

# VMEA Northwest District I

## Meeting Minutes

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ MMU

6:35 Call to order. Armand Messier presiding.

### Last meeting's minutes

approved

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$3434.60, Ending balance \$1687.80.

There were some payment mix-ups. Please report to Phil if you owe him money.

### MS Festival

- Hosts report, MVU – will attempt to change chorus venue from theater to something else because of the distracting nature of that hall.
- Managers report –
  - Phil – need names from a lot of people.
  - Andy/Chris not present at meeting.
  - Frank brought up a concern about a conductor who wants us to pick a program, and also wants to compose an aleatoric piece.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> band will be E. Scott Fuller, grad of Milton.
- Discussion of possible conductors for next year.

Timeline – use it and it will work.

Collection of music – if you collect it yourself instead of the manager, the manager cannot be responsible for the music. Also, teachers should be responsible for passing out and returning music to avoid mix-ups for owing money for lost music.

### H.S. Festival

- Hosts report, Mary/MMU - #'s were in, working great, loves hosting.
- Managers reports –
  - Eric, W.E. – going well, a lot of illness/missing kids
  - Aron, C.B. – Jane put together a lot of program notes that were underused. Many rhythmic issues. Down 10 kids due to illness and sports.
  - H.S. Chorus, Chelsie and Danielle – going great, balanced despite missing kids, great conductor, just what we needed. Momentum from District audition helped participation in All-State auditions, more excited and motivated. Discussion of why District participation is not required for All-State here.

Handbook – Armand revised it – Thanks Armand! Gisele, Betzi and Anna created the timeline.

Reimbursement – Aron moved to change it to .40/mile. Eric 2<sup>nd</sup> → passed

Participation Fees – Are we charging enough? Aron said it keeps the festival accessible, as long as we have enough for scholarships, then it's OK. It was mentioned that we could charge more for tickets. Eric suggested we wait til the end of the year to decide when we see our end of year balance.

Website also updated – Thank you Armand!

VMEA conference – it keeps getting better and better, Chris liked seeing the technology.

Participation – A letter was written in regarding a student not allowed to participate this year because a hockey game was postponed and caused a conflict last year. It was a respectful letter asking that an exception be made because it was not the student's fault or decision that this happened. This was discussed with points brought up such as: sometimes the director makes the call, the rules dictate they cannot come, this has been discussed ad nauseum, what if he had been 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet, if a gig is on book 1<sup>st</sup> you keep that gig, it's a Pandora's box and shouldn't be messed with, if they cannot participate next year then maybe they just shouldn't be a 1<sup>st</sup> player, then it's an open door for problems with numbers down anyway, it only hurts us, should be at the discretion of the director, should be at the leadership level to prevent inequity at the directors level, not always kids fault, this is 5% of the situation and usually it's because of bad decision making. Armand and Mary drafted a letter explaining why the rule exists.

District solos for next year –

1. Changed clarinet to Brahms
2. made all saxophones the same solo
3. trumpet pieces have years now.

This is all online.

It was brought up again why we decided to have all kids just play District solos. Eric and Mary did not see a difference for kids and asked them to "get over it".

Respectfully submitted,  
Betzi Sheperd