

**NW KMEA CHOIR DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**December 9, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Michael Davidson called the meeting to order.

- I. High School Honor Choir
    - A. Assistant-Rachel Lumpkins
    - B. Clinician-Micah Horton-Olathe North High School
    - C. Accompanist-Pam McGowen-Hays
- High School Honor Choir results-
1. Auditions held November 4, 2023
  2. Registered to audition-202 (down from 228)
  3. Actually auditioned-153 (down from 175)
  4. Selected for choir- 149
  5. Schools represented -24 (down one 25)
  6. Followed the new policy of 25 per section provided they earned a score over 20; a student was added to the roster as the exception to the max 25 rule to allow each school one representative in the choir.  
S1=23  
S2=25  
A1=25  
A2=12  
T1=10  
T2=10  
B1=17  
B2=13
  7. Actual attendance: 135
  8. There was a new audition procedure used this year called **FESTIVAL AUDITIONS**. New Bluetooth speakers were used again for auditions

Feedback from Audition

1. Thank you to all that helped with auditions. Michael stated still having trouble getting judges to commit for the day even with one fewer room. Please remember that this event doesn't happen if teachers do not help. Students from FHSU were used as workers.
2. Michael provided copied cuts of the auditions this year which

- were destroyed after the fact. This is the first year this was done and Michael suggested to make that the standard.
3. Getting quartets back as one was lost again.
    - a. Michael felt this may be a problem getting quartets back.
    - b. Northwest will need to make some big changes in order to reverse this trend.
    - c. Michael felt that Northwest may not deserve to get the quartets back, not because of worth but genuinely because of a lack of numbers.
  4. Changes for the future
    - a. Michael suggested Northwest should consider dramatically change how choir is selected.
      1. split the choir
      2. Pros/Cons
    - b. Change late registration fees
  5. Today
    - a. Choir will be directly center in the balcony in order to give the best sound for “Over the Rainbow”.
    - b. Cards will be used again. Remember to have students give cards to a teacher volunteer at the end of the concert.
  6. Discussion
    - a. Schools without an accompanist
    - b. What can be done as a district to help schools to help alleviate that problem?
    - c. Possibly record accompaniments or help schools coordinate accompanist positions with other schools.
  7. Inservice on January 15<sup>th</sup> for K-12 teachers at Phillipsburg. Contact Vesta Jo Still.

## **II JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR-Annie Adams**

- A. Assistant-Megan Reiner
- B. Clinician-Lance Burnett-Royster Middle School-Chanute
- C. Accompanist-Mendy Burnett
- D. Concert Information
  1. Students registered-159
  2. Students in attendance-140
  3. Schools-25
  4. 5 songs were performed
  5. Annie stated that having a male clinician brought more Awareness to the difference between tenor and bass junior

- high voices.
6. The chairs were kept in the rehearsal room for afternoon rehearsal. Then moved into gym
  7. Junior high participation numbers are still low since COVID. Guidelines currently state teachers send 15% of their choir. Annie questioned if increase should take place. Annie suggested possibly some form of paper audition. How does the wording need to be changed so every student deserving can participate in junior high honor choir. High school choir numbers will not increase without an increase in junior high numbers.

### **III. Resolutions.**

**The following resolutions were voted on for Junior High and High School Honor Choirs.**

#### **A. Junior High (Mid-Level) Honor Choir**

We resolve the following:

1. To remove the participation cap for all schools who Participate in the NW mid-level (Junior High) Honor Choir. Teachers will enter students using a rank system.
2. The total registration will not exceed 250 members. In the event that students need to be removed from the roster to meet this need, they will be removed at the discretion of the chair utilizing the current student ranking system.
3. The junior high choir chair will also have the discretion to Alter registration in order to facilitate a more balanced choir.

#### **B. High School Honor Choir**

We resolve the following:

1. To create a committee of music educators with the following Makeup:
  - a. NW district site manager
  - b. NW Choir chair
  - c. NW President
  - d. No fewer than 3 representative teachers
  - e. Optional educator from outside of the district.

- 2, The mandate shall include:
  - a. To reformat the nature of auditions and presentation of the NW District Honor Choir.
  - b. To include some version of a paper audition process.
  - c. To define procedures and processes which are intended to increase quality participation, and equity in the administration of the choir.
3. The results of the committee's recommendation
  - a. Will be presented to the district prior to the June board meeting with enough time to receive comments and suggestions.
  - b. These recommendations will be voted on for approval at the June 2024 Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Reishus  
Northwest KMEA Executive Director