

South Dakota Music Education Association

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2020

Zoom Meeting/SDMEA Conference

3:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Bethany Amundson, Mike Bossman, Kim Bruguier, Laura Schenk, Sheri Holt, Dave Sanderson, Iwona Lewter, Laura Cooper, Kim Bogart, Ryan Stahle

Board Members Absent: Angela Larson, Calvin Lipetzky, Heather Nelson, Paul Schilf Tanya Davis, Jon Bakken, Molly Stueckrath, Char Cade,, Kortney Temple , Vicki Hyder, Kristen Dunlap, Danny Eye, Deb Rohrer, Erin McFarland, Colby Shuck, Wendy Van Gent

President Amundson brought the virtual meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. During this meeting board members shared updates on their events. Some events have been canceled due to the pandemic, others are still being planned in hopes that they will occur.

Middle School All State Orchestra

Laura Cooper reported on the Middle School All-State Orchestra event. This event is for students in grades 6-8. Sixty students are usually chosen across the state by the audition process. Auditions are due by Nov. 15th at midnight. This event is scheduled for February 19th and 20th in Brandon. The weekend also includes the SDSTA High School Honors Orchestra which has twenty students performing.

SDMEA Freshmen Festival

Kim Bruguier reported for this festival. This is a new festival that has occurred just in the past two years. It has been held in Mitchell and usually takes place in November. This year we were unable to have it due to the pandemic but we look forward to holding it once again next fall. This is a great kick-off for freshmen. It gets them excited and helps them to grow musically and then take that back to their home schools with them.

[Middle School All-State Jazz Band](#)

Ryan Stahle reported that All-State Jazz Band is now in its fifth year. This event will hopefully take place February 5-6 in Mitchell.

[Middle School All-State Band](#)

President Amundson reported that Middle School All-State Band auditions are due in December. 200 students are usually selected. We are still hoping that this event will happen.

[Elementary Honor Choir](#)

This event is planned for January 9th in Sioux Falls. This is an honor choir open to students in grade 4-6. Students are auditioned as 3-5 students in March of the previous school year. Normally it is open to 140-180 singers but due to the pandemic we will have 86 singers. The students have been selected and have received their music already.

[Elementary Festival Choir](#)

Kim Bruguier reported that this festival is in its 12th year and she has been a part of it since the start. She has enjoyed watching it grow and develop. It has now grown to seven different host sites. Registrations were sent out last week with hopes that this event will happen in March.

[Middle School Festival Chorus](#)

Iwona Lewter reported on this event. The Middle School Festival Chorus will hopefully be held on April 14th in Mitchell. This event is open to 7th and 8th grade students. In a normal year there are usually two or three event sites and each school could nominate 15 students. This year that number will be reduced due to the pandemic. The registration for nominations is February 26th. The festival choir has two directors, one for treble voices and one for changed voices.

Summer Session

Kim Bruguier reported that the summer session was started four years ago. The intent was to have a one day workshop for teachers that would also offer continued education credit. Last year 70 teachers met in person. Last August was a virtual session due to the pandemic but we still had 50 plus teachers in attendance. Clinicians are often chosen for their national prestige. We are looking forward to meeting face to face once again!

Tri-M Chapter

Bethany Amundson described what Tri-M is and what the benefits of having a Tri-M Chapter could be if you had one at your school.

Awards

Awards will still be given in April with All-State Chorus and Orchestra. Nominations are being taken for [Distinguished Service to Music and Outstanding Young Music Educator of the Year](#).

Executive Board

The executive board usually travels to Washington DC each year to attend the National Assembly but this year it was held virtually. The goal focused on advocacy for music in the midst of COVID. Documents and letters were written throughout the summer and sent out to SD schools. [Music Education Recommendations/Suggestions for SD Fall 2020](#) was a document created in collaboration between a variety of associations with the common goal of keeping music education alive during these difficult times. Many thanks to the collaborative work of SDACDA, SD American String Teachers Association, SD Bandmasters, SDMEA, and SD National Associations of Teachers of Singing. This document was shared with the SD Department of Education and they have added it to their website. The executive board would like to keep communication lines open with the SD Department of Education to advocate for music in our schools.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Submitted by Sheri Holt