

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

June 24, 2025 3:00 pm

Norton High School , Norton, Kansas

I. Northwest District President, Maggie McKain called the meeting to order.

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

Board members present were:

II. Introduction of Board Members Present

President—Maggie McKain-Osborne

Past-President-- Joey Nickols-Norton

President elect-Jill Nickols-Norton

Executive Director-Connie Reishus-Plainville

High School Choral Chair-Lisa Johnson-Oberlin

Junior High Choral Chair-Megan Riener-Stockton

Assistant-Adam Flax

High Jazz Chair-Julinne Samuelson-Wakeeney

Orchestra Chair-Julia McMains (absent)

Junior High Band Chair-Lucas Burmeister-Logan

Assistant-Max Befort-TMP Hays

November Site Coordinator-Jill & Joey Nickols-Norton

Dec. Site Coordinator-Terry Crull

Webmaster-Troy Johnson (absent)

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. A lot of expenses were up. Revenue for 2024-2025 was **\$23,636.05**. Expenses were **\$22,293.03** so the district had a Net Gain of **\$1343.02**

The balance for Northwest District KMEA as of June 30, 2025 is
Checking **\$16,268.82.**

Special note: check #1655-\$200.00 and check #1661-\$400 (scholarship) are still out.

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.

****MOTION-**

Lisa Johnson made the motion to approve the financial report. Julianne Samuelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

IV.Approval of the Minutes

Minutes-Connie Reishus

Connie stated all minutes are posted on the district website.

****MOTION-**

Joey Nickols made the motion to approve the minutes. Lucas Burmeister seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. BOARD REPORTS.

A.President-Maggie McKain

1. State KMEA Information & Highlights

- a. Coda Grants are now **\$300.00**. Go to the KSMEA website to apply. :<https://ksmea.org/resources/coda-grant>. The first round is due October 1st
- b. Directors are encouraged to please fill out any and all surveys received. No responses will result in no action taken.
- c. There could be an increase in National dues. More info after July 1.

2. 2026 STATE KMEA ISW Feb. 26-28

- a. Guest speakers: Deb Confredo, NAFME President
Dr. Matthew Arau, Upbeat Global
- b. Letter concerning behavior at the AMAC
Due circumstances that happened last year at the AMAC there will be a letter read to each honor group at ISW in 2026. Students must adhere to the rules stated in the letter or KMEA will not be able to use the AMAC for future conventions.

- c. State Executive Council asking for fee increases.

Due to Covid and not having the ISW in 2021, State Executive Director, Craig Manteuffel stated the following at the State board meeting in June:

KMEA aims to stay financially stable. We must have investments that equal the cost of one In-Service Workshop. Rising costs----including a \$36,500 increase this year—are straining the budget. Our investment account remains \$30,000 below pre-pandemic levels.

The KMEA Executive Council sees the need for a fee increase to help cover costs. For more details, go to Addendum A in the June 2025 Board Book (<https://ksmea.org/archive/>, click on 2020+, click on “2025”, click on :KMEA Board Book 2025_06, go to page 71). These adjustments are essential to cover growing expenses, sustain In-Service Workshop excellence, and resume contributions to KMEA’s long-term investments.

After much discussion, Northwest District recommends the following state increases:

- a. Registration fees-\$15.00
- b. Participation fees-\$5.00
- c. Avoid increasing audition fees

3. KSHSAA

- a. Middle School music festivals-the board voted to begin the process with adding 7/8 grade piano students to the piano regional festival. This is only a regional opportunity and not eligible for state. This would be a KSHSAA decision.
- b. Duets were a positive addition to the festivals. No additional information regarding vocal duets.

- 4. Live Instrumental Auditions will be January 17, 2026 at Salina South High School. Weather date is January 24, 2026 at Salina South High School.

B. President-Elect-Jill Nickols-no report

**C. Past President-Joeey Nickols-No report at this time
will talk about awards in new business.**

D. High School Band-Chris Barlow (not present)

- a. Clinician-Travis Johnson-Wichita
- b. It was stated need to send out High School cuts for auditions July 1st.

E. High School Choir-Lisa Johnson

- a. Clinician-Dan Baker-Manhattan
- b. Accompanist-Pam McGowene-Hays
- c. A survey was sent out to all Northwest teachers regarding administering early auditions to students who have a conflict due to KSHSAA events or the FFA State/National Band that takes place the same day as Northwest auditions. The proposal is as follows:

*****Proposal:**

If a student is unable to attend Live Auditions due to a conflict with a KSHSAA event or the FFA State/National Band that takes place the same day, the musician will be allowed to make a single recording of the required audition materials with the District Chair. Recordings made by the student's director will not be accepted.

