

# VMEA Northwest District I

## Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2008 @ BFA St. Albans

In attendance: Anna Roy, Donna Costes, Eric Bushey, Phil Mears, Jessica LaRocque, Armand Messier, Danielle Rainville, Jennifer McConnell, Betzi Sheperd

5:45 call to order. Anna Roy presiding.

### Last meeting's minutes

Motion to approve April meeting minutes from the Middle School Festival: Armand. 2nd Jessica. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$505.96. Ending balance \$3383.33

Motion to approve: Armand. 2nd Jess. Passed.

## **2008-2009 Calendar - see timeline (separate document)**

Finalization of dates: Gisele made a table with dates for all District events that includes a timeline of due dates for names and fees, etc. Thank you Gisele – we really appreciate it! Dates were proposed for the only events up in the air, which were the fall meeting, Jazz festival in November, Middle School Festival in April, and spring meeting. Meeting dates were decided. Jazz festival and Middle School Festival dates are pending approval by the hosts. Danielle will be meeting with Andy Thursday and will set a date for the Jazz Festival then. Patty and Aron should decide on the best date for them in April. Please send the dates to Betzi.

Jazz Festival: There was discussion about the format of the Jazz Festival. It was discussed that it would be HS and MS groups coming to perform, plus a HS select group with a guest conductor.

Eric: Should we audition kids for the select group? The last time we had auditions four people were signed up for auditions, which he cancelled.

Anna: HS teachers should meet and decided together.

### Vocal Jazz group:

Eric: Would chorus teachers be interested in bringing back a Jazz Choir group to the Jazz Festival?

Armand: we should focus this year on creating an audition process for HS chorus, then can work on adding the jazz choir back in when ready. It's hard enough to get a good regular chorus. We also need the Jazz Festival to be strong again as is, then we can add to it.

First meeting is Wednesday September 10th, 5:30, @ BFA St. Albans. People weren't worried about not having it the first week of school, because we are now doing many things at this spring meeting that we would normally do in a Fall meeting. We will be ahead of the game in the fall and don't have to have the meeting very early.

### High School Audition date issues

Eric: there used to be a correlation with the date of auditions and New England Auditions so that kids could practice their NE audition piece. Now that for HS District auditions students will all play the same piece, which is not the same as for NE, it doesn't matter as much, except for scholarship auditions where those students might choose to play their NE piece.

## **2008-2009 Managers & Adjudicators**

### Managers:

HS Concert Band – Aron  
HS Choral – Chelsie and Danielle  
HS Wind Ensemble – Eric and Peter  
MS 8th Grade – Phil  
MS 6/7 – Andy and Chris will co-manage  
MS Chorus – Marilyn would like a break. Jennifer McConnell will do it! Thanks Jennifer!

Discussion of conductors ideas: names mentioned were Andy Smith from Williston, Chelsie and Danielle have three names they are looking into. Donna said Kim Thompson and Mac Kaplan are other good ideas for MS chorus or. Names that were brought up from last meeting were brought up as reminders.

### Adjudicators

Scholarship – Guard Band personnel. Eric feels strongly that although the Guard Band personnel from last year did a terrific job and everything went smoothly, the scholarship panel should be different people every year. Maybe Phil would stay on but the others should be different. This helps students who are repeat auditioners feel at ease that they have a fresh start from last year. Phil will talk to the Guard Band about being involved again in this way.

Clarinets- Alisa or Mary?

Flute –Sarah...Anna is no longer in the District, so Jennifer volunteered to help Sarah.

Alto Saxophones - Andy

Low Woodwinds/Double Reeds - Jessica

Trumpet - Bruce

Low Brass – Randy and Chris

Percussion - Aron

Choral – Danielle and Chelsie

### District Choral Auditions Plan

Danielle presented to the group two proposals that she and Danielle created for auditioning HS choral students. They propose that we audition choral students for the purpose of raising the caliber of the group and increasing the personal investment and commitment the students have toward the festival. They would take place at the same time and place as instrumental auditions and be adjudicated in the same style as All-State. Both versions of the proposal had details thought out and planned in regards to materials and personnel, possibilities for selections, pre-audition procedure, audition procedure, budget requests, time needed to audition all students, and advantages of having choral auditions. The two differing ideas were whether to have students audition with a solo or with a trio/quartet.

There was discussion of solo vs. trio/quartet.

-Armand preferred trio/quartet because the ensemble nature reflected the ensemble nature of the event for which the students are auditioning. Offered that the All-State process is better than New England's, with one judge for each voice. Believed SAB would work.

-There was discussion of the timing of auditions - Eric said he would work on it.

-Eric - is it too early to be using the All-State piece?

-Armand: good way to do it because it helped them prepare for both.

**All agreed that the choral auditions should be trio/quartet.**

Eric: maybe this would boost the numbers of All-State for Franklin County. Maybe everyone should just put the piece on their fall concert and have everyone learn it.

Eric and Danielle discussed setting up the audition schedule, starting at 4:30.

There was discussion of possibility of students wanting to audition for both band and chorus.  
Should there be a preference indicator on their audition form?

Betzi: If managers can be at auditions they can decide amongst themselves where students are needed. If it is a choice between flute and soprano, for example, a preference could be honored. If it is a choice between tenor and flute, a preference for band probably could not be honored. A choice between tenor and trombone would be up to managers to decide. Armand: sometimes those discussions at All-State get very heated.

Danielle: we will put a preference indicator on their audition form with a disclaimer that preference may or may not be honored depending on the needs of the ensembles.

### **Award Scholarships**

The three scholarship recipients were:

Theresa Thalys, BFA (going to Berklee next year)

Anna Houston, BFA

Paul \_\_\_\_\_

Eric proposed \$500 to each scholarship recipient and donate \$500 to VMEA. Many districts do that.

There was discussion of our non-profit status and the need to keep our balance down.

Armand suggested that we need a slush fund and with the economy as it is we should not be in such a hurry to give away money.

Eric pointed out that the Jazz Festival next year may not make very much money.

Donna agreed that we should wait to donate money to VMEA.

### **Elections**

Elected from those present and ballots received by email:

President: Armand Messier

Vice President: Mary Bauer

Secretary: Betzi Sheperd

Treasurer: Phil Mears

Thanks to Donna for her many years of service as treasurer of VMEA District I.