

KMEA SE District Minutes

July 12th, 2019

Members Present:

Andrea Dinkel
Neav Rowland
Brad Harzman
Seth Harley

Megan Gabehart
Alan Paxson
Aaron Burke
Mary Jo Harper

Willey Abati
Nancy Riecker
Aaron Shockley
Cooper Neil

Members Absent:

Lauren Burke
Lance Burnett

Jami Kleinert
Troy Johnson

Meredith Reid

Special Guest:

Janelle Brower

Andrea welcomed the board to the meeting, and the board introduced themselves.

2019-2020 SEKMEA Events/Locations:

Andrea provided everyone with the dates for our upcoming dates and locations. They are all posted on the website, or will be shortly.

Special Guest, Janelle Brower:

Janelle said that the state has revamped the mentoring program in the last several years. They are trying to increase the number of people new teachers are connected to. She said she has taken what Mary Jo is doing and has sent that out to the other districts. This year, we are having a Mentoring Conference at KU Sept 28 from 10:30-2:30 for 1st and 2nd year teachers. We will be having something similar in June for teachers who have just completed their first year. She encourages all of us to be available as a mentor. There is a link to become a mentor on the state website. KSHSAA sends an email to all principals looking for new teachers, but that information doesn't always get back to them, so please let them know of any new teachers in our area.

Reports:

Executive Director – Alan Paxson:

Alan attached several documents to an email, including our profits and loss sheet. At the end of the fiscal year, our net income was actually \$-516.93, due to the cancelation of our elementary/middle level event. Our rule of thumb has been to keep a balance in the checkbook that can cover one year. Our current checkbook balance is around \$13,000. Most of the board members have turned in their conflict of interest and whistleblower forms, but if not, he has copies available. When you get your clinicians, let him know who they are so he can send out contracts to them. He has already sent out several.

Vice President – Willey Abati:

None

President-Elect – Megan Gabehart:

Megan attended KMEA Leadership Conference in June, and is looking forward to learning more and serving the district.

President – Andrea Dinkel:

Andrea presented information from the State board meeting in June. When teachers enter students in the computer system, Troy has fixed it so it will no longer time-out. That had been a major issue. SE District will receive 48 spots in the State HS Choirs this year. The formula is based off of total entries, enrollment size, etc. The Kansas Orff Chapter has some excellent deals for new teachers, allowing them to attend their conferences for free and offering Grad credit through Baker. Per KSHSAA, accompanist appointments have been reduced to 22 from 30, to help alleviate scheduling issues. Also, teachers who have 5+ years of experience may now sign up to be adjudicators for Regional Solo/Ensemble. You can sign up on the KSHSAA website and notify Kathy at KSHSAA. They have made a change to Rule 10 in the handbook, so that now coaches and music directors must receive CPR/AED training from their districts. The website www.NFHSlearn.com has a couple of courses that relate to music, and Andrea highly recommends everyone looks into them, especially the course on copyright, as that is becoming a bigger issue each year. The state choirs at ISW shall be aligned as grade 3-5 elementary, grades 6-8 middle level, and grades 9-12 high school. ACDA is looking to include grades 7-9. Fees are increasing, mostly for late entries, and the \$3 fee for credit card payment is going away for ISW registration. Administrators attend ISW for free, as always. The guest speaker this year is Kathy Sanz, the current NAFME President.

Elementary Choir – Seth Harley:

Seth said we have invited Jason Sickel to return again this year, since last year's concert was canceled. Barbara York will be accompanying again. Also, Seth said that Frontenac is hosting this year, and had some questions about providing breakfast and lunch for teachers, and who pays for that. Alan said that the host school usually provides it, but they are reimbursed. Alan noticed that the website does not clarify what grades are eligible for Elementary Choir. Andrea will make sure that is corrected.

MS Choir:

Andrea said that Lance Burnett is again using Elise Peterson, but he does not currently have an accompanist. She believes he is planning on using the same literature.

MS Band – Aaron Shockley:

Aaron S. has been in contact with Matt Bennett, and he is hoping to use him again this year, but is waiting for the school year to begin to clarify scheduling. If possible, he plans to use the same literature.

