

VMEA District I meeting

September 24th, 2009 @ Donna Costes' house

In attendance:

Armand Messer (BFA St. A choral), Joanne Scott (Fairfield Elem.), Eric Bushey (BFA St.A instrumental), Andy Frappier (Enosburg HS instrumental), Phil Mears (Milton instr.), Donna Costes (Champlain Music), Jennifer McConnell (Franklin), Danielle Hurley (Enosburg HS choral), Betzi Sheperd (St. Albans Town 5-8 instr.), Patty Griffin (MVU choral), Randy Wheeler (Georgia elem. instr.)

Many people had to attend open houses tonight.

Though she could not be here we would like to extend a warm welcome to Melissa Towle, who is the new choral teacher at BFA Fairfax.

Minutes from June

correction - Phil will help Chris but doesn't want to co-manage. Andy will co-manage with Chris instead.

Eric move, Danielle 2nd, --> minutes approved

Treasurer's report - Phil

Not a lot of news, just the scholarships, which have been sent out.

Beginning balance \$2092.68, Ending balance after three \$500 scholarships \$592.68

Timeline and Calendar

We made corrections to some dates just to make them on the correct day of the week. We went through other dates for names due, music due, festivals, auditions, etc. and locations for the festivals.

Please see corrected timeline sent by Armand.

Other notes regarding events on the calendar:

- VMEA meeting - encouraged to attend
- HS Auditions
 - Eric asked that people be sure to get names in in a timely manner, especially for scholarships, vocal and instrumental, because it makes it very crowded to add them at the last minute
 - need a separate room for choral warm ups, BFA suggested the auditorium
 - Eric suggested getting music out at HS auditions, it would make it a lot easier and would help kids commit if they get their music the next day
 - Correction to MS names date, they will be due at the HS Festival Feb. 5 & 6
 - Discussion of MS voices - suggested that music be picked that is do-able and able to be taught in two days.

Festival Discussion

HS Wind Ensemble - managed by Bruce - conducted by James Miller from UMass
HS Concert Band - managed by Aron, conductor ?
HS Chorus - managed by Danielle, conducted by Sal Ciccarelli
MS 6-7 Band - conducted by Andy Smith
MS 8th - Chris and Andy ?
Frank has brought up having a MS strings ensemble, it should be discussed at a meeting.

Participation fees - a few years ago we raised the door fee, but we haven't changed the participation fee, which is \$5.00. \$6.00 adults, \$4 s/s, \$15 family are current door fee. \$5 doesn't cover the MS chorus cost for the music. People don't think the door should be raised.

Andy moved that we raise the participation fee to \$7. 2nd ? -->passed. Concern for possible subsidies needed at some schools.

HS Auditions - Adjudicators and notes

flute - Jennifer and Betzi
double reeds - maybe Betzi maybe Andy
alto sax - Andy
clarinet - Joanne
trumpet/horn - Bruce
low brass - Randy or Chris
percussion - Aron and Phil

Everyone plays the same solo for HS District auditions now, we changed that a couple years ago and it worked well last year.

The auditions start at 4:30.

Discussion of Guard Band adjudicators for scholarships, if we should have the same people or different people, if it should still be Dave Myers.

SmartMusic or other recorded accompaniment vs. accompanist for scholarship audition - Eric suggested we allow it for the auditions but not for the performance. Eric and Armand would need a heads up if a student plans on auditioning that way, they have SmartMusic at BFA and a sound system in the choral room. Armand suggested we add that as policy to the handbook. Recorded accompaniment is allowed at New England auditions.

Choral auditions - All State piece, same as last year, we have adjudicators: Danielle, Melissa, Caleb, and Armand

Handbook policies changes or additions

Armand did add a cellphone policy to the handbook.

Website update

Armand took everything off in anticipation of major updates after this meeting. There is a contact information page for teachers under "membership", it is password protected to protect the information:

username - VMEA1

password - membership

Professional Duties and Obligations - Armand wanted to point out to us that these are our duties and responsibilities as a professional music teacher:

1. Know and follow the rules of the handbook
2. Attend meetings
3. Be active in district, consider doing something extra like becoming an officer, host, manager, etc.
4. Prepare and encourage students for auditions, not just Districts, but other opportunities in festivals and the community

Discontinue the June Meeting?

Armand will not be running for re-election, so we will need to have an election. We could have the election in February at the festival, especially being at St. Albans as a more central location, middle school members may be more likely to attend. We could have an online survey monkey election.

If we warn it now, so people can think about running, than it can be done in February, and scholarship money can be decided by a quick discussion by the officers in the spring, therefore June meeting is not needed.

Other business:

Professional development - it was discussed how to count some of your work in the District for prof. dev.

General music involvement - are there any districts that have an event for the general music teachers in their district?

We discussed having an Elementary choral event as a possibility. The general music teachers in our District are VMEA members and important.

Mileage - Last February we changed the mileage to .40/mile. It was suggested that we have a policy in the handbook that is worded "at current government rate" to allow for flexibility. A motion was made by Patty, Jennifer 2nd, --> passed

Eric move to adjourn, 2nd Danielle, --> passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Betzi Sheperd