

VMEA All State Music Festival 2009  
General Meeting – Minutes  
Essex High School Friday, May 8, 2009

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. with an introduction by Festival Director Steffen Parker.

- 1) **2008 MINUTES** (highlights) – Jim Chlebak
  - Read highlights from 2007, referencing 2006 minutes.
  - Great festival at Vergennes last year.
  - Managers' reports were all very positive.
  - Meeting Reports:
    - a) Jazz – move from ballad to unfamiliar changes was successful
    - b) Scholarship
      - (1) large percentage of unqualified students
      - (2) don't give less than \$100 in scholarships
  - Festival Director's Report
    - a) 70% of the workload could be avoided
    - b) Miscommunication is the biggest challenge
  - MOTION: To approve by Andy Miskavage, Gary Moreau; PASSED, unanimous.
- 2) **FINANCIAL REPORT** – Jim Chlebak/Steffen Parker
  - Moving financial control to QuickBooks has been challenging, but has now allowed us to catch up and gives us tools for analysis. All current unpaid balances have been invoiced.
  - We can use email invoicing, but need accurate addresses. Teacher cooperation is essential. Of 10 invoices sent, 4 returned wrong addresses.
  - Keeping up with late fees is the biggest challenge.
  - Teachers should please be aware of bad debt and how that affects festival profits. Their cooperation in resolving unpaid balances is greatly appreciated.
  - MOTION: To approve by Andy Miskavage, Gary Moreau; PASSED, unanimous.
- 3) **FESTIVAL HOSTS' REPORT** – Glory Douglass Reinstein, Ace Ali, Trish Cornett
  - Glory Douglass Reinstein – You learn how much there is do to when you do it, you learn how much Stef does.
  - Ace Ali – You learn to appreciate your coworkers.
  - Glory Douglass Reinstein – Housing is a huge challenge. You really need savvy people who get started early.
  - Need help shuffling chairs, moving orchestra from library to the gym.
  - Saturday is a staggered start. Orchestra puts luggage in rear third of the gym. When the band arrives, their luggage goes in that space as well. Be quiet because orchestra rehearsing. Chorus puts luggage in auditorium. Need people from 9:30 to 10:15.
  - Locker rooms available for changing.
  - Band, chorus, orchestra, no changeover time. Quite a quick concert., 2 hours and 15. The expectation is that every student will stay.

- Faculty and Bob Clifford, food service director, have been highly complimentary of our kids.
- 4) 2009 FESTIVAL HOST WELCOME – Dan Graves, Rutland
- Stef: Thanks to Rutland for filling in.
  - Dan Graves: We'll be at the old Rutland High School.
  - Stef: Thanks to Mount Mansfield for taking the 2013 slot.
- 5) MANAGERS
- JAZZ – Bruce Sklar, manager
    - a) Ray Vega is a wonderful guy
    - b) Top-notch performing artist
    - c) Brian McCarthy was an All State jazz member 10 years ago, now a superb saxophonist and along with Dave Grippo has really been helping out with sectionals, etc.
    - d) Finding someone last year was tough. Jeff Galinda did a clinic a year or so ago at Harwood. He changed his whole approach to accommodate the schedule; he would be a good pick. Others [YYYnames]
    - e) Stef – Once again, the jazz band is performing at the Flynn Festival
  - ORCHESTRA – Ann Decker, manager
    - a) Bruce Uchimura is working them hard, but has a great sense of humor
    - b) He says has more rehearsal time than he needs.
    - c) Kids were fairly well prepared, with level fluctuating from section to section, specifically, the horn section.
    - d) Bruce Uchimura has been impressed by the host and atmosphere.
  - BAND – Brent White
    - a) Tony Maiello is extremely pleased with the kids: "We'll be fine."
    - b) He was disappointed that there are only 4 horns.
    - c) He loves Vermont.
    - d) He is sending sections out on break while he works the others.
    - e) He is very appreciative of the music teachers' work.
    - f) Next year, trying to get in touch with Jack Stamp (Tony's recommendation), possibly Gary Green
  - CHORUS – Ann Harvey
    - a) Music went out late, but due to unforeseen circumstances
    - b) Kids do seem very well prepared
    - c) Music tracks seem to have really helped
    - d) Lost one student to flu
    - e) Michael Huff is loving the kids and they are loving him.
    - f) The music is not that hard, but he is doing really quality work with them.
    - g) Tony **Niche** [?] is at the top of my list. **He managed the gospel choir at ACDA.**
    - h) I could use some help with logistics shuffling people in and out.
    - i) Paul Hawkins will help out next year.
- 6) COMMITTEE REPORTS
- JAZZ –
    - a) Everything seems to be working fine
    - b) Keeping the rotation

