

# VBODA DISTRICT VII

## BAND DIRECTORS' BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017  
2:45 P.M.

Southwest Virginia Higher  
Education Center  
Virginia Highlands Community  
College, Abingdon, VA

### **Meeting Facilitators:**

- Bruce Miller, Richlands HS, District VII Instrumental Representative
- Allison Deel, Graham HS, District VII Secretary

### **I. Call to Order (Bruce Miller)**

### **II. Minutes of Last Meeting**

- A. Allison Deel had minutes for review by directors (paper or online), as well as ballots for electing a new district representative.
- B. Ben Parks motioned to approve the minutes; Bob Ballengee seconded. Motion passed.

### **III. Special Recognition**

- A. Logan Childress introduced Dr. Adam Smith, the new marching band director at Emory & Henry. He also introduced David Matlock, executive director at the Higher Ed Center.
  - a. Dr. Smith thanked the district for allowing the college to be at the event, and congratulations to the directors on their hard work. He invited students to the All-State Prep Day on Saturday, February 18.
  - b. Mr. Matlock welcomed us to the center and told a little about himself. He wanted Region 7 to know we have a friend in the Higher Ed Center, and he is here to serve us. Appreciates us being here and apologized for some tight rooms. Bruce thanked him on behalf of the district for hosting us.

### **IV. Recognition of New Directors/Transfers**

- A. Bruce asked them to stand and introduce themselves
  - a. Amberly Westermeyer--Giles HS/Eastern Elementary/Macy Elementary
  - b. Donnie Henry--Wise County Christian School
  - c. Thomas Hilliker--Rural Retreat MS/HS
  - d. Jonathan McCullough--Pennington MS
  - e. Chris Aker--Lee County HS

**V. VBODA State Manuals**

- A. Please go online and check out the updated handbook. The website has been updated as well.
- B. Participation fees--thank you for being current on those

**VI. Reports**

**A. State Marching Assessment (Bruce Miller)**

- a. Thank you to everyone who attended. Had 16 groups attend. Apologized for timing issues that occurred.
- b. Marching assessment committee is striving to make some changes in the future
- c. Richlands plans to host one more year, and next year is the deciding factor to possibly host again

**B. All-District Auditions (Mark Collins)**

- a. Thanked everyone for the great job they did.
- b. Had 799 auditions; up 80 from last year; 116 auditioned for both Junior and Senior
- c. Some rooms finished in record time, attributing
- d. Implemented pre-registration which cut down on lines
- e. Thanked Logan for his program, for directors completing online registration, and we will do it again next year.
- f. Had some minor issues but corrected easily by the alert system in the program; thanked judges for being professional
- g. Had new sight-reading music; listened to concerns from last year; if there were any concerns, please pass along to Mark. We will need a fresh round for next year.
- h. Wanted directors to communicate if they wanted something different for lunch
- i. Bruce thanked Mark and his parents for hosting the event

**C. Jr./Sr. All-District Band Event (Logan Childress & Taryn Wooten)**

- a. Taryn stated this is our second year at the facility. It was much smoother this year than last year. We try really hard to run alternates as long as possible, to get as many kids here as possible.
- b. Directors please don't tell kids to change rooms, without the event chairs telling you to.
- c. Logan mentioned they are going to add on to the building this summer for a bigger rehearsal space in the future for upstairs.
- d. Talked about the quality of clinicians and mentioned having Dr. Samuel Hazo here for the Senior Symphonic group. We reach out to them and the clinician offers their own fees to come. If we want to continue to

get these types of clinicians, we will continue to cut costs where we can.

- e. He hopes everyone (directors and students) have a good time at the event.
- f. Bruce thanked Logan and Taryn for the organization, as well as Mike Farina and Brandon Guffey, along with the schools who are letting us use their equipment.

#### **D. Concert Assessment (Gary Skeen)**

- a. Encouraged new directors, especially to come and participate
- b. Has a preliminary list of people wanting to participate; if there are date/time preferences, let him know
- c. All forms are on the website; any questions let him know
- d. Bruce thanked Gary and Ben for hosting.

