

## **SEKMEA District Board Meeting Agenda**

Friday, June 27, 2025

11:00 a.m. Parsons Conference Center-Parsons, KS

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Present – Christine Lovell, Meredith Reid, Lauren Oberle, Gae Phillips, Whitley Chesney, Alex Chesney, Matt Carter, Shannon Plymell, Sherry Durbin, Jami Messner, Thomas Mackiewicz, Jeff Russell, Erin Shelton, Alax Paxson

Not present - Christopher Kurt, AJ Beau, Seth Harley, Danica Gibson, Brandi Holt

### 2. 2025-2026- SEKMEA Events/Locations

Aug. 20, 2025-Wed at 6 p.m.

Kick-Off Celebration

Location-TBA

Nov. 8, 2025 - Saturday

District Auditions — HS Honor Groups

Pittsburg High School

Nov. 19, 2025 - Wednesday

Clinic & Concert — HS Jazz Band

Pittsburg State University, Bicknell Center

*\$15 participation fee per selected student*

Dec. 6, 2025 - Saturday

Clinics & Concerts — HS Band, HS Choir, HS Orchestra

Pittsburg State University, Bicknell Center

*\$15 participation fee per selected student*

Jan. 10, 2026 - Saturday

Clinics & Concerts — MS Band, MS Choir, Elementary Choir

Chanute High School

*\$15 participation fee per selected student*

### 3. Reports

- Executive Director – Alan Paxson
  - Whistle blower/conflict of interest
    1. Forms sent to everyone to sign and turn in to Alan.
  - Financial report
  - Cash Mileage Check

Get contact information about clinicians as soon as possible to Alan

- Vice President – Erin Shelton

No report.

- President-Elect – Meredith Reid

No report.

- Elementary Choir-Seth Harley (Alex Chesney)

Seth not in attendance. Report given by Alex. Clark Comley will be our clinician. Repertoire has been selected and sent to JWPepper. All titles are available. Troy has been notified of all information.

Discussion of moving middle school registration dates earlier (submission of names, selection of students, etc.) due to the event being moved earlier.

- MS Choir – Danica Gibson

Not in attendance. Mary Jo Harper will be the clinician.

- MS Band – AJ Beu (Thomas Mackiewicz)

AJ not in attendance. Report given by Thomas. Jamie Hayes from Wichita will be the clinician.

Proposal: Discussion - Two year cycle for middle school band audition music.

Jamie Messner moved that we go to a 2 year rotation for the middle school band audition excerpts using the 2023 and 2024 excerpts. It was seconded by Whitley. The motion passed.

Proposal: Align the middle level percussion audition with the high school auditions (mallets, snare, and timpani.) At the mini convention, Chanute will have all of the major percussion instruments and equipment. Only items needed will be auxiliary or special items. The idea of aligning the percussion auditions will be proposed in January at the mini convention. There is also a proposal to eliminate the chromatic scale for percussion auditions.

Discussion - Middle school percussion students could choose two instruments in an effort to work up to the high school level audition.

Wind player audition requirements will stay the same (concert Bb chromatic scale and two excerpts.)

Discussion - There is a small pay gap between the middle school (\$400) and high school clinicians (\$475). Could we match those amounts? Discussion - High school clinician works 2 hours longer. It was decided to keep the clinician honorariums the same.

- HS Choir –Whitley Chesney

Elise Peterson will be the clinician. Repertoire list has been selected. One piece will be an audition piece. She would like to include an instrumental ensemble for The Awakening. We will have name tags and assigned seats. Whitley will work on compiling a database of all repertoire selected in the past.

- HS Band – Jami Messner

Waiting to hear back from clinicians to confirm. High school excerpts will be taken from the state excerpts. They will be posted by August 1. The band chair will determine if excerpts need to be shortened further on the day of auditions. The scale will also be determined the day of auditions.

