

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
June 20, 2024 1:00 pm
Malloy-FHSU-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
Elementary Choir Chair-Paulette Wildeman
High Jazz Chair-Brad Persinger (absent)
Orchestra Chair-Julia McMains (absent)
Orchestra Assistant-Brayden smith
Junior High Band Chair-Vesta Jo Still
Junior High Band Assistant-Hector Hernandez
November Site Coordinator-Brayden Smith
Dec. Site Coordinator-Terry Crull
Webmaster-Troy Johnson (absent)

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 20, 2024 was \$14,755.88. Connie stated that it Really helped to raise the audition fee to \$5.00 and the Participation fee to \$15.00 cover Northwest expenses and have a small cushion in the account.

1. Connie stated Whistle Blower and Conflict of Interest Statements need to be filled out and signed.

2. **Connie explained again that late choir fees are completely separate from registration fees. The late fees dates are setup by the state.**

****MOTION-**

Paulette Wildeman made the motion to approve the minutes and the financial report. Michael Davidson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. BOARD REPORTS.

A.President-Alex Underwood

1. State KMEA Information

a. 2025 State KMEA ISW Feb. 20-22

1. No more evening rehearsals for the state ensembles.
They will finish at 6:00 pm.
2. Damm Music in Wichita will offer all choir packets.
Will ask Troy to put this information on the Northwest District website.

b. Coda Grants

1. Grants are available for up to \$200 for a creative project that enhances curriculum. (Coda grants are now \$300)
2. Forms are available at
<https://ksmea.org/resources/coda-grant/>
3. The first round is due October 1st
4. If someone has been awarded a grant, they must wait two years before applying again.

c. Live Instrumental auditions

1. Percussion details are finalized. Timpani part was updated.
2. Salina South will host in 2025.

d KSHSAA

1. Duets at KSHSAA Solo/Small Ensemble (instrumental only) will be allowed beginning 2025
2. Duets at KSHSAA Solo/Small Ensemble for vocal?
A discussion was held as to Northwest's opinion.
The majority of the board were not in favor of this.

e. All State Choir Formula

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

f. Tri-M Chapter

The State KMEA will pay \$50 towards the creation of a new Chapter of Tri-M for the upcoming 2024-25 school year.

- g.** Craig Manteuffel is the new State Executive Director of KMEA beginning July 1st. He finishes his job at KSHSAA October 1st, 2024.

2. NW District Information

A. Teacher shortage crisis

1. How does this impact Northwest
2. What can be done about the shortage?

B. President-Elect-Maggie McKain-

No report

C. Past President-Joey Nickols

Vesta Jo Still gave a report on behalf of Joey.

****OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS**

High School-Alan Brockmeier

Middle School Barb Elbrecht

Elementary-Randy Sauer

College-Dr. Tim Rolls-FHSU

****MOTION**

Paulette Wildaman made the motion to accept the following for Northwest Outstanding Educators. Michael Davidson seconded the Motion. Motion carried,

****OUTSTANDING ADMINSTRATOR**

Two names were sent in for outstanding administrator.

1. Tom Albers-Hays High School
2. John Cannon-Ellsworth High School

****MOTION**

Michael Davidson made the motion to accept Tom Albers from Hays High School as NW Outstanding Administrator. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. High School Band-Max Befort

1. Clinician-Marc Webster
2. Audition numbers were up last year
3. State band audition excerpts should be posted by July 1
State-3 excerpts
District-2 excerpts
Percussion must audition on all four instruments

E. High School Choir-Michael Davidson

1. Clinician-Troy Robinson
2. Accompanist-Pam McGowen
3. 24% drop rate of registration versus audition
4. Soprano 1/Alto II Dropout
5. Bass 1 dropout
6. Struggling to get students to audition

After discussion many felt music was too difficult.