#### **E. All-Virginia Auditions/Event**

- a. Held at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg
- b. Bruce reported about scale changes for wind players; sent out an email with the changes
- c. Doug Spurill sent out a statement regarding the required ranges of the scales; directors asked if penalty would be given for playing outside the required range--no penalty would be given, but students should stick to the range; there is no benefit for the student to exceed the requirements; this will probably be tweaked for next year
  - i. There was a rumor about penalties or extra points for going outside of range; that is not true. Go with the written ranges on the scale sheets; stay with what's written, not the musical notation
- d. Needs 10 volunteers to judge; you do not have to, if you judged last year
- e. Bob wanted to know who made/voted on the changes without our knowledge or input. Bruce responded that there was a committee formed to research it. David Webb and Doug Spurill presented findings from the committee at the June meeting, and then the executive board voted on it at the November meeting. It was voted on without district representatives' input.
- f. Registration is going back to the old way
- g. Event will be at Colgan HS in Manassas--April 6-8, 2017

### **VII. Old Business**

- A. No old business to discuss

## VIII. New Business

### A. 2017–2018 Dates

#### a. Solo and Ensemble

- i. Area 1 (Buchanan, Lee, Wise, Scott, Dickenson, Tazewell, & Norton City)
  1. Ben Harding will host--Dates/Location TBD
- ii. Area 2 (Washington, Bristol City, Smyth, & Russell)
  1. Holston HS (Logan Childress)--April 20, 2017
- iii. Area 3 (Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Giles, Galax, Pulaski, & Grayson)
  1. No one willing to host
- iv. If your area does not host one, you are able to participate in any of the others.

#### b. 2017 Marching Assessment (Richlands HS--October 21, 2017)

- i. This will be Richlands third year hosting.
- ii. Dan mentioned the registration being paperless--will be open on May 1 @ 12 pm. List should be available first week of June of who is attending what site.
  - a. Directors will have to now submit a copyright report. You have to show proof that you have permission to play you show music. Not sure at this point how they expect to have that submitted.
  - b. Reminder that performances need to be 30 minutes; warm-up is 15 minutes. Time starts from your gate. Penalties will be given for going over--supposed to be a drop in rating. Penalties are up to site coordinator to enforce. Props and other extra setup is included in that time.
  - c. Questions raised that the state wanted mentioned:
    - i. Should guard be considered in the class size? Could change class sizes drastically if so
    - ii. Looking at changing class sizes, especially with smaller size bands.
    - iii. JJ Green stated he thought the numbers should be just winds and percussion, no guard. Bruce agreed.
    - iv. Matthew Warnock think guard needs to be determined.
    - v. Classifications are mainly used for natural progression of sizes within groups.
    - vi. Adjudicators are supposed to judge with a blank slate each time, regardless of size of group.
    - vii. Please fill out feedback forms, so our voice will be heard.
    - viii. Class A is currently 0–50 members; proposed change is 0–40.
    - ix. Class AA is 51–70; proposed change is 41–59.
    - x. Class AAA is 71–95; proposed change is 60–79.

- xi. Class AAAA is 95-130; proposed change is 80-99.
- xii. Class AAAAA is 131+; proposed change is 100+
- xiii. If we added a 6A group, it would only include 12 bands statewide.
- xiv. JJ wondered if A could be broken down any further? Jonathan proposed a small and large band assessment like TN does
- xv. Taryn feels like if you add in color guard to class sizes, then the sizes will be back where they were before they adjust them.
- xvi. Should performance times be considered by random draw instead of class size? Dan and Bruce say no, and say even competitions are designed according to class. Bob suggests starting with the bigger bands and going to small. Class orders are determined now by smallest winds number in the class go first. Host school has some leadway.
- xvii. Want color guard to be a required element in scoring--if you don't have guard, then you would score lower.
- xviii. Mark says they judges need to judge what they say.
- xix. Dan says they want to put two field level judges at two sites for the coming year. The score won't factor in 2017, but it's something to see if they need. Mark says adding a judge is going to drive the cost up, and that this is marching band and it should be adjudicating as such. They can't get a balanced sound from there. JJ says he would want to know the judge's responsibility would be. Bob says the person on the field turns it into a competition, not true assessment.
- xx. Feel free to email Dan by the end of the month with any other thoughts/comments.

**c. 2017 VMEA In-Service Conference (The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA)**

- i. November 16-18, 2017
- ii. Reservations begin February 6th; new directors get to go for free
- iii. There are some positions open on the board; Bruce encourages people from the district to get involved

**d. All-District Auditions**

- i. Mark confirmed auditions are December 9, 2017

**e. All-District Event**

- i. Event confirmed at the Higher Ed Center for February 2-3, 2018

## **f. Concert Assessment**

- i. Bruce think we need to suggest date changes for 2018
- ii. Gary will still host

## **g. All-Virginia Event 2018**

- i. Will be a combined event with choir
- ii. Doing it to promote the arts, being so near to the Capital

## **B. Discussion**

### **a. Scale Requirements**

- i. Do we as a district want to align to those state standards for next year? Right now we currently follow those for Senior High auditions.
- ii. Mark thinks some of the changes limit the octaves for some instruments. They are looking at trying to make it easy across the board regardless of the level of horn a student has.
- iii. The district voted to leave it alone until the state fully decided what they want and then we can adjust if needed.
- iv. Ben said they came up with the new requirement based on what they think college students should know coming in to college.
- v. District is irritated that the state didn't let us know ahead of time or only let a certain amount of people know before everyone else knew.

