

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2007, MEETING OF THE TENNESSEE MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Riverdale High School, Murfreesboro, Tn

The meeting was called to order by President Meers at 10:36 a.m. central time.

Members present were:

Officers: Ron Meers, President; Gary Wilkes, President-Elect; Jeff Brewer, Immediate Past President; F. Michael Combs, Executive Secretary, and Jeanette Crosswhite, State Department of Education

State Chairs: Jim Burton, Band; Sandy Elliott, Choral; Laura Coppage, General Music; and Francie Beard, Orchestra

Association officers: Christy Bock, ETEMEA President; Jerald J. Souther, ETEMEA President-elect; David Putler, ETSBOA President; Joel Denton, ETSBOA President-Elect; Neshawn Calloway, ETVA President; Mike Short, ETVA President-elect; Sherry Littley, MTEMEA Vice-president; Emily Dickens, MTEMEA Secretary/treasurer; David Talbert, MTSBOA President; Randal Box, MTSBOA President-elect; Jeanette MacCallum, MTVA President; Valerie DeHoff, MTVA President-Elect; Barry Trobaugh, WTSBOA President; Brad Turner, WTSBOA President-elect; and Helen Redding, WTVA President

Project Chairs: Jamila McWhirter, CMENC Advisor; Debbie Burton, Tri-M Chair; Richard Mitchell, Music In Our Schools Chair; Bobby Jean Frost, State Conference Manager; Mark Garey, State Conference Registration chair; Tiffany DePriest, Treble Honor Chorus Chair; Billy Stepp, All-State General Chair

First order of business was to introduce the officers and have all in attendance introduce themselves.

Regional presidents' reports: The following regional associations presented brief reports about their associations' activities including membership, finances, activities, and related business:

ETEMEA, (WTEMEA, no report), MTEMEA (no report), WTVA, ETVA, MTVA, ETSBOA, MTSBOA, WTSBOA

There were some questions and comments from the floor relating to the issue of state testing

Meers: In area of mentoring, we really need things that are measurable. Members are encouraged to exchange information during caucus meetings. Should we be more demanding of our first year teachers to be sure that they get the help they need? There is something we have to do to improve the situation of our losing such a large number of

teachers during their first 5 years such as make the mentoring program more exact, more defined. Maybe as a state wide group, we should provide a better plan for everyone. Nor allowing first year teachers to go “unarmed.” Perhaps 2 or even 3 mentors assigned to a first year teacher.

McWhirter: (College) advisors know who the first year teachers are. Perhaps the information can be provided to area association presidents.

Brewer: Suggest Jamila contact Tennessee colleges and help with that information

Burton: Suggestion that associations gather information – number of those leaving, etc. Perhaps provided in association reports

Stepp: Suggestion to have page on web site with information about new teachers

Brewer: Suggested putting that information on CMENC page

Garey: Suggestion immediate past president of association be in charge of mentoring

Butler: In East Tennessee it is important that one person be responsible for the mentoring program;

Crosswhite: Universities should stay in contact with their recent graduates and get feedback from them

Coppage: K-8 teachers meet monthly to keep in touch with those people

General discussion among leaders regarding approaches to mentoring

Report: **Combs, TMEA Secretary/Treasure and Editor**

General report on TMEA finances and The Tennessee Musician. Noted that recent budget summary was e-mailed and is now posted on line.

Meers: President’s report Intro of new chair of Music in Our Schools, Richard Mitchell

Auditions - concern about groups at conference. Review of how groups are selected to perform. Review of groups that have applied so far; concern about choral applicants Concern about conflicts with state testing

Adjudication panel needs to be state wide; other concerns expressed

Dates: Southern Division making changes in their bi-annual conference; 2008 Sept 14-15 Southern Division Fall Leadership Conference – Atlanta (?) check location
Suggested that the 08-09 budget include an amount to support emerging leaders to be able to attend, perhaps \$1,000(?).

Brewer: Dacapo committee will recommend two candidates for president elect; asked for input from associations by Nov 1st; will recommend the candidates by January.

Jeanette Crosswhite: - 1) finance committee general report of activity
2) state dept of education report concerns and info about state education requirements
questions from members; general discussion

Meers: Read letter of resignation from T. Earl Hinton because of health problems.
Motion: Letter of appreciation to be sent to Hinton for his service and that he will return and continue working with our association when his health allows. Moved by Wilkes, 2nd by Burton. motion passed unanimously

Research committee, Lee: Written report from William Lee covering activities at 2007 conference and plans for sessions at 2008 conference

CMENC report, McWhirter: updates of activities: Plans for fall kickoff meeting Sept 22.
Request – please e-mail list of mentors to McWhirter for web site
Officers requested that they be copied on correspondence McWhirter sends out regarding state events.

Tri-M report, Burton: Has ideas and plans for this coming year including writing an article for the magazine

State music conference, Frost: written report provided that included proposals received to date and figures from the 2007 conference; discussion about selection of participants

College fair – concern about expenses
Recommended – perhaps cut the college fair out of the budget
Meers indicated higher ed may feel strongly about the event

All-State report, Billy Stepp: 640 students participated in 2007; suggestions about All-State are welcome and should be sent via e-mail to Billy
2008 conductors are now on web site
General report of past year's event and reminders about deadline for coming year

State conference registration, Mark Garey – report on numbers (provided in handout)

Combs - reminder about deadline of magazine – September 1
And reminder about new policy manual now on our web site

Brewer – noting his last year as an officer and thanked B J, Billy, and named a few others. Suggested to be in communication with your state chairs

Morning meeting adjourned at 12:15 for lunch

Following lunch were the caucus meetings and meeting of the officers. After that the Board of Directors met and those minutes are provided in a separate document.

Respectfully submitted by

F. Michael Combs,
TMEA Executive Secretary/Treasurer