



Tennessee Music Education Association
Council Minutes
August 13, 2023

In Attendance:

TMEA Board of Directors

- Executive Director: Michael Chester
- President Dr. Ryan Fisher
- President-Elect Joel Denton
- Advocacy and Government Relations Chair Dr. Christopher Dye
- Band Chair Ollie Liddell
- Choral Chair Elicia Garcia Curry
- NAFME Collegiate Chair Dr. Michael Chandler
- Higher Education Chair Lauren Ramey
- Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright
- General Music Chair Ben Torres
- Communications Manager & Editor, *Tennessee Musician* Anna Laura Williams
- TMEA Secretary Dian Eddleman
- Absent: Immediate Past-President: Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, SMTE/Research Chair Dr. Loneka Wilkinson Battiste

TMEA Project Chairs

- Webmaster Mr. John Womack
- TRI-M Pam Wilensky
- Music In Our Schools Month Lisa Crunk
- Guitar Education (Modern Band) Michael Parson
- Retired Teachers Deb Gouge
- Jazz Education Policy Frank Zimmerer
- Music Merchants Industry Scott Lane
- Absent: Equity in Music Committee Co-Chair Roland Wilson

TMEA Conference and All-State Management Team

- TN All-State Choral Chair Dr. Brian Russell

- TN All-State Instrumental Chair Carter Noblin
- TN Treble Honor Choir Chair Tiffany Barton
- TN All-State Jazz Band Chair Cord Martin
- TMEA Conference Performance Chairs Susan Kelly and Justin Scott
- Equity in Music Committee Co-Chair Jasmine Fripp
- Music Advocacy Task Force Committee Chair Dru Davison
- Absent: Conference Registration Chair Mark Garey

TMEA Council (Regional Leaders)

WTGMEA President-Elect Allen Moody

WTVMEA President Adrian Maclin

WTVMEA President-Elect Reachel Hudgins

WTSBOA President Benjamin Martin

MTGMEA President Abbi Miller

MTVA President Lorna Pyka

MTVA President Elect TJ McLaughlin

MTSBOA President Stacy Jernigan

MTSBOA President Elect Chris Seger

ETVA President Kristen Wiram

ETVA President Elect William Brimer

ETSBOA President Jim Burton

ETSBOA President-Elect Megan Christian

I. Call to Order

President Dr. Ryan Fisher called the meeting to order at 3:01pm August 13, 2023.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ben Martin, seconded by Ben Torres and carried unanimously to approve the corrected minutes of the TMEA Council meeting January 29, 2023.

IV. Executive Director Report/Financial Statement

TMEA Executive Director Michael Chester reported the current balance of the TMEA checking account is \$38,918.51 and the current savings account balance is \$32,833.17. TMEA is in a healthy position financially. He also stated TMEA has the goal to accrue \$50,000 in a high yield investment account by the end of his contracted service.

Mr. Chester reported the TMEA FY2024 Board budget was passed in the earlier board meeting today.

V. Communications Manager Report

Communications Manager Anna Laura Williams asked the council to verify all council contact information as presently listed on the TMEA website. She reported on the various links of all TMEA social media and requested the council to utilize social media. Ms. Williams also reported on the upcoming membership drive.

VI. 2023 NAFME Leadership Assembly/Hill Day/Collegiate Leadership Summit recap

Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession

Divisive Concepts Laws and Music Education Report

Hill Day report - Jaydon Headrick

Mr. Headrick presented a report from Hill Day held during the NAFME Leadership Summit this summer. Leadership topics were also covered during this event. President Fisher discussed the importance of advocacy as discussed during the summit and a new NAFME initiative concerning the music teacher shortage as well as many additional NAFME initiatives supporting music education.

VII. 2023 TMEA Conference Reflection

President Fisher opened the floor to the TMEA Council to reflect and discuss 2023 conference review.

Frank Zimmerer thanked the board for scheduling in person caucuses. Lisa Crunk discussed the informative sessions as well as positive networking. Adrian Maclin stated the performance ensembles worked well as they were scheduled in the same block and attendance numbers were up this year for these performance ensembles.

Ben Martin stated some concern with the spotlight percussion ensembles performances scheduled in the exhibit hall. This change is already in effect for next year.

Jim Burton asked for a comparison of space issues from year to year and the contracting for the conference space around Holy Week calendars. Tiffany Barton requested the Treble Honor Choir not be placed in the same type area as this past year. Jasmine Fripp suggested the all state ensembles have some time in the schedule to attend some collegiate performances and also stated some concern of diverse representation among the clinicians and the fact that some of the All State repertoire was not performed in authenticity. In addition, Ms. Fripp really appreciated the variety of clinicians that addressed DEI topics on the choral classroom.

VIII. 2024 TMEA Conference updates/announcements

President Fisher discussed the issue of space concerns for the upcoming contracted conferences. Performance Ensembles Chairs Susan Kelly and Justin Scott announced the upcoming conference performance ensembles. The 2024 conference interest sessions have been reviewed and acceptance letters have been sent out. All State Clinicians were announced by Chairs Brian Russell, Carter Noblin and Treble Choir Chair Tiffany Barton.

IX. FY24 TMEA Rates

President Fisher reported on the fee changes as adopted by the TMEA Board of Directors. He asked the TMEA Council to disseminate these changes to their regional associations. Executive

Director Michael Chester discussed and reviewed the importance of the regional deadlines for membership fees.

X. 9th Grade Participation in All State Choral Ensembles

President Fisher discussed the proposal for the 9th grade participation in all state choral ensembles. This initiative is a result of the work by the appointed task force over this initiative. The TMEA Board did approve that Ninth grade students will be eligible to participate in TMEA All State Choral Ensembles beginning in 2024. He asked the regional associations to make adjustments in their respective bylaws and policies for ninth graders to be eligible to participate in their regional associations ensembles in order to become eligible to participate in the all state choral ensembles.

XI. Affiliate Association Reports (Association Presidents or Presidents-Elect)

These reports are in the Tennessee Musician publication. Regional Association officers reported on activities and events from their respective regional associations.

XII. Equity in Music Committee Report (Roland Wilson and Jasmine Fripp)

Co-Chair Jasmine Fripp reported the committee has started an Equity in Music Facebook page. Other work includes the process of incorporating bylaws and asking regional associations to review their bylaws to ensure equity.

XIII. Music Advocacy Task Force report (Dru Davison)

Chair Dru Davison reported on the advocacy task force members, goals of this committee, as well as training presentations and workshops for school leaders.

XIV. All-State Modern Band report (Michael Parsons)

TMEA All State Modern Band Chair Michael Parsons reported on the inaugural modern band from this past year at Briarcrest. Expansions are in place to incorporate students who are interested in music industry concepts, songwriting, and legal aspects of the industry. Battleground Academy, Nashville, will be hosting the event in 2024. Dr. Steve Holley has expressed an interest in serving as the clinician for the coming year. President Fisher discussed a professional development component that is geared for high school students interested in more of a music industry type world. Lauren Ramey will be spearheading these efforts working with music industry professors from across the state.

XV. Adjournment

It was moved by Ben Martin, seconded by Ben Torres and carried unanimously to adjourn the TMEA Council meeting at 4:55pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Dian Eddleman

