

NW KMEA BUSINESS MEETING
December 6, 2025
1:00 p.m.

President Maggie McKain called the business meeting to order.

Maggie welcomed everyone and introduced the Northwest District officers and chair people. He also had all directors introduce themselves.

I. Minutes-Connie Reishus-Executive Director

- A. Connie stated all minutes from the November and December 2024 band director, choir director, business meeting and the 2025 summer board meeting have been posted on the NW District website. To get to those minutes go to the Northwest District Website. On the top bar. click on the heading titled ABOUT. Then click on the subtitle minutes. They are listed by year.
- B. Connie also stated that the Northwest Handbook has been updated with a lot of policy changes. If there are any questions regarding changes they may contact her or any officer of the Northwest District.

II. Treasurer's report-Connie Reishus-Executive Director

- 1. Treasures Report-Balance as of December 5, 2025, in the checking account is \$16,252.78. This amount includes a lot of the deposits from audition and registration fees not only for the November Convention groups but also December. All bills for the November convention have been paid. The expenses for the December Convention are quite a bit more than the November so this amount will change. The board voted at the summer board meeting to award five \$400.00 Julie Groom Memorial Scholarships to a junior or senior in college majoring in Music Education.
- 2. Connie stated to please inform the person who is writing the check for your district fees, for honor groups, that they need to include an invoice with the check so she knows what is being paid.

3. Connie stated on behalf of Northwest District, she would like to thank Joey and Jill Nickols for hosting the November Convention at Norton Junior and Senior High School. It was a lot of work and they were very organized. She felt it was very successful. The attendance at the concert was well attended even though people had to travel a little further.
4. Another person is needed to help take money at the 3:30 concert and 4 people to take tickets.

III. Reports from Chairpersons

A. Junior High Choir-Megan Reiner

1. Assistant-Adam Flax
2. Clinician-Logan Caywood-Arkansas City
3. Accompanist-Kelsey Pinkerton
4. Concert Information
 - a. Registered-209
 - b. In attendance-184
 - c. Schools-25
 - d. Sop-78, altos-67 tenors-40, Bass-24
 - e. four songs were performed.
 - f. Teachers did a nice job of sending a balanced group. Could use a few more male voices.
 - g. **Behavior-During the concert was disappointing with a few Altos on the end.**
 - h. 6th grade was able to participate this year.
 - i. Might need to cap it next year.
 - j. Make sure to rank students.

B. Elementary Choir-Jenny Tally

1. Clinician- -Gabrielle Montes-Maize 5th and 6th Grade Academy
2. Accompanist-Kayla Wombacher
3. Registered -117
4. Students in attendance today-114
5. Schools represented-21
6. Suggestions for 2026
7. Helpers are needed for the ticket table and door.
8. Helpers are also needed to help set up risers prior rehearsal in Beach Schmidt.

9. Jenny stated needed someone to serve as assistant. Please let her know if interested.
10. Items to discuss:
 - a. Should more students be added to the group since the numbers are down. Possibly open it up to 4th grade.
 - b. This year was the first year that 6th graders could go with the Junior high choir. Did this possibly affect the elementary numbers?
 - c. Ask the state elementary board what their ideas would be for new choirs.
 - d. Discuss the PLC groups needed for all districts.

C. **Junior High Band-Lucas Burmeister**

1. Assistant-Max Befort
2. Clinician-Erik Stone-Golden Parks Academy-Wichita
3. Numbers have gone from a high of 110+ to 55
4. Audition-66
5. Selected-55
6. In attendance today-55
7. Schools-18
8. Instrument sections needing “pushed” would be clarinets, F horns, Bass clarinet, some more trombones, as well as additional percussion. Schools may not have some of the instruments such as timpani.
9. School class times is also an issue. Going from 50 minutes a day each week to 3 times a week of 40 minutes.
10. The junior high honor band music is for sale at 50 % off. If anyone is interested in purchasing the music contact Lucas Burmeister.

Discussion of Junior High Band Auditions

Cross-walked with SW district.

1. Chromatic scale will still be a requirement.
2. Discussion of a minimum of 2 octave scale with the option of full chromatic.

