

**VBODA DISTRICT VII**  
**BAND DIRECTORS' BUSINESS MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 @ 2:45 p.m.**

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER  
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ABINGDON

**Meeting Facilitator:** Bruce Miller, Richlands HS, District VII Instrumental Representative

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. Bruce Miller called the meeting to order at 2:46 p.m.
- II. Minutes of Last Meeting**
  - a. Allison had directors review minutes from the last meeting in paper or online
  - b. Bob Ballengee made the motion to approve the minutes; Gary Skeen seconded
- III. Recognition of New Directors/Transfers in District**
  - a. Matthew Warnock—Northwood MS/HS
  - b. DJ Sweeney—JW Adams Combined School
  - c. Kelly Campbell—Lebanon HS
- IV. State Manuals**
  - a. Located at [www.vboda.org](http://www.vboda.org)--use NafMe membership and ID to login
  - b. Vote on new constitutional change in handbook
- V. Reports**
  - a. State Marching Assessment (Bruce Miller)
    - i. Thank you to everyone who came to the event, even if you didn't participate. Thank you for being very gracious to our first experience of Richlands hosting the event.
    - ii. Learned a lot about hosting the event and what can be done to help directors and make sure everyone feels welcome
    - iii. If you have any feedback, feel free to speak to Bruce about it.
    - iv. Richlands is slated to host for two more seasons
    - v. There is going to be a new marching assessment chair for 2016.
    - vi. Hoping to have more people come back next year
  - b. Jr./Sr. All-District Band Clinic (Logan Childress and Taryn Wooten)
    - i. Logan asked how it was going so far; people responded with positive comments
    - ii. First time hosting clinic at the Southwest VA Higher Ed Center
    - iii. Saturday will be a test of how smooth things will work in the space (rehearsals, concerts)
    - iv. We will have an audio person for video on the large screen, professional lighting, etc.
    - v. If you have any questions or concerns, see Logan or Taryn.
    - vi. Thank everyone for their patience with the new venue, alternates, and staying in touch with kids so we can get as many kids in for the experience as possible.
  - c. Concert Assessment (Kevin English)
    - i. Have secured judges—Donnie Sorah, Steve King, John Wright Jr. (stage judges) and Daniel Frankenberger (sight-reading)

- ii. Sending around a sheet for anyone who is interested in attending at VA High
- iii. Should have more real numbers in the next couple weeks
- iv. Dates are Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17
- v. If anyone has preferences to either day, mark that on interest sheet.
- d. All-VA Auditions
  - i. Held at JMU in Harrisonburg
  - ii. Will ask for volunteers to judge auditions in new business
  - iii. For those who have kids eligible to audition, they can pick to be in band or orchestra
  - iv. All-Virginia Band & Orchestra Event—April 7-9, 2016 @ George Mason University in Fairfax
- e. All-District Band Auditions (Mark Collins & Will Shell)
  - i. Thank you for great job at auditions
  - ii. Things went well, only a couple bugs. One keying error and sent information out about that.
  - iii. Number of auditions was 718; down from last year
  - iv. Couple of issues having rooms close early—able to take care of it; need to wait until Mark or Will totally clear room to close...were able to have kids judged by same people and had to do one over the phone (it worked but wasn't the best scenario)
  - v. Uley said part of the issue is that we are losing kids. Had 15-17 kids register between 2-3 pm.
  - vi. It seems to happen every year and Mark specifically tells us to wait
  - vii. Didn't hear any complaints about the box lunches; it saved us some time; thought it went smoothly
  - viii. Sight-reading rotation was very tough; we haven't had to purchase, but it is time to do so. As they start writing, we want a sample of each level for each instrument, based on the guidelines that we send them. We did it to save money.
  - ix. Score sheets will be in the directors' room Saturday
  - x. Ric wanted to know if we'd used the cycle of sight-reading a couple times; Mark said yes.
  - xi. Bassoon sight-reading was written in the wrong clef—could've been remedied before kids step in the room
  - xii. Uley said we need to do what we have to do to make the day work for those kids.
  - xiii. JJ says that sight-reading needs to be something that the kids see often; make it practical

## VI. Old Business

- a. No old business to discuss

## VII. New Business

- a. Sites and Dates for 2016-2017 (tentative)
  - i. 2016 Solo and Ensemble
    - 1. Area 1 (Buchanan, Lee, Wise, Scott, Dickenson, Tazewell and Norton City)—Dr. Joseph Trivette is willing to host a site for that region
      - a. Open to suggestions on dates—need to let Trivette know if there is enough interest; Let Bruce know
    - 2. Area 2 (Washington, Bristol City, Smyth, and Russell)—
      - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in May (5/3/16)

