

SWKMEA Directors Meetings Minutes December 5, 2015 @ Dodge City High School Rm. F104

INSTRUMENTAL @ 9:00am

GENERAL NOTES:

President **Lynn Unruh** welcomed all the Instrumental Directors and they introduced themselves to the entire group. 30 were in attendance.

Lynn Unruh asked about how the new format for the MS Band and HS Jazz Band Festival went? Most agreed that it went well. Especially the facilitators, who felt it eased the burden of the day.

MS BAND

Grant Mathews (MS Band Chairperson) spoke about the numbers for the day:

257 entries

202 recordings submitted

70 more than last year

Light in a couple of sections

98 7th Graders auditioned

104 8th Graders auditioned

The band had 104 students in it and it was an even split of 7th/8th grade students.

There was an even split of Digital recordings versus CD.

Grant Mathews felt that it was a great day and most all students were prepared well.

Johannah Cox from Lawrence Public Schools was the clinician. We are currently looking for a unison audition. This would alleviate the director's responsibility to find all of the different parts for different instruments.

22 responses to a survey **Grant** sent out last year to change the audition process. (20 positive and 2 negative) The SW KMEA Board moved to vote and accepted the change last summer (Summer 2015).

Elaine Wierman likes the change and thinks it will ease the process in smaller schools. **Grant** added that even large schools will benefit from this change in the process. It should encourage more auditions. **Grant** asked that directors screen the entries at home before sending them in. He understands the educational point of the audition process, but if a student records and it is not a quality audition, consider not sending it in.

HS BAND

Shawn Martin (HS Band Chairperson) spoke about the clinician with high regards. This year's clinician **Dr. John Taylor** from Friends University.

250 Entries for HS Band

157 actually send in a recording

108 in the HS Band

1 alternate was used

1 called in yesterday (12.4.15) and did not show, but there was no time to call the alternate.

HS JAZZ BAND

Jonathan Yust (HS Jazz Band Chairperson) spoke about the HS Jazz clinician **Steve Lueth** from Barton County Community College.

57 registered students

40 auditions

Used digital recordings this year. 8 digital. There were a couple of issues with formatting of the digital recordings.

Saxophones and Trumpets were represented well, but the rhythm section was a little weak in the entries. Also, a little low on Trombones.

Gabe Moore asked if it is possible for students to audition for both HS Band and HS Jazz Band...The answer is YES!

OPEN QUESTIONS:

A point of concern arose from moving the MS Choir to January. It conflicts with several Honor Groups at Universities.

Pushing it back to February was presented, but there too, it causes conflicts with some MS athletic games.

Several added that it was good to move it, because it alleviated conflict and increased their auditions.

VOCAL @ 10:00am

GENERAL NOTES:

President **Lynn Unruh** welcomed all the Vocal Directors and they introduced themselves to the entire group. 33 were in attendance.

HS BAND

Brandon Wade (HS Choir Chairperson) handed out data of the past few years. The clinician this year is **Dr. Matthew Montague** from Pittsburg State University.

SW Choir Meeting Talking Points:

- All State Choir Formula is being calculated according to population. This has not happened for the past 10 – 12 years. Minimum amount of quartets sent to the All-State Choir will be six.
- The All-State Choir list will not be released until January 13th the same date that the All-State Band list is released.
- SW KMEA District Honor Choir Data from 2014-2016.
- Concert attire for students.
 - Black and White
 - School formals (Robes/Tuxes/Dresses)
 - Slacks and Tie, Dresses

- Need to vote to set a concert attire for future years.
- After students have audition they need to go away and sit down. They cannot be playing basketball.
 - Better supervision in the gym! No food and pop!
 - Take care of the great hosts that we have!

Brandon talked about lots, and lots, and lots of cancellations for auditions this year.

We had 342 pre-register from 38 schools this year for SW KMEA District Honor Choir.
We had 341 pre-register from 37 schools last year.

For the year of 2014 we had 251 actually audition.
For this year of 2015 we had 229 actually audition.

For 2015 we had:

46 Basses Audition (67 pre-register)
32 Tenors Audition (50 pre-register)
80 Sopranos Audition (117 pre-register)
71 Altos Audition (108 pre-register)

For 2014 we had:

53 Basses Audition (68 pre-register)
27 Tenors Audition (41 pre-register)
83 Sopranos Audition (118 pre-register)
88 Altos Audition (115 pre-register)

2015 Honor Choir total 172

52 Altos
38 Basses
54 Sopranos
28 Tenors

2014 Honor Choir total 161

52 Altos
35 Basses
52 Sopranos
22 Tenors

Brandon Wade suggested that we suggest and vote on Concert Attire for SW KMEA District Choir.

Suggestions from Members:

Flat Shoes

Gentlemen wear ties

Black and White color (this follows the protocol for State)

State asks for a Jacket for men

Ladies Skirt or Slacks (Skirt at least to the knee) – No slacks at State

No Bare Shoulders

A Question came up...If less than a ¼ of our students go to State, why do we want to follow the State protocol? Brandon answered that there should be an etiquette that is followed and that our standards should be raised for this formal event.

It was mentioned that we could help the students find clothing, especially in districts that have a larger number of students classified as low socio-economic status. Also, we have 3 weeks to get this accomplished.

A side discussion was brought up about an email list for all Choral Teachers to be able to speak to one another easily.

Brandon asked that on Audition Day at the Dodge City Middle School we try to keep up with our students and help keep control in the gym and the hallways...We are thinly spread on that day, but maybe can create a person who is a runner/discipline helper.

A discussion about playing the Example CD of Auditions arose about how often the CD was played and a decision will be made about how it will be played.

MS CHOIR

Jodi Reese (MS Choir Chairperson)

336 Names sent in for MS Choir

214 were accepted

Almost perfect with the quartet numbers

Numbers are up!

2/3 were accepted

Jodi believes it will be a learning experience for the Elementary students as they watch the older MS Choir students.

Schedule for the day is a big question. Several teachers have asked when and where to be...Please try to be where students are moving. That's the most important time.

5-6 said they would be willing to help with sectionals.

Practice tracks will be ready soon! **Jodi** is hoping to get them to **Troy Johnson** this week. Check the website. Elementary ones should be out soon.

Discussion of getting more "Honor" in the MS Choir Audition. It has been discussed in circles and in board meetings. **Jodi** presented several ideas. One was that each school gets the first quartet in and then the next kids are by audition selection. A future discussion will take place

ELEMENTARY CHOIR

Marley Bunnell (Elementary Choir Chairperson)

The entries went up 60 and there will be 200 kids as opposed to last year's choir of about 160. Marley asked that the membership brainstorm how we can revamp the selection process for the future.

Debra Lewis asked that we might consider having a local school (not college) host an Audition Learning Day. Invite a professor, but host it at a local school. Maybe on a different day other than Friday? Many examples were given.