HS Choir – Aaron Burke:

Aaron B. has hired Jason Sickel to clinic our high school choir this year. Susan Laushman will be his accompanist. Aaron B offered a prep day last year, and had about 200 students attend. He is planning on doing that again this year, but he needs teachers to help run sectionals. He plans to streamline the audition process by utilizing google docs for judging. He is going to reach out to other districts to see how they do this. Andrea asked what the timeline is for our students to know what the audition cuts are. Aaron B. said the state posts that sometime that week.

HS Band – Nancy Riecker:

Nancy has asked Sean Knopp from Friends to be her clinician. She will be exploring the google doc idea for judges at auditions. She asked about the reduced cut being given, when that occurs, and who makes the cut. Andrea recommended having the judges make the cut and post it that morning. Aaron S. is hosting this year, and requested some kind of scheduling that would allow him to better schedule his students to run audition rooms. Andrea will look into who makes the audition schedule, and how much Nancy can manipulate that. Also, Nancy, Brad, Andrea, and Megan will go over the excerpts to check for mistakes and forward to Troy to post.

HS Jazz Band – Cooper Neil:

Cooper said the clinician will be Lisa Hittle, recently retired from Friends. Due to the quick turnaround from audition to concert, the results and music will be posted the day of auditions.

HS Orchestra – Lauren Burke:

Aaron Burke reported that the clinician will be Carolyn Watson from KU. The rubrics they used worked well, and will be trying to switch up judges somehow to make it fairer. They are also planning to schedule a rehearsal day between auditions and concert, to prevent the clinician from having to rehearse notes and rhythms, etc.

Mentoring – Mary Jo Harper:

Mary Jo reminded the board that we are her “first line of defense” in knowing who is moving in to new positions and who are 1st year teachers. Emily Elloitt has taken the Ft. Scott HS choir job. Christina Vail will be at Neodesha, after subbing their last year. Chris Goddard will be at St Paul. She believes Sarah Jones will be at Indy MS, Amelia Markley will be at Riverton Orchestra. Riverton has filled their K-5, but she does not know who it will be. West Elk, Iola, and Coffeyville still have openings. Billy Bostick will be at Burlington.

Old Business:

Email Communication:

Andrea reminded the board that our email system is part of what makes KMEA work so well. Please remember to C.C. emails, and reply all. Please add your assistant chair, if applicable, to any emails you send out, and add Andrea when you send emails to your umbrella aliases.

Deviation from District Policy:

Andrea said that whatever our district policy is when we leave the meeting, we must follow without exceptions.

HS Excerpts:

This item was previously discussed in reports.

Honor Concerts:

Reminder, our current price for concerts is \$4 for adults and \$1 for students. Please remember to tell your families.

Additional Items:

None

New Business:

Deadline/Fee Alignment:

Andrea said that last year we adopted the state's timeline for registration and HS choir, but nothing else. Currently, instrumental people have a 2-week late period. She would prefer to align everything to the state timeline. Alan said that he emailed out our current registration fee policy, along with what other districts do, including late fees. Currently, the choir deadline is Oct. 6th and the band deadline is Oct. 14th. The late registration deadlines are also different. He recommends we align our late registration deadlines with the choir deadline provided by the state. Aaron Burke moved to align our high school instrumental late registration dates with the choir late registration dates provided by the state organization. Mary Jo seconded, motion passed. Seth moved that we set our late fees as \$25 for late registration 1, \$50 for late registration 2, and \$100 for day of, per student. Aaron Shockley seconded, motion passed.

Recording Audition Exception:

Andrea said that our national NAFME ensembles and the US Army Honor Marching Band occur during the weekend we do auditions. Our current policy states that no one may submit a recorded audition, for any reason. Cooper moved to accept prerecorded auditions for any student unable to attend district auditions due to participation in our national NAFME ensembles. Aaron Shockley seconded, motion passed. The board discussed procedure, and it was decided the teacher will take a video recording of the student performing the entire audition material in one take and submit it to the district President no later than 7 days before auditions. The district President will then review the audition to ensure the correct person auditioned and that it was done in 1 take. The President will then forward an audio-only copy of the audition to the appropriate chair, who will be responsible for playing the appropriate cut of the audition for judges on audition day.