*****Requirements:**

1. The musician's director must register for audition, as usual, through the KMEA members portal.
2. The recording will take place the Wednesday evening before District auditions. Thursday will be the weather contingency date.
3. The recording session will be held at Quinter High School.
4. The student and director, or school designee (non-parent) must be at the recording session.
5. The musician's director will contact the District Chair by the Friday, the week before, the District Auditions to schedule a time for recording the audition-a 20 minute time slot will be

allotted. (This time slot would include their audition warm up as well as the actual recording of the audition.)

6. The choir audition materials will be the State Audition pieces.
7. A warm-up room will be provided.
8. The musician will make a single recording of the required audition material. (No do overs or retakes. Recordings will be unedited nor will they be allowed to have any kind of enhancement added during the recording process. This will be a “one shot” recording, just like the live in-person audition.)
9. The recording will go along with the continuous play of the Choir audition as presented in the state audition cut.
10. When the student musician’s recording is played for the judges at the live auditions, the judges will score the same sections of the auditions performed by students auditioning at the live-audition session.
11. Two members of the executive committee will attend the recording session.

*****MOTION**

Megan Riener made the motion to accept the above proposal as written beginning with the fall of 2025 auditions. Adam Flax seconded the motion. Motion carried.

This would be a one year trial and adjusted as necessary to fit our district by another committee of vocal instructor peers.

- d. Paper auditions will also be accepted beginning the fall of 2025. Refer to Handbook regarding paper audition procedures.

F. High School Orchestra-Julia McMains (Maggie reported)

1. Orchestra will be in Southwest District 2025.
2. Clinician-Dr. Blair Williams
3. Chair for southwest-Summer Miller

G. High School Jazz-Julinne Samuelson

1. Clinician-Dr. John Cassidy-Hutchinson
2. Assistant-Kristi Vetter

H. Middle School Band-Lucas Burmeister

1. Assistant-Max Befort
2. Clinician-Erik Stone-Wichita
3. Lucas stated working on choosing music.

I. Middle School Choir-Megan Riener

1. Assistant-Adam Flax
2. Clinician-Logan Caywood-Arkansas City
3. Accompanist-Kelsey Pinkerton

J. Elementary Choir-Jenny Tally (Maggie reported)

1. Clinician-Gabrielle Montes-Wichita
2. Accompanist-Kayla Wombacher

K. Site Coordinator-Joey Nickols-November 8th 2025

Joey and Jill took the group around the high school to show everyone where events would take place for the November convention. Questions were asked regarding meals, parking, performances and other items pertaining to the convention.

*****The November 8th Convention for 2025 will be held at Norton High School in Norton, Kansas.**

L. Site Coordinator-Terry Crull-December 6th, 2025

Terry was unable to make the board meeting but he did send information that all rooms have been reserved for the December convention to be held at Fort Hays State University.

M. Webmaster-Troy Johnson-no report

VI. Old Business

A. Date of Fall Membership Event

Joey stated he will let everyone know the date once he gets all the names of new teachers.

The event will be held at Quinter High School again.

VII. New Business

A. OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

High School-Vesta Jo Still

Administrator-John Cannon-Ellsworth Jr/Sr. High

*****MOTION**

Julinne Samuelson made the motion to reopen the nominations for Middle School and Elementary Outstanding Educators as there were no nominations prior to the board meeting for these two positions. Also there were no nominations for College Educator. Nominations must be received by September 1st. Lisa Johnson Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Julie Groom Memorial Scholarship

*****MOTION**

Max Befort made the motion to award five (5) \$400.00 Julie Groom Scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year. Megan Riener seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

C. Hall of Fame Nominations are due October 1st.

Maggie stated for our district to nominate someone for Hall of Fame.

D. “ Kansas 250” (In honor of the 250 birthday of the US) Watch For information on the KMEA website this fall. Scott Freebie is composing a composition that can be performed by all levels of performing groups for this celebration.

*****MOTION**

Lisa Johnson made the motion to donate \$700.00 to the Norton Music Department for hosting the 2025 Northwest November KMEA Convention. Adam Flax seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*****MOTION**

**Jill Nickols made the motion to adjourn. Adam Flax seconded.
Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
Northwest District Executive Director