

**NORTHWEST DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**  
**June 22, 2023 1:00 pm**  
**Hilton Garden Inn-Hays, Ks.**

**Northwest District President, Alex Underwood called the meeting to order.**

Alex welcomed everyone and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and state where they teach and their position on the board.

Board members present were:

President--Alex Underwood  
Past-President-- Joey Nickols (absent)  
President elect-Maggie McKain  
Executive Director-Connie Reishus-Plainville  
High Band Chair-Max Befort  
High School Choral Chair-Michael Davidson  
Junior High Choral Chair-Annie Adams  
Assistant JH Choral –Megan Reiner  
Elementary Choir Chair-Paulette Wildeman  
High Jazz Chair-Brad Persinger  
Orchestra Chair-Julia McMains  
Junior High Band Chair & Nov. Site Coordinator-Matt Rome (absent)  
Dec. Site Coordinator-Terry Crull

**II. Minutes-Connie Reishus**

Connie stated all minutes are posted on the district website.

**III. Treasurer's Report-Connie Reishus**

Connie handed out the financial report that will go into the state the end of June. She also attached a copy of last years report so board members could compare the revenue and expenses The balance as of June 22, 2023 was \$7996.16. With the revenue – expenses for 2022-2023 Northwest District had a loss of \$470.26. She stated everything has gone up in price. The board probably needs to consider an increase in fees.

1. Connie stated Whistle Blower and Conflict of Interest Statements need to be filled out and signed.
2. Finance Report
  - a. Mileage amount needs to align with state (.50) per mile. We pay .45

**\*\*MOTION-Michael Davidson made the motion to increase the mileage amount for guest clinicians and accompanist from .45 cents to .50 cents. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- b. A discussion was held on how many miles a board member, clinician and accompanists needs live in order for the Northwest District to pay a motel room. After discussion it was decided a policy to pay for motel rooms should be at least 70 miles.

**\*\*MOTION-Michael Davidson made the motion that to be eligible for a motel room ,a voting board member, clinicians, and accompanists must live at least 70 miles from Hays. Maggie McKain seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- c . **Late choir fees are completely separate from registration fees. The late fees dates are setup by the state.**

- d. Fee increase per Troy (him, Festival Scores, Festival auditions Suggestion: **Audition Fees-\$5.00 Participation-\$15.00,** Concert-\$10 Will be discussed in new business.

- e. Record Retention Policy –The state has a Record Retention Policy and Northwest needs to vote on one just for the Northwest District.

Connie went over the Policy she presented and explained it was needed so the executive director knew what records needed kept and what could be destroyed.

**\*\*MOTION-Michael Davidson made the motion to adopt the Northwest Records Retention Policy presented by Connie. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- f. Alignment for State

Connie explained that John Taylor had asked the Executive Directors to put together a District Alignment Policy for each district. Joey Nickols and Connie worked on the alignment last

August. The final project for the Northwest District alignment was sent out for board members to view and vote on. Thank you to board members for your input and additions. Then the completed Northwest Alignment document needed to be sent to the state executive director by May 1, 2023.

- g. So it is easier to put together minutes from the meetings in December, Connie would like all chairs to submit agendas to her before the December meetings.
- h. Connie asked the chairs to please send a list of how many students auditioned from each school. That list is needed to make receipts for audition fees.
- i. Joey will be in charge of setting up the mentoring dinner. More information regarding the dinner will follow.
- j. The chairs of the Junior High and Elementary choirs express a concern regarding the number of songs performed at the concerts. They would like to increase the number of pieces from four (4) to five (5). See new business.
- k. William Schick Memorial Scholarship will be discussed in new business.

#### **IV. BOARD REPORTS**

##### **A. Webmaster-Troy Johnson**

- 1. Choir Formula
  - choir: one quartet moves from SE to NC
  - mixed choir: no changes. NC put themselves in a position to earn an octet, however losses in other districts were spread out, thus no changes.
  - Troy stated his presentation to district presidents at the state Board meeting includes a target list of non-auditioning schools.
  - 50% of quota is based on school population**
  - 50% of quota is based on audition activity**
- 2. Choir Certified Numbers
  - Troy stated he recently required district HS choral chairs to certify numbers of auditions. He will anticipate adding to this requirement that the chair will need to certify **WHO**

completed those auditions.(which building had at least one completed audition) in order to prevent a district from gaming the choir formula. Buildings are tracked according to KMEA district and KSHSAA classification.