- HS Jazz – Matt Carter

The clinician will be Wayne Goins from KSU. Discussion - Shortening the jazz audition excerpt with the idea that it will allow more students to audition for both jazz and concert band. We would do the entire improvisation excerpt. The ballad and Latin tunes would be cut down. Audition excerpts will be posted by August 1.

- HS Orchestra – Shannon Plymell

Rachael Dirks will be the clinician. Orchestra will still be doing live auditions. Repertoire has not been selected yet, but audition excerpts will be taken from the repertoire. There will be a prep day.

- Mentoring – Gae Phillips

The back to school kick-off will be August 20 in Parsons in the Community Center. Food will be potluck tacos. Please send names of new teachers to Gae.

- Advocacy – Christopher Kurt

No report.

- President – Christine Lovell

## **KSHAA**

- Committee to redraft the whole calendar
- No changes to Music Calendar
- Has been a mess, but Megan has done a good job making sure the calendar is protected.
- Needing more piano, percussion, and strings judges.
- Earliest calendar change would be on Fall 2026
- Conflicts on day of State Music Festival

**Middle School Festivals:**

- Adding 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders to HS Regional Piano Festival

**Duets:**

- Just a reminder you can do this.
- This music must be published. Can not use trio music to play as a duet.

**KMEA Children's Orf Ensemble:**

- Maybe in 2026 but definitely in 2027.

**Homeschooled Kids:**

- Parents must fill out KSHSAA form to perform in an ensemble.
- KMEA statement along with KSHSAA
- SE alignment on policy with the State

**Kansas 250 Anniversary and Scott Freebie**

- **Free composition will be out this fall to celebrate ... choirs, bands, anything you can think of. If you perform something to celebrate, it will be on the Travel Kansas website. [www.travelks.com/kansas-250](http://www.travelks.com/kansas-250)**

**KASTA Change in Wording about Audition Music:**

- Students auditioning will be required to perform a **two or** three-octave major scale as posted. (ascending/descending). Check individual requirements.
- Students auditioning will be required to perform a **two or** three octave minor scale as posted. (ascending/descending) Check individual requirements.
- **Two** required excerpts from orchestra literature posted.

**KMEA FEES DISCUSSION:**

**Proposed options for increases to fees for 2026. We need to make up revenue for the \$36,500.00 to \$40,000.00 total increase in costs to do business.**

*Current ISW Registration Fees and Dates*

KMEA members (Active teachers)

*Early Registration Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 \$120*

*Registration Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 \$145*

*Late Registration Feb. 1 – Mar. 1 \$170*

*Spouse Registration Nov. 1 – Mar. 1 \$10*

1) ISW Registration for Active Members (does not include C-NAfME or Retired Members). Raise ISW registration fees in November-December, January, and February by \$20.00. This could potentially increase revenue by approximately \$21,500.00

Raise ISW registration fees in November-December, January, and February by \$30.00. This could potentially increase revenue by approximately \$34,000.00

*Current Audition Fees and Dates*

*\$10 Friday, December 19, 2025, at 11:59:59 PM*

*\$30 Tuesday, December 31, 2025, at 11:59:59 PM*

*\$50 Friday, January TBA, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM*

*\$100 Saturday, January TBA, 2026, at 10:00 AM*

2) Instrumental Live Audition Fees (1,400 auditions) and Elementary and Middle Level Choir Fees (1,600 auditions) 3,000 total auditions Increase audition fees by \$8.00. Potentially increase revenue by \$24,000.00.

Increase audition fees by \$10.00. Potentially increase revenue by \$30,000.00.

3) No proposed increase for All-State participation fees for 2026.

- October 1-Hall of Fame, Outstanding Music Educator of the Year and Admin of the Year nominations due to Jamie Minneman.

Policy says anyone can nominate a teacher or administrator by August 31 via the form on the website. The executive committee will select the person who goes on to the state level.

- Should we have a process of having chairs send out an email after the event for feedback?

Christine will send an email out following the event requesting feedback for changes or positives. She will send any information back to the chairs.

**Adjourn the meeting**

Erin Shelton moved and Gae Phillips seconded to adjourn the meeting.