

NORTHWEST KMEA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

August 6, 2024 3:00 PM

The Executive board met on August 6, 2024. Those present were President-Alex Underwood, President-elect-Maggie McKain, Past President-Joey Nickols and Executive Director-Connie Reishus.

The following items were discussed:

1. Selection of Outstanding Music Educator for State
2. Bigotry recommendation per summer board meeting
3. Choir recommendation per summer board meeting
4. Report by Maggie from State Board meeting
5. First year teacher information
6. Selection of Officers

I. Selection of Outstand Music Educator for State

Randy Sauer who teaches at Trego-Wakeeney was selected to represent the Northwest District KMEA on the State level.

Joey will get all the information needed and sent in to the state by October 1st.

II Bigotry recommendation presented at summer board meeting.

This is how it reads:

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.

The State KMEA President-Jamie Minneman, John Taylor-Past Executive Director and Craig Mantueffel-current State Executive Director were all sent a copy of the Bigotry recommendation. Responses were as follows:

1. As it reads, it would not stand up in a court of law.
2. Anti Bigotry language as policy puts a board in a precarious position. Punitive decisions would be made that will impact people who have varying sensibilities. Having a policy such as this may make some people less willing to serve in positions of leadership where they will have to make calls that can be uncomfortable and maybe even lead to litigation. Both John and Craig stated they would never want KMEA at the State level to adopt such a policy without legal counsel.

****The Executive Board suggested the following:**

- 1. An email be sent out to all teachers prior to Conventions to talk with students participating in honor groups regarding acting professional. No cell phones, talking during rehearsals and they should be respectful to conductor and other students,**
- 2. Two or three teachers will be asked to attend all rehearsals.**

III. Choir Recommendation at Summer Board meeting.

This is how the recommendation reads:

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.

Again Jamie, John and Craig were forwarded this information and have replied with the following suggestions.

1. Was a survey sent to all choral directors in the district to see what they want. KMEA State level would not move forward with a major change without data collection.
2. There are two (2) items according to the years stated that would happen. Two changes in two years would lead to teacher confusion. This would especially be true for a teacher who takes a new job in the District during the transition period. John stated this gives the impression that we are trying to rush this change too quickly. He suggested to plan ahead and maybe put only one plan in place in 2025, not two.

****The Executive Board suggested the following:**

1. **Alex will notify Michael Davidson-Choral Chair to send out a Survey to all choir teachers. Michael is asked to send a copy of the survey to the executive board before being sent to make sure all information needed is included. After the survey is sent Michael will collect data to present at the December Choral Director’s meeting. At the meeting a vote by choir directors will be taken as to what direction to proceed.**

IV. Report from Maggie from State Board Meeting

1. Encourage all Junior High teachers to complete the survey about KSHAA sponsoring Jr. High music festivals.
2. State percussion auditions have been updated and are on the website.
3. 20 voices will be added to the Elementary and Jr. High All-State performing groups.
3. Coda amount is now \$300.00
4. 1A State Basketball Sub-state is scheduled on Sat. March 1, 2025. This will affect the 12A Honor Band Performance. Directors are encouraged to talk to their AD about the conflict and record how many students are affected.
5. Damm music in Wichita will have honor group Music available to order.

V. First Year teacher information-Joey-mentoring chair

1. New teacher dinner-September 15th. This will be for 1-5 year teachers and board members. Place to be determined later.
2. Joey is going to send out a survey to all music teachers in the NW district. Once he has all the information on what schools have first year teaches, who they are and what they teach, he will be able to assign mentors.

VI Election of Northwest Board Members

A discussion was held regarding at this time, all board members are elected at the same time every two years. This means all the board would be new every two years except for past president. It was suggested to change three of the chair positions to serve three years only once then be on a two year term. Three would serve 2025-2028 and three would serve 2025-2027. Then they would continue on a two year term.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
NW KMEA Executive Director