- c) Talked about publishing play along excerpts
- d) Possibly second person in the horn room.
- e) No rubric for pianists and drums comping, same for bass player. Possibly add one with 10 points
- f) MOTION: Andy Matt Tatro
- SCHOLARSHIP – Gary Moreau
  - a) How do we set a level so we don't have folks showing up who are not at the level? Could we have district competitions? The help of teachers in weeding out those who are not quite ready would be helpful.
  - b) Judges want to make this a learning experience and some of the judges didn't feel as comfortable on piano comments as on vocal. Separating out jazz auditions has helped.
  - c) MOTION: Bruce Andy
- COMPOSITION –
  - a) Questions about timing and turnaround.
  - b) We suggest that all submissions be made through PDF files, sent from the teacher's email (in lieu of signature.)
  - c) Anne – Add to the handbook that anyone who can't make a PDF can ask for help
  - d) Cc to Anne
  - e) Add language to the audition process that says the student would provide the ensemble.
  - f) Some minor work on rubrics.
  - g) MOTION: Matt Ron Kelley passed Un
- VOCAL – ANNE
  - a) We will judge two live vocal quartet at the beginning of the day and talk about how the rubric would work.
  - b) 3 quartet rooms was enough, but we recommend having 5 sight-reading rooms.
  - c) Current song rotation works to place students.
  - d) Online adjudication in its first year worked great, but we should have some sort of paper back up.
  - e) Something to identify each judge by computer.
  - f) Post sight-reading from this year as
  - g) Rubric change – 3 column change to “one or two wrong pitches”
  - h) Clarify language on humming during auditions.
  - i) Paul – Initial discussion was a bit casual and
  - j) Jim Chlebak – suggest a test run with two non-competing groups from a big school.
  - k) Matt – need to schedule that group first
  - l) MOTION: Dan, Gary UN
- INSTRUMENTAL – Rob Zimmerman
  - a) Brevity and good work
  - b) Keep the pieces for next year [?]
  - c) Rotation: Don't change euphonium for 2010
  - d) Tuba changes: Yes, replace ...**

