

## KMEA NW District Band Director's Meeting

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

District band chairman Renetta Dawson called the meeting to order.

Today's clinician is Matthew Smith from Kansas University and is going a great job with rehearsals.

High school audition results were discussed. 94 cd's were submitted. Today's band has 78 members. There were a few places where more students are needed to have a full band. We are 16 short on instrumentation for this year's high school honor band. Areas of need are as follows:

- No bassoons-need to have two.
- We have 15 clarinets. Band should seat 18.
- Need one more bass clarinet. We have three.
- Need two contra bass clarinets. Today there is zero.
- We have one bari sax. Need two.
- Need two more horn players. The band has six but really needs eight.
- Need a lot of euphonium players. Band seats four of them. Only one student auditioned.
- Need one more tuba. Only had four auditions.
- Need more percussion—only had five audition. Seven percussionists are ideal.

There was concern if the band is trending downward in numbers and it is due to school districts getting smaller. There are fewer kids going out for band in their own schools. Is the difficulty of the state material causing the decline in students auditioning for the honor band? Some teachers have students that will not even try it once they see the audition music. It was recommended to approach the music in a positive way where the teacher and student should go through the audition music and break it down or some students will think it is too difficult. But the majority of teachers feel it is best to continue using the state audition music at the district level as it is good preparation material for upcoming state band auditions. The audition cuts will be revamped this summer to be less intimidating for students. Katrina Long and Kathy Amrein will look into making audition changes for next year.

A letter was read regarding all state band, jazz band, and orchestra registration deadlines. Live audition registration is currently available on [www.ksmea.org](http://www.ksmea.org)

- All state auditions are held at Salina Central High School on Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Weather contingency date is the following Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Registration fees of \$10/student must be postmarked by Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Registration fees of \$30/student must be postmarked by Wednesday December 31st, 2014.
- Registration fees of \$50/student must be postmarked by Friday January 9th, 2015.
- Registration fees of \$100/student will be collected on site at Salina Central Saturday January 10th, 2015
- All teachers with students auditioning for an all-state ensemble is required to assist on January 10<sup>th</sup> or the school will be fined \$100 for lack of participation by the director.

Four year participants were read to the group. There are 10 four year participants in the band.

Bill Schick introduced himself as the KMEA NW Advocacy Chairman and is more than willing to help anyone in need.

Marcus Bishop talked about JH NW district band auditions. This year we used Drop box for audition submissions. The general consensus was it was a good thing and there were very few issues. KMEA Webmaster Troy Johnson was in attendance and explained how the KMEA all-state middle level choir's web-based audition system works. In time, online auditions will be the way they are handled in the state of Kansas.

There was discussion regarding live VS taped honor band auditions. Most districts do live auditions for high school honor band. NW and SW districts still do taped auditions. We used to do these in NW district until the early 1990's but it was hard to get kids here to do the live auditions in the past. Plus, some students are so busy that a taped audition works better for them instead of giving up a day in November to come to Hays to audition.

Craig Manteuffel told the new teachers about the KMEA first year teacher luncheon in late February and the benefits of attending. This is always a highlight of the KMEA In-service Workshop.

Dr. Jeff Jordan, the KMEA NW Mentoring Chairman introduced himself and offered his services to the group. If anyone knows of anyone needing a teaching mentor, give him a call.

There will be judging seminars on how to be a contest judge sponsored by KSHSAA at KMEA ISW Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM. It will also be taped and teachers can become certified by watching the video online.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM Motioned by Jeff Jordan and seconded by Lucas Burmeister.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Lee Wetter  
Substitute KMEA NW District Secretary

Submitted by Connie Reishus  
Northwest District Manager