



Tennessee Music Education Association
Virtual Meeting
Morning Session: 10:00 am-12:30 pm CST
Afternoon Session: 1:45 pm-5:00 pm CST
Board Minutes
July 11, 2020

In Attendance:

TMEA Board

- Executive Director: Michael Chester
- President: Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry
- President-Elect: Dr. Ryan Fisher
- Immediate Past-President: Lafe Cook
- Advocacy and Government Relations Chair: Dr. Christopher Dye
- Band Chair: Jacob Campos
- Choral Chair: Jason Whitson
- CNAfME Chair: Dr. Jody Blake
- Higher Education Chair: Dr. Robert Bryant
- Orchestra Chair: Anna Maria Miller
- General Music Chair: Franklin Willis
- SMTE/Research Chair: Dr. Loneka Wilkinson Battiste
- Editor, *Tennessee Musician*: Anna Laura Williams
- Minutes: Dian Eddleman
- *Guest* - ArtsEdTN: Stephen Coleman
- *Guest*- TN Coordinator of Fine Arts: Todd Shipley

I.) Call to Order

President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on Saturday July 11, 2020.

II.) Roll Call

President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry called upon each board member to introduce themselves.

III.) Meeting Norms/Board Expectations

President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry perused the items listed in the TMEA google documents including the TMEA By-Laws and TMEA Policies/Procedures. She also asked the board to look over chair descriptions and complete respective folders.

Discussion continued regarding Association/Board experiences, expectations and vision for TMEA.

IV.) Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Cook, seconded by Miller, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the TMEA Board and Council meeting August 10, 2019.

V.) Executive Director Report

TMEA Executive Director Michael Chester presented a snapshot of the finances of TMEA. There is presently \$116,427.67 in the TMEA back account. He plans to provide a complete financial report at the scheduled TMEA monthly meetings.

VI.) Publications Report

Previous editor Michael Chester stated the TMEA monthly publication journal, *The Tennessee Musician*, will continued as planned. Anna Laura Williams will serve as Editor.

A tribute program will be added to the website acknowledging the TMEA All State Students and the TBA Honors Recital students. Publication revenue was also discussed.

VII.) Fine Arts Focus Group

TN Coordinator of Fine Arts, Todd Shipley, discussed the NAFME and NFHS Arts Education is Essentials statement reaffirming the importance of music and arts education to our nation's schools. The Arts is Essential statement is supported by over fifty national organizations. There was discussion concerning the schools closure toolkit and the reopening of schools toolkit including the arts specific guidance document which will possibly be released through ArtsEdTN, if needed.

VI.) ArtsEd Tennessee

Stephen Coleman reported on the formation of this state-wide coalition to support arts education in our schools. The report included various advocacy work in support of arts education. He encouraged all to sign up and follow ArtsEdTN on Facebook. ArtsEdTN is presently working with schools to provide a form on the website in order to connect teachers with an advocacy team to help provide local advocacy material.

_VII.) Housekeeping

TMEA Executive Director Michael Chester asked board members to complete the jot form link regarding contact information. Other forms discussed included the confidentiality agreement as well as the disclosure agreement.

VII.) Open Issues:

Middle School Honor Choir: It was moved by Whitson, seconded by Willis, and carried unanimously to table the addition of the Middle School Honor choir until TMEA makes the decision of future conferences.

V.) New Business

Discussion was led by President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry to formulate a secretary position within TMEA. The position would be responsible for taking minutes, posting of minutes on the TMEA website and work with the executive committee concerning policies of TMEA. It was moved by Fisher, seconded by Bryant to create the position of TMEA Secretary responsible for taking minutes and reporting on behalf of the organization. The position will be an ex-officio member of the TMEA Board and a non-voting position.

Advocacy Efforts by TMEA:

**Friends of TMEA:* Immediate-Past President Lafe Cook led a discussion on the “Friends of TMEA” advocacy efforts. Discussion included marketing improvements and the specific purpose of the program. It was suggested to re-write specific purposes of the income brought in by this program and to add a position to the TMEA board representing the group.

**Letter to Superintendents/Op-Ed in Tennessean:* Chris Dye and Lafe Cook discussed the opportunity to possibly rewrite and follow up regarding access and education funding. The Letter to Superintendents was scripted as a plea to Superintendents to remember the value of arts education in our schools. TMEA plans to follow up with a second letter after the arts guidance is released.

**Arts Is Essential Document:* President-Elect Dr. Ryan Fisher encouraged board members to share this document which is on the NAFME website. TMEA created a response to the document which is on the TMEA Facebook page and TMEA website. TMEA participated in monetarily supporting the University of Colorado study.

**University of Colorado Study:* TMEA plans to communicate the results of the study directly to our members upon completion.

Conference:

It was planned to continue discussion with Conference Direct concerning the possibility of virtual conference, hybrid models etc.

One option would include taking one year off (2021) and adding it to the end of the five-year contract with Gaylord Opryland. Discussion will also include renegotiating the food and beverage minimum, room block, reducing meeting capacities and the concern of not being able to use the force majeure clause.

Second option would include keeping the conference but requesting to remove the food and beverage minimum and adjust the hotel block as needed.

Additional discussion included expanding the conference to be more relevant to our members and attendees. It was decided to continue with Conference Direct and articulate adjusting the conference contract. The TMEA board charged the executive committee to work with Conference Direct concerning cancelling the 2021 conference.

CMA Grant:

President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry discussed the utilization of the CMA grant funds. The cancelled 2020 conference was replaced with the virtual *TMEA Keeping the Beat* program. She led a review of the virtual webinars on the *TMEA Keeping the Beat* YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM61iONDcv4WLFdTuPtFdNw>

as well as the TMEA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/keepingthebeat.tmea>

The initial budget was set at \$7000 specifically for presenter stipends. This program was constructed by Julie Hill and President Derryberry.

President Derryberry led a discussion regarding the vision for the 2020-2021 CMA grant. Jacob Campos suggested an educational television production, web series possibly engaging musical activities for children. Ryan Fisher suggested higher ed combining in virtual meetings as supported by TMEA. President Derryberry asked board members to send suggestions to the executive board for continued utilization of the grant money. The possibility of utilizing and supporting an account for statewide virtual auditions was also reviewed. Dian Eddleman will work with NAFME in possibly providing such a program nationwide.

President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry reviewed the CNAfME meeting set for September 26, anticipated monthly TMEA board meetings as well as meeting with project chairs and council members. The TMEA Council will meet August 15. Anna Laura Williams reminded the board to submit headshots and bios.

VI.) Adjournment

It was moved by Campos, seconded by Whitson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:05p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dian Eddleman

Minutes Approved September 27, 2020