F. Orchestra-Brayden Smith (on behalf of Julia McMains)

1. Clinician-Creston Herron-Kansas University
2. Numbers are up-90 auditioned last year-60 selected

G. HS Jazz Band-Brad Persinger (absent)

1. Clinician-Jake Montoya-Kansas Wesleyan
2. Will continue paper ballots if needed to fill sections
3. Festival scores will be used again for auditions.

H. Junior High School Band-Vesta Jo Still

1. Clinician-Christopher Teicher-Newton
2. Vesta will check with Katrina Long who rewrote the clarinet
Audition music. The correct piece was not used in 2023
3. Festival scores will be used for auditions

I. Junior High Choir-Annie Adams

1. Clinician-Gabe Lewis O'Connor
2. Accompanist-Maggie McCain
3. The percentage has been taken off for auditions.
The max students accepted will be 250
4. Annie encouraged teachers to audition students and rank them..

J. Elementary Choir-Paulette Wildeman

1. Clinician-Shana Lander-Manhattan
2. Paulette stated had 171 students in choir in 2023
31 schools
3. Because of numbers it is possible to use Black and Gold room
In student union rather than big ball room.

K. Site Coordinator -November-Brayden Smith

1. This is Braydens first year as site coordinator so is welcoming suggestions for the convention. Also need chairs to send seating information ahead of time.

L. Site Coordinator-December-Terry Crull

1. Terry stated all rooms have been reserved for the December Convention.

M. Webmaster-Troy Johnson

1. Troy is requesting a fee increase for Festival Scores from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per entry. Some districts are already paying \$5.00. Troy has also been making improvements and updates to the product.

****MOTION-**

Vesta Jo Still made the motion to increase the amount Northwest KMEA pays per entry of festival scores to \$5.00. Michael Davidson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Troy also wanted to remind everyone to update your NAFME membership so you are not locked out of the portal.
3. The NWKMEA website has been updated. If anything is not right please let him know
4. Troy advised the chairs to check the website and let him know if additional information needs to be added.

V. Old Business

A. Set a Date for fall Mentorship event

1. September 15th has been set-place and time TBD

B. Work to get a contact list of all music teachers in the district.

1. KHSAA has a directory
2. Joey as mentor chair is sending out a survey to all schools in Northwest district to obtain lists of all music teachers.
3. He will assign mentors to the new teachers in the district.

C. Vote on recipients for scholarships

****MOTION-**

Vesta Jo Still made the motion to give 4 Julie Groom Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$400.00 each. Max Befort seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following college students will receive the Julie Groom Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$400.00 each.

1. Emil Benivids-Bethany College
2. Zoe Dinkle-Kansas University
3. Jada Wright-FHSU
4. Garrett Cole-FHSU

VI. New Business

A. Recommendations from High School Choral Chair (Michael Davidson)

1. RECOMMENDATION TO STATE KMEA BOARD From NW KMEA

The NW District resolves and formally requests the State Board of Directors to consider the following:

1. To change the state policy which requires districts to use the state audition cuts for the live audition for choir, thereby allowing districts to provide their own audition procedures.
2. That each District Board of Directors be allowed to choose their representatives to the state high school choirs in a manner which best serves their school.
3. That the manner of auditions would continue to follow the calendar and deadlines set by the state so as to avoid disrupting state functions.
4. To proactively strategize and act toward increasing equity in the audition process for Band and Orchestra.

(No action was taken on this recommendation)

2. RESOLUTIONS FROM CHOIR COMMITTEE

Section 1-2024

2024 NW Honor Choir will include students who are accepted by teacher recommendation which will be referred to as a “paper audition.”

1. All students who are enrolled in a choir class shall be eligible to be recommended.
2. Any student who did not make the choir through the normal audition process will be eligible to be recommended.
3. Teachers will be advised and expected to recommend students who they believe will be an asset to the choir.
4. Teachers will rank students on their recommendation list.
5. Each school will receive at least their top ranked recommended student, regardless of

Choir need.