### **b. Honorariums**

- i. VMEA has approved that honorariums for hosting events and event chairing is a maximum of \$500. Currently it is \$350.
- ii. If one person hosts and does event chair, do they get \$500 or \$350? That is up to the district to decide.
- iii. Matthew Warnock suggested for hosts/chairs to say whether they plan to split when submitting paperwork.
- iv. Cap it for event? Or per person? The fair thing is to inform district of the option.
- v. Bob motioned to approve honorarium for \$500. Gary Skeen seconded. Motion passes.

### **c. Assessment Dates**

- i. Do we move it into the future or maintain the week we have?
- ii. Looking at moving 8th grade SOL to the fall possibly
- iii. We were told by Steve Rice if we get assessment in by April 1, then we were good.
- iv. Honor Band deadline postmark in April 1, so that could cause issues for those up for honor band status.
- v. We should check future calendars before deciding on dates...tentative dates for Concert Assessment are March 23 & 24, 2018

vi. We could possibly go March 21 & 22, but may run into SOLs or March 28 & 29, or earlier in March.

vii. If we stay on the week we're on, we will interfere with choral assessment.

viii. SOL schedules don't seem to be as much of an issue this year. JJ Green mentioned that if you want to get more groups, especially those who don't have band everyday, then if you moved it later, you might get more groups.

ix. It changed from a Friday & Saturday to a Wednesday & Thursday, because of participation.

x. If we go later into March, then we start running into Easter break. Current suggested date is March 14-15, 2018.

xi. Will mentioned we could possibly do it later in the day, because most SOLs are in the morning. But JJ mentioned going later, runs into kids involved in after school sports.

xii. Andrea Hines said to not be afraid to talk with English teachers, guidance counselors, and individual schools to see if they could request a later date.

xiii. Bruce mentioned middle school does have the option to take it on the makeup day, if needed.

xiv. Dan mentioned the possibility of a snow date, but then you have trouble keeping judges and facilities.

xv. Will made a motion to approve the March 14-15, 2018 dates. Ben seconded. Motion passes.

#### d. Junior All-District Scale Requirements

i. Bruce and Mark talked about possibly setting the tempo for major scales to quarter note equals 100 bpm. Do we want to leave it or consider matching middle school major scales to 100 bpm?

ii. It would be easier for 9th grade students who do both and it would make it easier to really hear the scales. Dan said we might as well since we are aligning senior scales to state.

iii. Dan said for those who have to judge junior and senior levels, it would make it easier to score, instead of having to jump back and forth.

iv. Beverly doesn't see why we need to have same requirements for junior and senior. It's already hard to get some kids to tryout with the tempos we have now.

v. Bruce does not want to discuss anything about chromatic scales.

vi. Dan made a motion to align Junior High major scales to the same tempo as the Senior High major scales, at quarter note equals 100 bpm, with a metronome. The pattern is still "quarter, eighth."

a. Needed to hand count to see if it passed. Yay--15, Nay--8, Abstain--8. Motion passes.

#### e. Miscellaneous

i. Directors had some questions about all-state requirements.

ii. Bruce said he will meet with anyone who has students auditioning to clarify things.

iii. Bruce still needs judges; wants to submit names by 3 pm tomorrow. Has to submit 10 names. May come ask you to volunteer.

iv. Mark put in a plug for the State Line Wind Symphony to come join us in the spring and how to join and put in intent.

v. Mark said if you would like to invite percussion students to attend a workshop at Virginia Tech the last Saturday in March. Will send more information out.

vi. Mike Farina needs truck and trailer help to get instruments and equipment out. We are starting a two year rotation for percussion equipment for the district band event. Let Mike know if you can help with either.

#### f. Marching Assessment Committee Chair

i. Bruce and Dan are willing to co-chair and have Scott Lambert help. District is in agreement.

#### g. District Representative Elections

i. Bruce talked highly of his time in the position and he has learned a lot. The district thanked him for representing us and his time. Bruce made a motion to open nominations.

ii. Everyone has a ballot--you need to write down the three nominated choices. Term runs from July 1, 2017--June 30-2019.

a. Nominations:

- Dan Wilner--accepted nomination
- Brandon Guffey--accepted nomination
- Logan Childress--accepted nomination

iii. Bruce made a motion to close nominations.

iv. Allison and Andrea tallied the ballots. New district representative for 2017-2019 is Logan Childress.

#### h. Adjournment

a. Motion made by Ben Harding to adjourn. Dan Wilner seconded. Meeting adjourned.