*****MOTION**

Kristi Vetter made the motion to enact a minimum of an octave range with the option of full range of scale. Kelly Burris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Cycle 1

1. 159 or 160
2. Suggestions **for wind and mallets**-159 up to where it changes back to concert Bb and include 160. Dotted eighth and sixteenth rhythm in 160 is helpful.

*****MOTION**

Kristi Vetter moved to accept the wind and mallets Audition as suggested with the “cuts” that were given. Talley Morrow seconded the motion. Discussion was open. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Junior High Percussion Audition

- a. **Snare**: 132 has rolls and 160 flams and dotted eights/sixteen rhythms.

*****MOTION**

Barb Elbracht made the motion to have the snare audition as above. (132 and 160). Kelly Burris seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Timpani** Tabled until further investigation. Barb Elbracht is willing to look into this.

*****MOTION**

Megan Reiner made the motion to use cycle 1 for even years and develop cycle 2 more for odd years. Seconded by Kelly Burris. Discussion opened: Send ideas to Vesta Jo Still regarding cycle 2 excerpts. Motion carried.

Cycle 2: TABLED UNTIL NEXT YEAR (2026-2027)

SPECIAL INFORMATION
JUNIOR HIGH HONOR BAND AUDITION EXCERPTS
DECEMBER 2025

Essential Technigue 2000-Hal Leonard Book 3

Cycle 1-Even Years
(2026, 2028, 2030.)

Cycle 2-Odd Years
(2027, 2029, 2031.)

Chromatic Scale-

Range-2 octave minimum requirement. Can do more and/or full range of instrument.

Excerpts:

Cycle 1

Winds and Mallets: #159 (through the downbeat of Measure 16)
#160 (all)

Snare #132 (all)
#160 (all)

Timpani-#123 TABLED Barb Elbracht will send suggestions.

New audition material ready for 2026-2027 school year. It would be EVEN year –Cycle 1

Festival scores should be set up like this:

Winds/Mallets

Slot for chromatic scale

Slot for Excerpt 159

Slot for Excerpt 160

Percussion

Slot for snare

Slot for timpani

*Snare is required for percussion. The snare can be uploaded into the timpani slot if only auditioning on snare.

**Mallets is a separate audition upload.

D. High School Jazz Band-Julianne Samuelson/Kristi Vetter

1. Clinician-Dr. Jack Cassidy-
2. Students auditioned 13
3. Paper auditions-3
4. schools-6
5. All slots were filled except for three. They were filled through recommendations. Jenny Tally (Decatur) filled in for the keyboard. Clinician worked a lot with beginning improvisation and the students really enjoyed this work and the clinician. District received a super nice note from the clinician thanking the district for allowing him to be the clinician and to our district for what it is doing.

E. High School Choir-Lisa Johnson

1. Assistant-Sonya Pearson
2. Clinician-Dan Baker-Manhattan
3. Accompanist-Pam McGowen-Hays
4. High School Honor Choir results-
 - a. Auditions held November 8, 2025
 - b Registered to audition-169
 - c, Cancellations-26
 - d. Selected for choir- 141
 - e. Schools represented -27
 - f. Actual attendance-127 (14 not able to attend)
5. Followed the same 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.
6. Used Festival Auditions for the auditions this year. Bluetooth speakers were used again for auditions. Slight issue with the jump drives that can easily be addressed.
7. Cancellations affect our potential total number of Octets and quartets within the state equation.
8. Paper auditions for High School choir/Nominations
 - a. This year had total of 7 additions through teacher nominations live Auditions.
 - b. A2-1, T1-2, T2-2, B1-1, B2-1
 - c. Any feedback from this newly implemented procedure would be appreciated.

F. High School Band-Chris Barlow

1. Assistant-Billy Wicks
2. Clinician-Travis Johnson-Cheney
3. 140 completed auditions
4. 76 selected
5. 27 schools
6. Auditions were up this year.

G. NW/SW Orchestra-Julia McMains

Orchestra was in the Southwest District this year.

H. Advocacy/Mentoring-Joey Nickols

Advocacy-Joey stated to check on the KMEA website as Kelly Knedler has a site called Advo Angle which has a lot of ideas for Advocacy. It has power points and little audio blurbs to help promote music in your community.

