

VMEA Northwest District  
Meeting Minutes  
September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005

In attendance:

Andrew Rosacker, Bruce McRae, Joanne Scott, Armand Messier, Phil Mears, Eric Bushey, Aron Garceau, Caleb Pillsbury, Sarah Laderman (new teacher at Highgate K-8), Jess Laroque, Betzi Irwin, Patty Griffin, Mary Bauer, Anna Perkins

Welcomes and minutes

- Welcome to the new teacher replacing Kirsten Hayes at Enosburg – Jeremy Sanborn!
- Welcome to the new general/instrumental teacher at Highgate K-8 – Sarah Laderman!
- Minutes from last June were approved.

Money

- \$1100 dollars are in account. People would like to know what bills are outstanding if any?
- Scholarships last year were \$400 last year because of low funds in the fall
- \$430 spent on food at the three festivals last year for hospitality. Should host schools be providing the food? Caleb: should feed people. General consensus was that people agreed. Patty: it's awhile before we have to buy food for festivals.

Handbook Corrections and double checks

- May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is correct for MS Festival
- Betzi and Jess are 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band managers
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Band manager is Phil Mears
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> is the real HS festival date – about a month earlier than usual.
- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> is correct audition date for HS
- MS Festival concert time is **2:30. We are not changing it.** It doesn't say 2:00 anywhere else.
- MS and HS participation fees and gate fees are the same. Pg. 8 of handbook.
- Schedule is good. You can hand those out to kids.

Discussion of Conductors for this year

- Jazz Festival conductor possibilities: George Volland, Gary Matthews, Bear Irwin, Harwood staff(?)
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Band conductor is Sue O'Daniel from Vergennes
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band conductor – will try to get Fleur Barnes from Brattleboro MS
- H.S. Chorus will be Bill Verity from Plattsburgh. No accompanist yet.
- H.S. Band Conductors?

HS instrumental auditions

- Instrumental auditions will start at 4:30 at BFA St. Albans. Let Eric know if you want a later time. Eric will set up times and send them out.
- Possibilities for adjudicators:
  - Andy and Alisa – saxes
  - Jeremy – tpt w/ Bruce?
  - Joanne and Betzi – clarinet
  - Mary Bauer – double reeds

Frank Mehaffey – low Brass  
Sarah Laderman – flute

### HS scholarship auditions

- Need scholarship room adjudicators
- Winners of scholarship will be: one vocal, one piano, two wind/percussion
- Rooms will be: one for vocal/piano (new grand piano!) and winds/percussion. This reflects proportions of past years' applications. Two judges needed each room.
- Another idea would be to let judges decide what to award that year
- Frank Whitcomb and Marty McRae in instr. Room?
- Paid judges \$50 in past
- Solo list: play off District list "easiest", or All-State solo, or off New England list. Check out Eric's selections. Use All-State timpani solo.

### Other deadlines and times and HS Chorus numbers:

- Our NW District website and handbook has times for everything, meetings, concerts, etc.
- HS Chorus Numbers by Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. Pay for your students by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Patty: HS Chorus balance has been difficult because of so many girls. Teachers should create balance in the list they send.

### Restructuring District Festivals

- We have discussed the possibility of restructuring the festivals so that there are HS and MS groups at each. The point of this is to allow a HS or MS student to be in the Band in one festival and the Chorus at the other and not have to choose between the two. We cannot implement this for this year but could for next year.
- We *think* every other District does it this way.
- Given a choice, most kids who do Band and Chorus in school will choose Band for the Festival. The Choruses will be a lot stronger if those kids can be in chorus also.
- District V and VI adds jazz to each festival also.
- Wouldn't cause many people to have to do another festival than they already do. People who teach both MS and HS do both anyway.
- Discussion of issues between a Th/Fri fest (current HS) and a Fri/Sat fest (current MS):
  - For MS, long day on Friday if a Th/Fri fest
  - Custodial help easier to get on Th/Fri.
  - Sports conflict with gym in Winter, not in May
  - May festival tough for HS teachers because All-State happens then also
  - Eric: look at other Districts' schedules and try that
- Aron: leave everything the way it is and see how it goes.
- People are interested in pursuing it further. Aron will email other presidents for schedules and we will continue discussing it.

Aron says: "Everything is on the website! Stop asking questions!"