3. Page Rotation

Troy stated the rotation of group pages set for 2022-2023 have been removed. He advised to send 2023-2024 info of each honor group as soon as it is determined.

4. District Alignment

Troy will be adding content to district websites to display material from the District Alignment documents recently completed by the seven KMEA District Executive Directors. This was a major project.

5. Clinicians

There is a clinician database which currently holds 390 profiles. If Troy has their bio, he can simply activate that display in each honor group section.

6. Renew Membership

Troy advised to keep membership “current” in order to function in the members site. Membership notices started transmitting back in September of last year for anyone within 30 days of expiration.

7. Festival Scores

NW district opted for \$3-per-competed audition last year (thank you). That amount was below the median number (\$4) selected across all organizations using Festival Scores. \$5 was the highest amount opted in by any organization. Troy stated he would always welcome NW moving to a better level, but appreciates NW moved to \$3 last year and will let it ride for at least three cycles before re-visiting.

8. New Programming

This fall FS will contain a new function that allows a director to extend access for students to upload their own individual audition media files. Directors retain control of who is auditioning for which parts. Students only have ability to upload files. He is not yet settled on any pricing changes, which likely would be per-director, rather than across the board. If there is no price change, it is a near certainty that tech support would not extend to students, just to directors.

## 9. Festival Auditions

Following discussions with other organizations that use **Festival Auditions**, new pricing is being released this fall to accommodate differences in audition day models, as well as better capture the value the system brings to the event. Some auditions have numerous split rooms, more judges, which can drive up costs significantly. Thus the service invoice will default to the rate which is more advantageous to the customer.

**Option A-15c per scoring record**

**Option B-75c per audition entry**

## B. President-Alex Underwood

### 1. State KMEA Information

#### a. State KMEA ISW Feb. 22-23

Two hour earlier start for state ensembles on Thursday adds extra sessions and concerts. The board wanted to try this out for a year and then revisit based on feedback.

#### b. Coda Grants

1. Grants are available for up to \$200 for a creative project that enhances curriculum.
2. Forms are available at  
:<https://ksmea.org/resources/coda-grant/>
3. The first round is due October 1<sup>st</sup>
4. If someone has been awarded a grant, they must wait two years before applying again.

#### c. Live Instrumental auditions

1. New State High School Band Audition Music is now available on the state website.
2. New excerpts with percussion going to a holistic approach with two timpani beginning next year.

#### d. WKBDA

Women's Kansas Band Directors Association . Jennifer Antonetti from Topeka High is working with other women band directors and the KBA to create this affiliate organization. She encourages members to check it out.

#### e. KSHSAA

1. KSHSAA is considering adding duets at the Solo/Small ensemble Contest. The State would like to know Northwest's opinion. After some discussion small school

teachers felt it would be worthwhile as their groups are very small and they could get more students to participate.

2. Clinics at KSHSAA State Large Ensembles

After some discussion Northwest felt there would need to be at least five judges during the day and wondered if that would be feasible.

3. There is a new rule put out by the Kansas Legislature regarding home school students participating in KSHSAA activities.

There will be more information on this to follow.

**f. All State Choir Formula**

1. NW District maintained all our spots from last year to this year.

2. Alex asked if we could formally advocate for an exemption for schools with no music teacher?

**g. Tri-M Chapter**

The State KMEA will pay \$50 towards the creation of a new chapter of Tri-M for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

**h. Retirement**

Dr. John Taylor is retiring from his tenure as State Executive Director effective June 2024. Applications will be accepted through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 and the hiring committee's goal is to name a replacement by July 15, 2023. That person will shadow John for the upcoming year. **Special note: Craig Mantueffel has Been hired as assistant to Dr. Taylor and will take over full time July 1, 2024.**

**2. NW District Information**

**a. Teacher shortage crisis**

Alex stated there are many schools in our district without music teachers and very few Kansas graduates. He stated he is really concerned and asked for suggestions. He stated he had an idea to possibly apply for a grant so that possibly a signing bonus of \$5000.00 could be given to teachers to come to western Kansas. Fort Hays State University will host a luncheon in December for High School juniors and seniors. This will be during the convention.