Mentor-

Joey stated there was a meeting held in September in Quinter. At the meeting Joey went over information that is valuable to new teachers covering items on the District KMEA website and KSHSAA. Joey is working hard to get mentors for new teachers in the District. There are a lot of new teachers this year.

I. Honored Educators-Joey Nickols

Outstanding Educators for Northwest District

1. Elementary Educator-There was no elementary this year.
2. Middle Level Educator-Brad Persinger-Oberlin
3. High School Educator-Vesta Jo Still-Phillipsburg
Vesta Jo was chosen as the State representative from the Northwest District.

****SPECIAL NOTE- Vesta Jo Still was chosen as KANSAS STATE MUSIC EDUCATOR OF 2025-26. She was honored at a special assembly at a Phillipsburgs home basketball game in January. She will also be honored at State KMEA Inservice in Wichita February 26-28, 2026.**

4. Honored Administrator-John Cannon-Ellsworth

J. Julie Groom Memorial Scholarships-Joey Nickols

1. Cameron Sadler-KSU
2. Dawson McNeal-FHSU
3. Adam Ward-FHSU
4. Jalil Cardenas-Wichita State
5. Ashley Vilaysing-FHSU

Joey stressed to teachers if they know of students that have graduated from their high school and have gone on to major in music education nominate them for the **Julie Groom Memorial Scholarship**.

Joey also mentioned the **William (Bill) Schick Memorial Scholarship** where if you are a first year teacher, Northwest will pay your NAFNE dues the first year of teaching in the Northwest District. A first year teacher will need to contact the Executive Director. Joey stated he will be sending information out at the end of the school year regarding Scholarships and Outstanding Music Educator nominees.

IV Old Business

A group of teachers met in the fall for New Teachers to “Stay Sharp Together”. It was to help new teachers get through the Website and KSHSAA. Maggie thanked Quinter for hosting the fall meeting.

V. New Business-Maggie

- A. When collecting information for All-State students make sure everything is filled out completely, Do not leave anything blank.
Contact 1 name and number
Contact 2 name and number
- B. Consider applying for the “Coda” grant. Deadline is October 1, 2026. The amount is \$300.00. Apply on the website.
- C. Kansas 250
“We Declare Independence” by Scott Freeby. You can find the resource on the KSMEA website. Travelks.com-website is a website to report what your school is doing to celebrate 250 Independence you would like to share.
- D. KSHSAA is wanting to implement Junior High Piano participants with High School Regional Piano Festival. This would not take place until 2027. If a student received a 1 rating they would get a medal, but would not be eligible for State Contest.

This was introduced but may not happen.

- E. Vesta Jo Still announced there will be a music teacher inservice in Phillipsburg on January 19th. She stated she would be happy to send an entry form if anyone is interested. The cost is \$40. All music related information will be presented.
Also a festival for band on April 1st will take place.

VI. Maggie introduced the KMEA State President-Damian Johnson

- A. Damian explained who was on the State Executive Council.
- B. The executive council did a walk through of Century II and At this time there are no changes or reinventions being done.
- C. Everyone will have to **pay for parking this year in all of the lots now** at Century II. If you get a ticket for parking it is \$35 plus court cost. You can pay by the hour. There is an app a person can get on to pay for parking.
- D. We will be able to use exhibition hall this year but will have to share. All state groups will be able to be in the hall before their performances.
- E. Live Instrumental auditions will take place on January 17th with the alternate date of January 24th. The auditions will take place at Salina South.
- F. KMEA scholarship deadline is February 1st.
- G. ISW is February 26-28th in Wichita.
- H. Leadership camp and first summer board meeting will take place June 4-6.
- I. Late summer board meeting will be July 24-25 where District Executive directors and state board will meet.
- J. Damian stated the NW District Executive should be thanked for doing an excellent job in keeping the district in great financial shape and making sure the district is IRS approved.
- K. Mathew Roden with upbeat global will be featured keynote speaker at the 2026 ISW. He will also be with the Tri-M students on Friday morning.
- L. Martha Gable-past president, will be present a couple sessions at ISW.
- M. Julie Duty from United Sound will do three sessions at ISW.

