

## VMEA Northwest District I

# Meeting Minutes ~ September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**In attendance:** Aron Garceau, Armand Messier, Mary Bauer, Donna Costes, Anna Roy, Andy Frappier, Sarah Laderman, Gianna Messier, Joanne Scott, Caleb Pillsbury, Betzi Irwin, Jessica LaRoque

Aron presiding. Call to order 6:45

Welcome to Gianna Messier, who is the new music teacher at Fletcher School!

### **Old Business**

June meeting minutes approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$1800 after the scholarship checks have been cashed.

**Festival Changes** We are restructuring our festivals. We will try it for two years and reassess.

**-Spring Festival:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Enosburg, with MS 8<sup>th</sup> Band and 7/6 Band, HS choral, and HS Select Jazz.

**-Winter Festival:** February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Mount Mansfield, with HS Wind Ensemble, HS Concert Band, MS Chorus, and HS Scholarships.

- Armand: Why is Jazz with MS? Aron: those are strong players, want them to be able to be in Wind Ensemble and Concert Band also.
- Scholarships will be in February at the Winter Festival.
- Jess: would like the MS kids to hear scholarship
- Armand: then they aren't performing for their peers. Mary agreed.
- Joanne: has some parents trying to understand why festivals aren't all choral/all instrumental.
- Aron: instrumental fest would be too long of a concert. There are only two groups to be in a choral festival and five instrumental groups.
- We should rename the festivals "Spring Festival" and "Winter Festival"
- Mary requested not to be a manager since she is a host.
- There was discussion of which days of the week the festivals should be. Night rehearsals in the tradition of the HS festival is too late for MS kids. Trying to avoid Saturday because of HS sports and jobs. MS Saturday doesn't matter. Everyone agreed to have Thursday and Friday for the May Festival.
- Andy: please be careful about how many people to send to the MS band groups because the bandroom in Enosburg is small.
- Logistical stuff can be hashed out with managers.
- **Time of Friday PM Concerts: 7:00 PM**
- MMU will provide dinner
- Submit MS names at the same time as HS Band ? No, **for May Festival groups submit names at the February Festival meeting.**

## Verify Conductors for Festival

<b>Ensemble</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>Conductor</b>
WE	Eric	Tom Toner
CB	Jess	Jim DiPaulo?
MS chorus	Marilyn Sink?	May have conductor.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Andy (Aron will help)	
6/7	Phil nominated. (Anna will help)	
HS chorus	Caleb (Armand will help)	Dan Boomhower
HS jazz	Andy?	Ken Cross from Johnson

Other festival issues:

- Anna: extreme low scores should not be allowed to play. There should be cut-off scores.
- Aron: All-State is exclusive, we have wanted to be inclusive.
- So auditions are mainly for seating
- Jess: special needs students should be included.
- Betzi: Danger. Are we measuring all students by the same standard? Mary: that is a can of worms.
- Jess: Students who are not prepared should not be included.
- There will always be teachers that don't prepare students sufficiently. That is teachers' responsibility to prepare and select prepared kids. There will always be teachers that don't prepare their students. Mary: in her old district, the District president sent a letter to principals of unprepared students.

**High School Instrumental Auditions** will be Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at BFA St. Albans

### Adjudicators

Flute – Anna and Jess

Clarinet – Mary and Joanne

Sax/dbl reeds – Andy

Another sax room? – Alisa?

Trumpets – Bruce and Jeremy?

Low Brass – Randy and Pat Evans?

Percussion – Brooke?

Tabulations – Eric

Solo list was distributed – this is the last set on the rotation.

**Elections** Aron has been president for five years. Not sure about the process as he was appointed at a festival. We were supposed to have elections in June but we are doing it today. Duties are: be ready to run the next meeting at the festival and do the remarks at the festival concert, do an informal meeting at the May festival, do a June meeting. Aron will help for the next 6 months as an informal “past president”

- Donna: could we have a Board that meets and then a General membership meeting like VMEA?
- Mary: our membership is too small for that.
- Donna: we have 30 teachers in the district. A lot just don't attend meetings regularly.

### Nominations

Donna nominates Anna Roy – Anna does not accept nomination.

Mary nominates Caleb Pillsbury.

Aron nominates Andy Frappier.

Jessica LaRoque was also nominated.

- Aron: we'll vote by email –will send out bios.
- District V has past president, president, and president-elect. Eric was president before Aron. Should we do this?

### Other

- Armand will be the new webmaster!
- Should we have a new web address?  
It is currently: [www.fnwsu.org/sheldon/nwd](http://www.fnwsu.org/sheldon/nwd)
- VMEA Conference: it will be excellent. Everyone is encouraged to go to the conference.

### New Business:

Accompanist fee: Armand: it's too low. It should be \$250 or same as conductor.

- Aron moves that we pay accompanists \$250. Motion passed.

**Adjourned 7:20**

Respectfully submitted,

Betzi Irwin