1. It was suggested that Fort Hays State University should have more relationship with the public school music programs. Students graduating should be better prepared to teach in small schools.

**b. Honored Educators**

A list of possible teachers that were in NW District was presented  
However additional information is needed and will be sent out  
to the board to vote on at a later date.

**c. Julie Groom Scholarship**

**\*\*\*MOTION: Michael Davidson made the motion to give the following students each \$500.00 Julie Groom Scholarship for 2023-2024 school year. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

1. Isaiah Stierlen-graduate of Russell-FHSU
2. Emil Benavides-graduate of Stockton-Bethel University
3. Tyler Long-Kansas State drum major

**C. President-Elect-Maggie McKain-**

No report

**D. Past President-Joey Nichols**

Joey is in process of moving and was unable to attend.  
He will work on the Outstanding Educator Awards and send  
information by email to board members

**E. High School Band-Max Befort**

1. Clinician-Kathy Amrein
2. This is the year for combined choir and band performing  
“Over The Rainbow”
3. Discussion was held about using the new State Audition music  
for Northwest District high school band auditions.

**\*\*\*MOTION- Max Befort made the motion for Northwest District to use the new state audition music beginning the fall of 2023 as audition music. Brad Persinger seconded the motion. Motion carried**

High School Band chair, Max Befort will pick out the parts to be used  
for auditioning music and have state webmaster, Troy post the parts  
selected on Northwest website.

4. Festival scores will be used again for auditions.

**F. High School Choir-Michael Davidson**

1. Clinician-Micah Horton-Olathe
2. Accopanist-Pam McGowen
3. Michael thanked people who helped with everything during the

day, judging, setting up etc. last year

4. Michael felt using festival auditions were a success. He appreciated Northwest purchasing the Bluetooth devices as they helped everything run more smoothly.
5. Michael explained the results of the survey he had sent out to teachers in the district regarding auditions. If anyone would like to obtain the results contact Michael Davidson at Russell.
6. Audition selections are a problem-content and difficulty of the songs.
7. There was discussion regarding audition material. According to the state, the district must use the 2 state songs for district auditions.
8. There was discussion regarding possibly using a different rubric for auditions and Michael will look into that.
9. Discussion was also held regarding possibly providing activities and board games for those students that are waiting to audition or rides home.
10. A big discussion was held on getting more students to audition for district and state choirs. A lot of the other big districts students are able to take private lessons where in Northwest district that is very few.
11. Practice tapes for auditions will be put on district website.

#### **G. High School Orchestra-Julie McMains**

1. Clinician-Dr. Cox
2. Honor School Orchestra will be held in the Southwest District this year.
3. Assistant is Brayden Smith-Hays
4. Julie made the comment that the expectations of students needs to be a little lower.
5. State orchestra auditions this year has a conflict.
6. Please note the fee will be whatever southwest district charges.

#### **H. High Jazz Band-Brad Persinger**

1. Assisstant-Alan Brockmeir
2. Clinician-Ben Rohrer-Salina
3. Festival scores will be used for auditions.

#### **I. Junior High School Band-Matt Rome (absent)**

1. Assistant-Carrie Goodson
2. Clinician-Kyle Hopkins
3. Festival scores will be used for auditions



**J. Junior High Choir-Annie Adams**

1. Assistant-Megan Reiner
2. Clinician-Lance Bennett
3. Accompanist-Mendy Bennett
4. Annie made the comment that when chairs were moved from the cafeteria to the gym it was 45 minutes without chairs and the students have no where to sit after lunch. Alex will look into the situation. Alex mentioned that the room the Choir practices in will be torn up so may be a problem.
5. A discussion was held regarding adding another number for junior high bringing the total to five.

