

VMEA Northwest District I

Meeting Minutes ~ Sept. 5th, 2007

Fall Meeting

Highlights:

- Festival calendar was verified – see below.
- Meeting dates for the year were set:
 - February Festival meeting: Thursday, Feb. 7th, 7:00 PM, MMU.
 - April Festival meeting: Friday April 4th at 2:30 PM
 - June meeting: set the date of Wednesday June 11th, 5:30 PM, BFA St. Albans
- Whether teachers were going to buy slots for HS chorus or bring a list as usual was going to be discussed by email.
- Door fees were clarified – see page 4.
- Two discussions were tabled for the Feb. meeting: Election timing and possibly setting up a six year rotation, and HS Band audition cut-off scores.

In attendance: Anna Roy, Gisele McRae, Armand Messier, Donna Costes, Phil Mears, Bruce McRae, Chelsie Henderson, Sara Ladermann, Andy Frappier, Chris Comstock, Eric Hoh, Aron Garceau; Joanne Scott, Betzi Sheperd

Welcome

Chris Comstock – Sheldon Instrumental, and
Chelsie Henderson, BFA Fairfax choral!

President Anna Roy presiding with assistance from Gisele McRae.

Minutes from June and February approval:

Aron moved to approve both sets of minutes. Andy seconded. Passed.

Festival Information

This calendar was verified:

HS District Auditions - Wed. November 28 BFA St. Albans

HS District Music Festival - Thurs-Fri, Feb. 7/8, 7:00 Concert, MMU

MS District Music Festivalw/HS Jazz - Fri-Sat, April 4/5, 2:00 Concert, Enosburg

Discussion of audition fees for HS Band and festival fees for HS chorus

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- It was asked when to send lists to Eric with money for HS auditions and scholarships. November 14th was proposed (two Wednesdays before auditions) as the date by which to send names. *Eric should verify that this is OK.*

- ❑ Armand would like auditions to be later, in December. It is a long time for kids to wait after sign up in November for the chorus.
- ❑ Donna – need registration fees early so music can be ordered.
- ❑ Andy – collect money as incentive. About insisting on paying fees on time: Wants us to say we're doing it and then do it. We have to do it for All-State.
- ❑ Armand – what if each school buys a certain number of slots in the chorus, and the school is responsible for paying for that number and filling those slots.
- ❑ Gisele – all money should be due at the same time. Thinks buying slots is a good idea – one flaw would be ensuring we have balanced voices.
- ❑ Donna – people would have to be responsible for sending a balanced group.
- ❑ Betzi – are we ready for a motion?
- ❑ Gisele – need to talk to Patti, Peter, and Caleb before we make a decision on this.
- ❑ Armand – to summarize, schools need to pay the money regardless of the commitment or lack of from their kids.
- ❑ Anna – when do we need the money? Donna – ASAP.
- ❑ ***All agreed that the fee would be due at HS auditions.***
- ❑ Armand will send an email to help decide whether to buy slots or send a list and owe that many fees.

There was discussion of the list of solos. People were pretty sure Eric had it at BFA and Chris could help find it.

Adjudicators for HS Band auditions:

Flute - Anna

Clarinet – Joanne

Alto Sax – Andy

Low Woodwinds – Jessica

Trumpet/Horn – Bruce

Low Brass – Randy

Percussion – Phil and Aron

-Eric needs to make arrangements for scholarship judges.

High School Festival @ MMU

-rehearsal piano needs to be in good condition

-watch costs with moving the piano

-Rose Kinik (sp?) is a good piano tuner

Concert Band manager: Aron – will find a conductor

Wind Ensemble manager: Eric – don't know if he has a conductor

Chorus manager: Patti – hopefully Anne Hamilton. Debbie Harris from BFA St. Albans will accompany this year.

Middle School/Jazz Festival

- ❑ Date/place verified – see calendar

Andy wanted to discuss the seating of the audience:

- -still four groups in the program
- -Jazz perform own concert? People want them to be in the same concert if they're in the same festival.
- Gisele – use auditorium? Andy – capacity for that is 800.
- Betzi – the reason the gym worked is we used it as a holding tank for performing groups rather than seating them in the audience.
- Jess – if it worked once, it'll work again.
- Andy – the chorus will be in the Opera House and we'll still have to pay for that. People liked having the chorus in the the Opera House.

