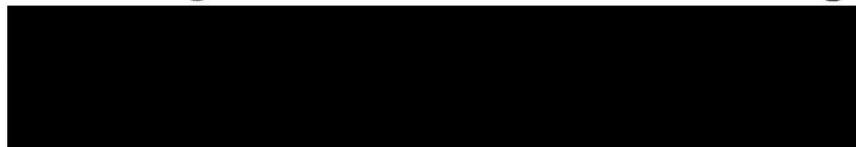
I would be honored to recommend [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Principal/Shady Hill Elementary School



# Shady Hill Elementary



*~An Equal Opportunity School District~*

September 4, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

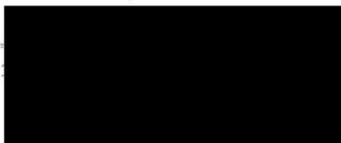
I'm submitting a recommendation for [REDACTED] who serves as Chairwoman on the Marion County Public School Board, for the Florida Music Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year Award. Mrs. [REDACTED] has worked in Marion County for many years in various positions. She began her career as a teacher, later in years she was given the opportunity to serve on our Public Education Foundation and recently on our school board. She has a heart for Marion County and has willingly worked with non-profit organizations to help parents and students to achieve a better life.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is passionate about music in our schools. Every opportunity she gets, she uses her platform to speak about the importance of music in a child's education. She herself, continues to participate in musical opportunities in our community. She has worked with the Central Florida Master Choir and the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. She is also affiliated with the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has worked many relentless hours on the Referendum Steering Committee to get the word out regarding the Marion County 1-mill referendum that helps support the Arts in our schools. This money affords students many opportunities in Music, Art, Theatre, and Dance! These programs have a positive impact on our students and their future!

I am honored to recommend [REDACTED] for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award.

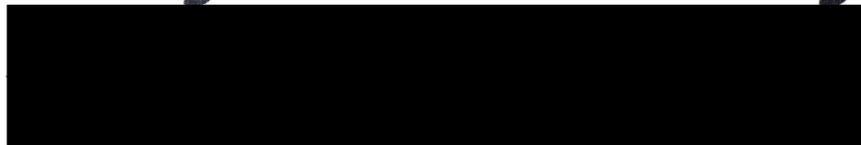
Sincerely,



Media Specialist



# Shady Hill Elementary



*~An Equal Opportunity School District~*

September 6, 2018

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am proud to offer my recommendation of [REDACTED] for the nomination for the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year award.

When my family moved to Ocala over 24 years ago, we joined the church [REDACTED] and her family attended. [REDACTED] was one of the first people I met, and she quickly invited my children to join the children's choir. I have experienced her love for others, her servant initiatives, and her passion for music since our first meeting.

She continues her passion for children by serving diligently as the Chair of our School Board in Marion County. [REDACTED] believes in Public Schools and works tirelessly to gain support for our art and music programs in K-12. She endorsed the creation of a new MCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts position focusing on only K-12 Music, K-12 Art, and K-12 Theatre/Dance. Recently, she headed the Referendum Steering Committee to continue our Marion county 1-mill referendum that supports music education, art education, physical education, media/library education, vocational programs, and resource officers in schools.

[REDACTED] is a family-woman, full of integrity and grace. She is loved and admired by many.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information. Thank you for allowing me to share this information with you.

Sincerely,

4th Grade Teacher

Shady Hill Elementary

September 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write a recommendation supporting Chairwoman's nomination as the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year. I have had the honor of knowing Chairwoman for over fifteen years. Over that time, she has been my mentor, employer and friend.

Chairwoman's love of music began at a very early age and she developed her skills as a musician throughout her lifetime. She attended Eastern New Mexico State where she obtained her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and where she also performed with the university's choir. In 2013, she traveled with the ENMS alumni choir to Italy where she was able to sing in some of the most iconic venues in the world. She also lends her voice to the Central Florida Master Choir and the St. Paul's Methodist Church choir.

As previously stated, Chairwoman has played many roles in my life and we have worked together in many capacities. My first opportunity to work with her was when she was the Executive Director of our local Public Education Foundation. Chairwoman served as the ED of the Foundation for many years and was instrumental in starting many of the programs there that benefit our students, such as Grants for Great Ideas. She then went on to be the Executive Director of our local hospital foundation and she hired me to be her Development Officer. Though we worked in the hospital setting, I was able to view daily her love of our community and her desire for it to be a better place for all of our residents.

As our time at the Munroe Foundation ended, I was honored when she asked me to help with her campaign for School Board. By this time, I had a young child in our public school system and I could think of no one better to have on the school board than her. She overwhelmingly won election to the board and in her two years as a board member has been a shining example of professionalism. She leads the board as their chairperson with honesty, integrity and a strong sense of leadership. Not only does she attend board meetings and workshops, she makes it a point to visit schools, attend concerts and award ceremonies and learn at the ground level what the schools she represents are doing on a daily basis.

Over the past summer, Chairwoman and I were able to work together again. Our county was asked to renew a 1 mill ad valorem tax to support our schools operational expenses. Those expenses included our arts programs, physical education programs, class size reductions, vocational programs and school safety. Chairwoman spent the majority of her summer speaking to groups all over the county in support of this referendum. Last Tuesday, our county overwhelmingly supported this referendum as they see the value of these programs, including music, in our schools.

As a parent of school aged children, I can tell you that Chairwoman is someone who I want on our School Board. I have no doubt that she is always putting the best interest of our students first. She wants each child who enters our schools to have a well-rounded education, including music and art. She wants them to graduate with the skills to become amazing citizens in our community. I can think of no one more deserving of being the Florida Music Education Association's 2019 School Board Member of the Year.

Sincerely yours,

Mock Name



Pictures of

# Melody Wagner

in action!