**K. Elementary Choir-Paulette Wildeman**

1. Assistant-Jenny Tally
2. Clinician-Kelly Knedler
3. Accompanist-Kayla Womacher
4. Due to Paul Prevo taking an administrator's job Paulette Wildeman agreed to serve for one year.
5. A discussion was held regarding also adding another number to the concert. It would make a longer concert. It was decided that elementary will perform five pieces.
6. Last year the choir was 154 which is low enough to move back Black and Gold room which will be cheaper.
7. It is more convient to use a lapel mic for the clinician.

**L. Mentoring-Joey Nichols-absent**

1. Joey will work on the mentoring dinner for new teachers.

**M. Advocacy-vacant**

**M. November Site Coordinator-Matt Rome-no report**

**N. December Site Coordinator-Terry Crull**

1. Terry has all rooms reserved
2. Fort Hays University has a new food service company  
Terry will check about the hospitality items and refreshments for elementary choir.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Review attrition rates for High School Choir Auditions**

1. Hopefully help decrease attrition by up to 19%.
2. Need to get more students to audition and more students to not drop out of the auditions.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. FHSU Faculty**

1. Fort Hays Faculty asked if Northwest would consider not alternating convention dates in December. Northwest is the only district that does this.
  - a. The entire state has to wait on us before posting the all-state choir rosters.
  - b. On the flip side, getting clinicians is easier on the off years.
  - c. The rationale for alternating convention years is that it avoids a basketball/wrestling tournaments so they are hit every other year.

### **B. Bill Schick Memorial Scholarship**

This year Northwest District had two teachers pass away.

1. Jean Confier-St Francis
2. Bill Schick-Phillipsburg

Because of all that Bill did for the mentoring program for Northwest new teachers, Vesta Jo Still would like the board to set up a memorial scholarship on behalf of Bill Schick. Discussion was held.

**\*\*\*Motion-Maggie McKain made the motion to establish the William Schick Memorial Scholarship.**

**Northwest District will pay the NafME memberships dues for first year teachers out of college and teachers who have taught before but it is their first year in the Northwest District. Annie Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **C. Webmaster Troy Johnson pay raise**

Northwest District pays the state webmaster \$1500.00 per year and it has been suggested this amount be increased to \$2000.00 per year due to everything that Troy does for our district.

**\*\*\*Motion:Paulette Wildeman made the motion to raise the fee Northwest pays Troy Johnson, the state webmaster from \$1500.00 per year to \$2000.00 per year. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## **D. Fee Increase**

Connie made the comment that due to rising costs of everything Northwest District has lost money since Covid and she suggested a fee increase might be needed. After much discussion the following motion was made.

**\*\*\*Motion: Maggie McKain made the motion to increase the Audition fee to \$5.00 per audition and the Participation Fee to \$15.00 per student selected for honor groups. Paulette seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## **VII. Important Dates**

### **A. Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

#### **CALENDER NWKMEA 2023-2024 Proposed Deadline Dates**

2023-2024 School year

1. Junior High Band Audition Upload Deadline-Wednesday, September 27, 2023 11:59 p.m.
  2. High School Jazz Band Audition Upload Deadline-Thursday, September 28th, 2023 11:59 p.m.
  3. Junior High Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023 11:59 p.m.
  4. High School Choir-Sunday -October 8th, 2023
  5. Elementary Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023 11:59 p.m.
  6. High School Band Upload Deadline-Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 11:59 p.m.
  7. High School Orchestra Upload Deadline-Thursday October 26, 2023 11:59 p.m.
1. Choir Late deadline #1-October 22nd, 2023
  2. Choir Late deadline #2-November 3rd, 2023
  3. Choir Late deadline #3-November 4th, 2023

**November 4**, 2023 Northwest Mini-Convention I-  
Hays High School-JH choir, JH band &  
HS Jazz Band

**December 9**, 2023 Northwest Mini-Convention II-  
Fort Hays State University-Elementary choir,  
Choir, & HS Band

**MOTION:** Michael Davidson moved to adjourn. Maggie McKain seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Reishus  
Northwest District Executive Director