

NWKMEA District Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Norton High School

Preside Maggie McKain called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Those present were:

Jill Nickols, Norton - president elect
Sonya Pearson, Colby - HS assistant choir chair
Billy Wicks, Hill City - HS assistant band chair
Julia Cunningham, Beloit - HS Orchestra chair
Max Befort, TMP - JH assistant banc chair
Lucas Burmeister, Stockton (?) - JH Band chair
Megan Riener, Stockton - JH Choir Chair
Lisa Johnson, Oberlin - HS Choir Chair
Vesta Jo Still, Phillipsburg - newly elected executive director apprentice
Connie Reishus, Plainville - Executive Director
Joey Nickols - Norton - past president

After introductions, Connie gave the treasurer report. 5 scholarships were presented last year which was more than normal. Lisa Johnson moved, seconded by Julia Cunningham to accept the treasurer report as presented. Motion carried.

Connie also distributed Whistle blower/Conflict of Interest forms to chairs present for their signatures. The IRS requires these be on file. Lisa will work on getting the form signed by Jennifer Tally.

Connie said the minutes from the December meeting have been posted on the website. She has also updated the handbook. Megan Riener moved, Lucas Burbmeister seconded to accept the online minutes. Motion carried.

Maggie McKain gave her president's report:

1. State Board Meeting Highlights from recent meeting
 - Next State Board meeting will be July 24-25 at Friends University. Jill, Connie and Maggie will attend.
 - Hall of Fame, and Outstanding Teacher/Administrator nominations are due to vice president Jamie Minneman by Oct. 1.
 - ISW Clinic Proposals are due Oct. 1
 - CODA Grant Applications are also due Oct. 1. There might be fewer as the CODA committee is considering adding some scholarships in addition to the grant money.

- Encourage more Tri-M chapters in our district.
2. The 2026-2027 ISW will be Feb. 25-27
 - Guest Speakers: Dr. Tim, Jazzmone Sutton (NafME) and Christopher Baumgartner (NafME SW Division President)
 - President's Concert on Thursday will be M-Pact, a vocal jazz group
 - Addition to the Honor Groups - Orff Honor Ensemble, performing with elementary choir
 - Implemented an opt-out option for the HS All-State Choir members to ease the posting of the roster for Troy
 - KMEA has a new logo. It was met with a mixed reaction from the NW board members.
 3. KSHSAA
 - Middle School music festival for piano failed miserably
 - Reminder to add feedback, both positive and negative, after festivals on the website from festival experience. Please evaluate the site as well as the judges. Reminder to not take to social media to vent an unpleasant experience. Remember the code of conduct.
 4. Instrumental Live Auditions for strings, winds, and percussion will be Jan. 16, 2027 at Salina South HS. Weather date is Jan. 23, which conflicts with KSU concert band clinic and the John Philip Sousa Honor Band at KU.

Chair Reports:

Billy Wicks, assistant high school band chair

- Vesta Jo reminded him that the percussion audition has changed. Barb Elbracht has 4 excerpts that we need to use. Between Connie and Vesta Jo, those excerpts will be secured and posted on the website. The band can be up to 91 students. No clinician chosen at this time.

Lucas Burmeister, JH Band Chair

- New audition material is almost in place. Barb Elbracht and Vesta Jo Still will be meeting to determine the timpani excerpt and the cycle 2 music. All excerpts will be selected from Essential Elements 3 - Technique. Dr. Lucas Helker, FHSU, will be the clinician. Contract pending.

Megan Riener, JH Choir Chair

- Still looking for a clinician. Several names suggested. Kelsey Pinkerton, accompanist. Connie will send Kelsey a contract.

Maggie McKain, Elementary Choir report

- Emily Chapman, FHSU, clinician; Kayla Wombacher, accompanist

The November convention will be Nov. 7, 2026 in Norton. Joey Nickols will serve as site co-ordinator. Praise was given for a job well done last year. Megan was asked to order 6 dozen donuts again.

The December convention will be Dec. 5, 2026 at FHSU. Auuna Marzen will serve as site co-ordinator. All rooms have been reserved. Maggie will double check on the rooms for the orchestra.

Megan Riener moved, Max Befort seconded to give Terry Crull a \$50 gift certificate to thank him for serving as site coordinator for the December convention for all these years. Motion passed.

Terry Crull was also nominated for the outstanding collegiate educator award.

Staying Sharp (#) Together - mentoring workshop will be either Sept. 13 or Sept 20. Joey is working on that.

Katrina Long has been nominated for an outstanding high school music educator award. Joey encouraged other nominations. He sent another email out to NW teachers reminding them to nominate by August. 1. Joey moved, seconded by Lisa to change the NW outstanding teaching experience to 5 years instead of 10, since there are so many new teachers in our district. Motion passed.

To be eligible for the State Outstanding Educator award a person must have taught at least 10 years. This is a state regulation.

Billy Wicks moved, seconded by Max Befort to name Vesta Jo Still, apprentice Executive Director. Motion passed. Connie is ready to turn over the job. She will train Vesta Jo over the next year or two.

Megan Riener moved to adjourn, seconded by Lucas Burmeister and Julia Cunningham. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
NW Executive Director

Vesta Jo Still
NW Apprentice Executive Director

