

VMEA Northwest District I
Meeting Minutes
June 2006

In attendance: Aron Garceau, Phil Mears, Bruce McRae, Gisele McRae, Joanne Scott, Frank Mehaffey, Caleb Pillsbury, Betzi Irwin, Jessica LaRoque, Eric Bushey

Aron presiding. Call to order 5:45

Old Business

Meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Missing Music: missing pieces from Milton several choral directors ago. \$797.00! District borrowed music from VMEA. Milton SD won't pay for it unless it's specific as to pieces, how many, prices etc. District should pay for it, maybe in installments. Discussion included:

- Music borrowed for students that cancelled participating in Districts?
- Don't order a copy for every kid.
- How does the ordering get done?

Balance: \$2744.89. recommended to save \$1000 for next year. \$1700 to split up for scholarships (3) – give \$500 apiece. Discussion included:

- Almost excessive amount – could it be a rainyday fund
- Or something we need, like festival piano tuning
- Or publish a decent program like Dist. V
- We all agreed we could do something like that
- Scholarship fund – 2 yrs. Ago it was \$500, last year \$400. Put some in reserve? If we lock it in at \$400, can we do it in a lean year?
- We are a non-profit – we can't hold on to too much money
- \$1500 floating around isn't a lot
- How bout a banner – “Northwest District”
- Do we need advertising? If ahead of time enough, can put ads in the program for fundraising
- We need to buy a tape recorder for the secretary!!!!!!

An aside on programs: Patti would like someone else to do programs for the MS festival. Gisele offered since it is at her school traditionally. She can send it to Kinko's.

Festival Restructuring: Aron: In the last four meetings we've batted it around. We don't know if it will work. Let's try it for two years.

HS instrumental with MS choral

MS instrumental with HS choral, could add HS jazz band

- A proposal was made to do all choral, then all instrumental, put HS jazz on choral festival.
- Aron: All instrumental festival would be 4 groups to set up, maybe why festivals have a chorus flanked by bands in the program
- Gisele: 3 groups in HS, can do a longer program. 4 groups in MS, should do a shorter program.

- Eric: Could a May time work with MS? We all agreed a March time could work too, there is not much happening.
- Aron: can we decide to do it and hash out sites and dates later?
- We would need to add a space to rehearse if we're adding a group.
- Gisele: rather do two festivals than three.

Jessica moved to restructure the festival.

- Gisele: have to decide now, not in Sept.
- Aron: have to find sites anyway
- Caleb – would like to host a festival at MMU. Proposed MS choral, HS bands.
- MMU doesn't have MS in our district.
- Eric: offered BFA HS band at end of March, beg. Of Feb.
- St. Albans City – no, has space issues
- St. Albans Town? Eric: has big enough gym

Aron moved that we do two festivals next year. One with HS WE, HS CB, instrumental scholarship. Other with MS instr. 6/7 and 8th Bands, HS chorus, HS jazz.

Betzi seconded.

More discussion of sites and dates.

Motion passed

- Aron: will talk to Enosburg about being a site. Looks like St. Albans Town is a possibility.
- Jess: Georgia? Does not have enough space.
- Eric: Milton not available due to scheduling, and Gisele is 7-12 choral and instrumental next year.

Managers

- Peter Matthews cannot do WE next year. Betzi cannot manage next year.
- We should ask Andy Frappier
- Mary should have help with CB
- Ask Anna Roy about 7th grade Band
- Phil will do 8th gr Band with Jess
- Eric Ho?

Conductors Ideas

- Jess: HS person do MS in our own District? People agreed it is better to have a guest from outside the district.
- Dan Boomhower for HS chorus
- Connie Price for MS chorus
- Dave Dominic for MS Band
- Matt Clancy for MS Band
- Also Bear Irwin, Rich Williams

Adjourned 7:45