- N. The opening session will feature an Orff Ensemble.
- O. In 2027 there will be an All-State Orff Ensemble for the first time. The Orff Ensemble will perform with the Elementary All State Group in 2027.
- P. Damian gave the schedules for the performance schedules for the All State Groups at ISW.
- Q. Saturdays schedule for the String Orchestra and Full Orchestra has been lengthened as they have not had a full warm up schedule in previous years. In order for this to happen an early performance of a group was eliminated.
- R. Damain's Strategic plan is Music advocacy, rebranding of communication and Health and Wellness. March 4th will meet with the legislature in Topeka to advocate for music.
- S. Kansas 250 project by Scott Freeby. It is on the website, free of charge. It is for grades K through Colligate. It has script plus music. Damian recommended to check it out and hopefully use it to celebrate 250 years of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- T. Big push for community groups this year across the groups. If anyone is a member of a community music group let the state know. They are pushing for life long being involved in music.
- U. Check out KS Advo-Angle for advocacy. Kelly Knedler always has fresh information for advocacy.
- V. Regional Piano for Junior High students probably will not pass as KSHSAA gets caught up on wording. They are not a fan of junior high going with high school. They think if one junior high group is allowed then more will want to be allowed. They do not have enough man power to cover everything it is to happen.
- W. Rebranding communication-The state is looking to change the KMEA logo as it is not compatible with different medias we use it for. Should have it done by 2027 and then the website will also change. It will also change for the district websites as well. Let Damian know if anyone has any ideas.
- X. Dr. Rachel Dirks-Orchestra Director at Kansas State University is the new advisory board member of Health and Wellness Advisor. Need to take care of teachers so they can

take care of students. Keeping music teachers in the classroom, Mental and physical side of the profession.

Y. Fee increases for active KMEA registration.

Z. Contact information is greatly needed for students performing in state ensembles in case of emergency.

It is imperative that need parents contact information.

AA. KSHSAA membership dues will go up in July 2026 by \$10.00.

BB. Looking at cost savings things for the state KMEA.

CC. Mentioned the Jeff Jordan composition contest.

****Kristi Vetter and Dr. Wimmer (KSU) are in charge of announced for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year teachers will have a boot camp in June sponsored by KBA. There will be a panel using 2nd year teachers to answer any questions. Go to the KMEA website for further information on this boot camp.

Dr. Terry Crull

1. Announced that the cupcakes and cookies for the convention were baked by Pam McGowne.
2. Terry's assistant this year is Dr. Aunna Marzen-FHSU associate band director and she will take over when Terry retires in 2027.
3. Malloy is being renovated. By December of 2027 will need to find a different place for band and choir to practice. Possibly student union.

Dr. Lillipop

1. Announced FHSU will host an honor band on March 4th. This will be the first time hosting this so if teachers have high school students interested please send in their names. Information will be sent out soon.
2. Dr. Lillipop is the Kansas band representative for the National Band Association. It is \$55.00 for teachers to join. You get a subscription to the Instrumental, The John Phillip Sousa Award is also part of this organization.
3. NBA pushing to award the citation of excellence. So if any teachers knows of a band program in the northwest that is deserving of this award please nominate them,

4. Dr. Lillipop is hoping more teachers in Kansas will join the National Band Association. There are many opportunities offered. Students subscription is only \$5.00. Can have that subscription until they get a job in music.

D. Registration and Upload Deadlines for 2026. Please meet deadlines.

2026--2027 School year

1. Junior High Band Audition Upload Deadline- Wednesday, September 30, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 2. High School Jazz Band Audition Upload Deadline- Thursday, October 1, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 3. Junior High Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 4. High School Choir-Sunday -October 11th, 2026
 5. Elementary Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 6. High School Band Upload Deadline-Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 7. High School Orchestra Upload Deadline-Thursday October 29, 2026 11:59 p.m.
 - A. Choir Late deadline #1-October 25, 2026
 - B. Choir Late deadline #2-November 5, 2026
 - C. Choir Late deadline #3-November 7, 2026
- A. Mini-Convention I—Norton High School-Saturday November 7th, 2026. (JH Honor Choir, JH Honor Band and HS Honor Jazz Band.)**
- B. Mini-Convention II-Fort Hays State University-Saturday, December 5th, 2026. (HS Choir, HS Band, and Elementary Choir). Orchestra will be in Northwest District.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
Northwest Executive Director