



**Tennessee Music Education Association  
Virtual Meeting  
Board Minutes  
Sunday March 19, 2023**

In Attendance:

**TMEA Board**

- President Dr. Ryan Fisher
- President-Elect Joel Denton
- Immediate Past President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry
- Executive Director Michael Chester
- Secretary Dian Eddleman
- General Music Chair Ben Torres
- NAFME Collegiate Chair Dr. Michael Chandler
- Choral Chair Demetrius Robinson
- Government Relations Chair Dr. Christopher Dye
- Band Chair Dr. Ollie Liddell
- Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright
- Higher Education Chair Lauren Ramey
- SMTE/Research Chair Dr. Loneka Wilkinson-Battiste
- TMEA Publications Managing Editor and Communications Anna Laura Williams

**I. Call to Order** –President Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:03pm Sunday March 19, 2023.

**II. Roll Call and Welcome**  
See above.

**III. Approval of 2/19/2023 Minutes**– President Fisher  
The motion was made by Michael Chandler, seconded by Ben Torres and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2023 TMEA Virtual Board Meeting Minutes.

**IV. Executive Director Report-TMEA Executive Michael Chester**

TMEA Executive Director Michael Chester stated the February financial report is in google drive. TMEA has a current checking account balance of \$113,466.55 and \$32,785.83 in the TMEA savings account. \$70,000 worth of invoices will be disseminated this week and are largely due to regional all state student and director payments. \$91,993.66 is presently due to

Gaylord Opryland and additional payments will be due closer to conference. Mr. Chester did state he is keeping a watch regarding our bank, First Horizon, due to the latest development in the banking world.

#### **V. Conference Update**

President Fisher asked the TMEA board chairs to send in the presider list for sessions in each area.

Executive Director Michael Chester covered the following conference checklist:

- Contacting previous exhibitors and colleges/universities that have not booked exhibit space to see if they are interested in booking for this year.
- Executive Director Chester asked other state MEA's for exhibitor lists.
- Mr. Chester also covered the financial report of past conference exhibits in comparison to where TMEA is now. He is working with Jenn Rothschild with Conference Direct to see if TMEA can get the audio-visual costs down.
- Other checklist items include exhibit hall map, Music For All sponsoring TMEA conference lanyards, sponsors for badges, RFP proposals and conference program and all state program expenses.

#### **VI. Pre-Conference Caucus Reports**

- Higher Education Caucus

Higher Education Chair Dr. Lauren Ramey stated the concern over the change in the praxis exam with the separation of licensing levels as well as the various interest areas.

There was also discussion regarding the NAFME collegiate membership. Dr. Loneka Wilkinson-Battiste stated discussion also included the roles of presidors for conference.

- NAFME Collegiate Caucus

NAFME Collegiate Chair Dr. Michael Chandler led the caucus regarding opportunities for preparing for the praxis and the possibility of having a session, during the state conference, for collegiates to meet and collaborate statewide regarding praxis preparation. Dr. Chandler asked if collegiates could serve as presidors and inquired about the possibility of reinstating NAFME collegiate officers.

- Orchestra Caucus

Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright covered topics that would benefit the orchestra caucus during the conference. She has asked Anna Maria Miller to preside over the orchestra caucus due to her absence.

- General Music Caucus

General Music Chair Ben Torres led the discussion concerning the general music clinicians that will be presenting during the state conference.

- Band Caucus

Band Chair Dr. Ollie Liddell led the discussion concerning the use of Gaylord Opryland and the schedule of caucus meetings. A second pre-conference band caucus will be held April 2. Other areas of concern include the value of in-person vs virtual meetings, assisting band programs in rural areas, professional development for educators, all state submissions, and state concert festival. Executive Director Michael Chester reviewed the process of Phi Beta Mu composing the list of instrumental clinicians for conference.

- Choral Caucus

Choral Chair Demetrius Robinson led the discussion including the task force of incorporating ninth grade into all state, 6th-8<sup>th</sup> grade all state honor choir, repertoire lists, and music literacy utilizing different levels of sightreading,

#### **VII. Additional Business**

TMEA MIOSM has received the approval of the Governor's Proclamation. Government Relations Chair Dr. Christopher Dye reviewed the board on procedures taking place in the Tennessee Legislature. There is proposed legislation (HB0809) that would eliminate the current average class sizes, effectively raising the limits for class sizes by five students at every grade level. The intent of the bill is to address teacher shortages by allowing fewer teachers to teach larger classes. President Fisher asked the TMEA board chairs to reach out to the regional officers to communicate this information to their regional membership.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Michael Chandler, seconded by Dr. Loneka Battiste and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:58pm.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dian Eddleman*