- e) Do we need two for each room? Yes!
- f) Strongly recommend 2011, 2012, drop Gaillard for euphonium
- g) MOTION to accept report: Bill K, Matt
- a) Discussion: Frank: could we go with one judge
  1. Andy Mis: two judges helps with ties
  2. Giselle McCrae: you might judge your own student
  3. Sue O'Daniel: we can have one low brass room because there are two
  4. Ace: 10 minutes is not a lot of time, with only one judge we would get back logged.
  5. Bill K: It's a courtesy to the student to have one judge welcome the student while the other keeps writing
  6. Mary: Instrumentalists are vying for seats
- b) Discussion: Do we use rooms as an incentive?
  1. Steve Olson: Make a motion to pay \$50 stipend for those judging for two weeks. Matt, 2nd
  2. Sarah Stumpff: can we get credit? Stef: Yes.
  3. Andrea H: Can adjudicators be hosted by area teachers?
  4. Giselle: In lieu of housing? Steve: no. But I think that's it's reasonable to say we're not paying housing for those living closer than 45 minutes
  5. Bruce: Does this include little big band players?
  6. Elizabeth Guiguere: \$25 per day is not enough.
  7. Jim: We can have projections for next year
  8. Anne: We can't make a decision with no physical information
  9. MOTION: no, one absention
  10. Stef will organize a round-table discussion for the fall 2009 conference, probably around lunch time.
- 7) VMEA – Gary
  - Need new email information
  - Working with [**company name**] to use email to communicate
  - Each district can update the calendar of events statewide
  - This past year, we began billing in June 08. Many were lost. In 09, bills will be sent out in September.
  - If you feel your school is paying too much, let me know.
  - VPA did not subsidize us, they only gave us seed money.
  - The original idea was to pay Steffen a stipend.
  - Gary paid Stef a stipend, his first in 20 years. We were hoping for \$10,000 but it has worked out in a little less.
  - Gary: I've now served for 4 years.
    - a) No finer teachers than those we have in Vermont.
    - b) Thanks very much for your support.
    - c) Pat Roberts will be taking over as president July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Matt: Is there a way for getting notification if your school has not paid so we don't get caught up without having paid?
  - Steve Rice: My business manager would accept invoices dated July 1 before we leave for the summer.

8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT – STEF

- Biggest challenge is inaccuracy of information
  - a) Please try to meet deadlines
  - b) If you don't hear back in 24 hours, I didn't get your email.
  - c) Festival by the numbers
    - (1) 7 birthday students
    - (2) 13 music educators' kids
    - (3) "Betsy" letters:
      - (a) 3 or more auditions
        - (i) 21 this year were successful in at least one
    - d) Jim: Please put your school name on the memo line if you're a teacher sending a personal check

9) 2009 – 2010 SCHEDULE

- see addendum
- Stef explained fees
  - a) 17 schedule changes on the Friday of the audition
  - b) Mary: should we ask them not to audition? Stef: Have them pay the fee.
  - c) Andy Mis: Can we specify the site on the online application form so students know which site they need to go to avoid conflicts? Stef:
  - d) Jim: Note the change in composition deadline – now online
- Steve O – I sent out a letter early in the year to all my parents and
- MOTION: Calendar and Report as amended: Matt Andy U
- Discussion: Gary – What are the parameters for Wed. night housing? Stef: nothing set, generally Wed is for band kids and those coming from a long distance. There were 140 housing requests for Wed. night. Gary: can we put in a suggestion?

10) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING STATUS

- Donations
- \$1 from each of the \$8 tickets
- \$500 to Springstead
  - a) MOTION to increase that amount to \$1000. Failed
  - b) Discussion:
    - (1) Gary: This would put the Springstead on par with the Ellis music scholarship and eliminate challenges in determining which students receive which.
    - (2) Matt: I would recommend we keep as is in order not to water down the pool for the others
    - (3) Bill K: I would not like to see the overall pool reduced
    - (4) Jim Chapman: Increase the \$500 to \$750, rather than \$1000.
  - c) MOTION to increase to \$750 Jim Sue Rule Passed
- Divvy the rest, with scholarship performers getting twice what others get. Honorable mention don't get anything.
- Lions Club has given \$1000 to general and \$1000 to scholarships.
  - a) Letter intimating that they might reduce our grant.
  - b) Not sure how they'll designate that be distributed.
- District IV gives \$500

- District V has been generous.
- Vermont Jazz Ensemble gives \$25 from Moonlight CDs.
- Based on selling 1000 tickets, we'll give about \$263 to performers.
- We now have a limit on number of awards.
- We started a trust fund in 1985. We have a long-term CD and a short term CD (\$18.5 in that account.)

11) Other business not

12) Dave Ellis – Wellness clinic changed to Stimulus Package.

13) MOTION: Matt Tatro, Sarah Hellman (Stumpff)