6. The 2024 HS Honor Choir will maintain the section limits of 20 students as previously been established.
7. A list of section vacancies will be provided to the teachers by the Monday following the auditions to help guide recommendations.
8. All participants in the NW choir will pay the prescribed participation fee. (\$10.00)

Section 2-2025 and 2026

In 2025 and 2026 the NW district will host 2 honor choirs using the following format.

1. The number of members accepted into the district honor choir will be dramatically reduced.
 - a. The goal for this choir is to increase competition and to provide more difficult Literature for the students.
2. Northwest will simultaneously host a larger choir that is populated by a “paper audition”.
 - a. The goal of this choir is to provide an excellent and joyful large-choir experience for any student in the district who wants it.
3. The High School Assistant Chair, who will transition into the chairship during these two years, will be in charge of brainstorming and organizing the transition in this new model in consultation with the current chair and the teachers in the district.
 - a. Any policies which need to be voted upon will be presented at subsequent Board of Directors meetings.

****MOTION-**

Brayden Smith made the motion for the following recommendations for High School Choir. Annie Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*****CHECK THE AUGUST 6, 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MOTION.**

3. ANTI-BIGOTRY LANGUAGE

The Northwest KMEA District resolves to adopt the following language pending review from State Executive Director Craig Manteuffel

The Northwest District of KMEA affirms a policy that rejects all acts of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or any other form of bigotry. Students confirmed to have committed or participated in such acts of bigotry may be removed from performances, or excluded from contention for state Ensembles. In addition the district may require signed apology letters or other similar acts of contrition in order for the offending students to remain eligible for participation in future district events.

Any consequences given on the day of the ensemble may be applied at the discretion of the honor choir chair, and may be appealed to a member of the executive board by the offending student's teacher. Any further consequences will be applied by vote of the executive board and the ensemble chair.

****MOTION-**

Maggie McKain made the motion for the following recommendation on Anti-Bigotry, with the stipulation the State Executive Director, Craig Manteuffel must approve it.

*****PLEASE CHECK THE AUGUST 6, 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FOR INFORMATION ON THIS MOTION.**

4. LATE CHOIR REGISTRATION FEE

There was discussion regarding the late choral registration fee being too high. Some board members felt it should be lower. After much discussion the following motion was made.

****MOTION**

Vesta Jo Still made the motion to change the late choral registration fees as follows:

1st date-\$10.00 per entry

2nd date-\$20.00 per entry

3rd date-\$30.00 per entry

If there is a voice change Choral chair along with Executive Committee has the discretion on whether to charge a fee or not.

Paulette Wildeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Registration and Upload Deadlines for 2024 have approved through Troy. Please meet deadlines.

2024-2025 School year

1. Junior High Band Audition Upload Deadline-
Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:59 p.m.
2. High School Jazz Band Audition Upload Deadline-
Thursday, September 26th, 2024 11:59 p.m.
3. Junior High Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday,
Oct. 3, 2024 11:59 p.m.
4. High School choir-Sunday -October 6th, 2024
5. Elementary Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday,
Oct. 17, 2024 11:59 p.m.
6. High School Band Upload Deadline-Wednesday,
Oct. 23, 2024 11:59 p.m.
7. High School Orchestra Upload Deadline-Wednesday
October 23, 2024 11:59 p.m.
 - A. **Choir Late deadline #1-October 20th, 2024 (\$10)**
 - B. **Choir Late deadline #2-November 1st, 2024 (\$20)**
 - C. **Choir Late deadline #3-November 2, 2024 (\$30)**

- A. Mini-Convention I-Hays High School-Saturday November 2, 2024. (JH Honor Choir, JH Honor Band and HS Honor Jazz Band.)**
- B. Mini-Convention II-Fort Hays State University-Saturday, December 7, 2024. (HS Choir, HS Band, High School Orchestra and Elementary Choir)**

MOTION: Annie Adams moved to adjourn. Paulette Wildeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
Northwest District Executive Director