Webmaster Fee:

Andrea reminded everyone that Troy is our webmaster for all of KMEA, and now for KSHSAA as well. He leaves his fee up to each district, and we are currently the lowest paying district. We currently pay him \$500, and all the other districts pay him \$1000 or more. Andrea feels what we are currently paying is not sufficient. Cooper moved that we pay our webmaster \$1250 annually. Aaron Shockley seconded, motion passed.

Advocacy Chair:

Andrea reported that Christa Weber has been our advocacy chair for a while, but has now resigned from that position. That is an appointed position, therefore not requiring a vote. Andrea has asked Mary Jo Harper to take on that position as well as her current one, and she is agreed to take it on. Andrea will submit Mary Jo's email address to Troy to update the website.

District Teacher and Administrator of The Year Procedure:

Andrea said that our policies and procedures for district teacher and administrator of the year are not very clear. According to the website, the board sends out an email asking for submissions by August 31st. Our policy handbook is unclear about what happens after that date. The board reviewed the process of other KMEA districts, as well as our current process. The board decided to review this issue at a future date.

Website vs. Handbook Clarifications:

Andrea said that the handbook needs updated, as the website has updates that have not been changed in the handbook. The Executive Board will review the document and notify Troy of any changes needed.

Clinician Hotel Wording:

Andrea said that our current policy is that we pay for a hotel the night before the concert only. This is an issue for when farther away clinicians have a late-night concert, such as Jazz Band. Cooper moved that we change our policy to state that we pay for a hotel for clinicians as needed, up to and including one night before and one night after the concert. Aaron Shockley seconded, motion passed.

District Officer description and calendar documents:

Andrea has received office descriptions and timeline from Mark Gard. She will email everyone with their appropriate information to review, so we can make any necessary changes and submit it to Troy to be placed on the website.

Additional Items:

None

Ideas for Discussion:

Honor Ensemble Preference:

Cooper noticed that we need to clarify preferences between ensemble auditions, similar to what the state process is. Andrea will notify Troy that we need that added to our audition form.

Recorded Auditions for MS Honor Band:

Aaron Shockley had the idea of submitting recorded auditions for chair placement in the MS honor band. This would not change how we admit students to the ensemble, but would assist in chair placement. He mentioned online systems that can be purchased to run such a system. The board discussed the idea, and Aaron will do further research into prices and how districts run similar auditions to present to the board by the January mini-convention.

Adopting State Major Scale Procedures:

Andrea said that last year it was determined that the instrumental high school directors would prefer that we adopt the state major scale procedure for auditions. The board agreed.

ISW Clinic Proposals:

Andrea suggested providing a 10-15-minute time at our conventions for any ISW clinic proposals to promote their clinic to the district. Cooper said that PSU is also working on providing some professional development opportunities at those activities. Andrea said that we have not been approached about that at our events yet, but will try to reach out to them.

CNAfME Inclusion and Outreach:

Andrea would like to do something to include our CNAfME members. Mary Jo would also appreciate knowing who they are for future mentor needs. Andrea suggested utilizing cNAfME members for door monitors, etc., at auditions.

Surveys:

Andrea suggested sending out some surveys to inquire with those who do not participate in events or do not join KMEA. Additionally, it is difficult to find people interested in serving the board, and we could inquire in this type of format. Andrea will put together some kind of survey to send out.

Assistant Chair Positions:

Andrea said that our policy states that we should have assistant chairs for elementary and middle level positions, although we currently do not. She asked if we would be interested in holding elections in the Spring for a 1-year position. The board was interested.

Additional Items:

Nancy asked about the district about our policy of guaranteeing one student per school district, and how that is determined. The board agreed that the highest scoring individual from the school was added to the appropriate roster after the rosters are complete, regardless of instrumentation/voicing. That way, no one is denied a spot that earned one.

Cooper moved to adjourn. Seth seconded, motion passed.