MS chorus discussion:

- Armand – concerned about the quality of the MS chorus.
- Andy – should we buy slots like the HS chorus is thinking about?
- Bruce – that would cut down on the number of kids from schools with great choral programs. Compared choral programs in MS's.
- Gisele – we can discuss this at the Feb. meeting. Make it a priority.
- Andy – doesn't want to solve problems at the festival itself.
- If names are due at the February meeting, might as well pay fees then too, Same as the HS with auditions, clearer process.
- Anna – do we ever cut the number of students in MS groups? Answer was no.

Managers and Conductors:

-8th grade Band: Phil – no conductor yet

-7th grade Band: Frank and Joanne. Joanne didn't know if Frank had asked a conductor. Aron Audet from Proctor was suggested. (This added from Frank in an email: "Adam Sawyer has agreed to be the conductor for the 2008 6-7 band. The program will be chosen around Thanksgiving, by Adam, with input from Joanne Scott and myself.")

-Chorus: Marilyn – will get conductor and accompanist.

-Jazz: Andy will manage – no conductor yet but is considering Bruce Sklar and Bill Moulton.

Other Middle School/Jazz Fest discussion:

- Donna suggested that when looking for conductor, to call them individually rather than put out an all-call type email, to make it feel more special.
- Gisele – the program info really has to be exchanged in a timely fashion. One week before the festival is reasonable. The managers send the lists of the ensembles to the host.
- HS fest last year was done way ahead, but the MS/Jazz was done the day of.
- It's the manager's job to gather all the info on the conductor.
- Andy will put in names in the computer when they are gathered in February, then it will be a subtractive process to remove the cancellations.
- Phil – use of the Band room and stage was hard because of the sound bleed between the two.
- Andy – the jazz band can move to the library or the MS wing in the building, and hospitality can be in the band room.

Meeting Dates

-February Festival meeting: Thursday, Feb. 7th, 7:00 PM, MMU. All MS folks should have names and fees at this time. It is \$5.00/student HS and MS. MS folks should attend as we will discuss the MS fest at this meeting.

-April Festival meeting: Friday April 4th at 2:30 PM at Enosburg at the MS/Jazz festival: . Many people will be at the MS festival anyway. Festival will go 9:00 – 4:00 ish. Saturday will go 9:00 – 2:00, 2:00 Concert.

-June meeting: set the date of Wednesday June 11th, 5:30 PM, BFA St. Albans after this discussion: too far in advance to plan a date. *Aron moved to set the June meeting at the April meeting, Andy 2nd, we did not vote.* It was discussed that we thoughtfully pick a date for this meeting and not change it. Think about Discover Jazz Fest etc. Armand – why do we need a June meeting? - Scholarship \$, elections, fun.

Door Fees were clarified:

\$5.00 adults

\$3.00 student/senior

\$12.00 family

Treasurer's Report

Donna would like two people to work on a budget with her.

We paid out five scholarships at \$200.00 each.

We have a balance of \$346.00

Andy and Phil will meet with Donna to work on a budget, Sept. 19th.

Other Business

-Andy will transport the choral library to St. Albans Town, probably Teachers convention weekend.

Cut off score for HS auditions

This was voted on last February that there would be a cut-off score to eliminate extremely unprepared students. No cut-off score was decided.

- Betzi – could we just start with a cut-off score no one can argue with?
- Andy – it comes down to the teachers need to prepare the students
- Betzi – we need to make progress on this discussion and move forward.
- Aron – we shouldn't vote on a cut-off score with only two HS Band teachers here.

Andy moved that each adjudicator make judgement calls on unprepared students. Jess 2nd. Passed..

- Joanne – there are kids who are in la-la land, who don't even know they had to play their chromatic scale.
- Could we use NS – not scorable?
- Armand – maybe we won't fill two bands.
- We will revisit at the February meeting when HS Band teachers will be there.

Percussion audition forms

-Jess offered to rewrite the percussion form so it indicates the students' strengths for the manager to assign parts. Everyone agreed she would revise the form.

-Phil – at one point we did this but had chaos because kids didn't show up to the festival. It was still helpful though.

More "other"

- Matt Tatro has passed along that the VT Guard Band would like to be more active in public school music programs. It was suggested they adjudicate at auditions.

-October 15th the President's Own Marine Band will be at Collins Perley. Get tickets from the Messenger.

Jess moved that Election discussion be also tabled for the Feb. meeting. Aron 2nd.

Passed. It was mentioned that we should look at the VMEA bylaws. Do we have a handbook? Aron has it and will pass it to Betzi.

-Anna is president, Gisele is taking a vice-president type role. They will go to VMEA meetings.

Adjourned 7:15

Respectfully submitted,
Betzi Sheperd