- b. Not doing a mailing; just get in stuff
    - c. You can cross areas; bring kids for experience
  - 3. Area 3 (Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Giles, Galax, Pulaski, and Grayson)—no one interested
- ii. 2016 West State Marching Band Assessment Site (Richlands HS—October 22, 2016)
  - 1. If you have feedback, please talk to Bruce
  - 2. Want to change the traffic patterns; caused issues and we paid \$800 to have routes changed; VBODA did not reimburse for that
  - 3. Special thank you to Scott Lambert for serving as the site coordinator.
- iii. 2016 VMEA In-Service Conference (November 17-19, 2016 @ The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA)
  - 1. Bruce highly encourages all to attend if you've never been
  - 2. Registration for hotels is already sold out
- iv. All-District Auditions (December 10, 2016)
  - 1. Mark confirmed that is the correct date
- v. All-District Event (February 3-4, 2017)
  - 1. Logan confirmed that is the correct date
  - 2. We will continue at the Southwest VA Higher Education Center, unless we think otherwise
- vi. Concert Assessment (Wednesday, March 15 & Thursday, March 16)
  - 1. Kevin confirmed the dates for 2017; still at VA High
  - 2. Kevin will be stepping down from being assessment chair after this year
  - 3. Thank you to Ben and Gary for being gracious hosts, Allison for doing programs, and Logan for helping with recording system.
  - 4. Thanks to Kevin for his years of service; have someone shadow him to take over next year
  - 5. We will need a new chair—Gary Skeen volunteered since it was already at his school—Gary will be the new assessment chair
- vii. 2017 All-Virginia Band & Orchestra/Auditions—3/25/17; Event—4/6-4/8/17 (Location TBD)
  - 1. In 2018, there is a possibility it will be a combined band and choir event
  - 2. Tours of a facility in Richmond are occurring and a report back will be made whether it will occur
  - 3. Auditions will be at JMU

b. Discussion

- i. 2016 All-Virginia audition panel
  - 1. Each year we have to submit 10 names (regardless if you have students auditioning) from each district to serve as judges for auditions
  - 2. If you judged last year, they don't want to have those names submitted again.
  - 3. If you were a room chair or monitor, then we can submit your name again
  - 4. List of volunteers—Brandon Guffey, Kevin English, Will Shell, Kim Sturgill, DJ Sweeney, JJ Green

- a. Need 3 more volunteers—if you are sending students, Bruce will be contacting you first
- ii. Recognition of Janet Williams (by Logan Childress)—she is the event coordinator at the Higher Ed Center
  1. Her and her staff have been phenomenal to work with; she spoke about being glad we are here and if we need anything let her and her staff know
- iii. Performance and Sight-Reading Rubric Drafts
  1. 4 pages of assessment rubric drafts attached; John Brewer came up with these
  2. Bruce thinks it is spot on and defines every aspect
  3. VMEA is going to put forward a vote for the drafts after feedback from district reps; collecting data until May 1
  4. Feedback is appreciated
  5. Uley says the new rubric needs to be used with the score sheets; based off the score sheets-our score sheets do not have that on the flip side; judges need to be marking on the rubric what they're hearing
  6. Kevin says judges are getting the rubric as a separate sheet but they are not included in our score sheets
  7. Uley says we are supposed to be getting feedback from both sides of the sheet and right now it is only one side
  8. Bruce said judges need to be made aware to use the rubric as a reference point; we need to make sure we're compliant
  9. Kevin includes rubrics and score sheets and all with their contract packet, so they can be looking ahead of time and be prepared
  10. Bob says we want to be able to justify our rating (Superior, Excellent, etc.) by using the rubric and speaking the language used on the rubric
  11. Dan stated in marching assessment there is a big push to speak to the rubric and the judges are being held accountable to their ratings/scores
- iv. Jared Perdue mentioned about talking about a child auditioning on upright Bass; he feels that if it adds to what we do as a whole, then we should do it and where that would place them—he has children asking about it
  1. Pete Marcum says tuba room judges them and if they're a solid player then we take them
  2. Ben says it's already in place but we just weren't prepared this year to do it
  3. Mark says if we are prepared ahead of time, then there would be no problem to have them audition
  4. Jared says if we can get requirements in advance, then that would work
  5. Bruce says maybe we need to look at submitting Bland County's program to participate in string program—we need to make sure that we are made aware in advance so they can audition
  6. Electric bass is not included in all-district or all-state; all-state jazz should be included in that if you have students interested
- v. Guests artists to perform at an All-District Band event (Brandon Guffey)
  1. Would it be possible to have the top ensemble at All-District to have a guest artist to perform with the group?

2. Katie Elswick asked if we'd have to pay for the artist and Brandon said he's sure we would
  3. Kevin said this is for the kids not the guest artist; Ben said they could do the guest artist at their spring concert
  4. Decided to not pursue further
- vi. **Parliamentarian**
1. Bruce felt like we could use one; most districts do have them—do we need one?
  2. Purpose is to keep everyone on track
  3. Ric wants to know if we have anyone well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order—Matthew Warnock and Ben Harding said they were
  4. Feel like if we stick to time limit then for each topic that would be helpful
  5. We need to remember to be clear and concise with conversations and keep things moving
  6. Decided not to pursue further
- vii. **Possible All-District Venue Proposal (Matthew Frederick at Emory & Henry)**
1. They have a new brand new state-of-the-art performance facility; would like to offer it for future event consideration
  2. He would be happy to show anyone pictures; it will be open next fall
  3. The new band building will be open July 1, 2016.
  4. Katie Elswick asked if they could host band camps—Matt said yes and would offer competitive prices
  5. Bruce wants Matt to get copies of schematics of the room to peruse
  6. February 20, 2016—All-State Prep Day at E&H; professional development for band directors who attend with students
- viii. **All-District Auditions**
1. Bob said there was an issue with rooms taking breaks to eat lunch instead of eating in room; this caused students to go to warm up and then be sent back until judges were back from lunch
  2. Audition day is for the students; breaking for lunches didn't consider kids and how they were affected
  3. Discussion of someone who wrote something harsh on the score sheets—need to keep in mind who sees those score sheets (students and parents)
  4. There all a lot of little things we should go back and look at to see how we're addressing them and how it affects the kids; these things affect kids coming back and auditioning each year
  5. Would it help if we had an audition committee? District VI has one.
  6. Mark said everyone has a role to play in the process of auditions—we try to take all considerations into effect, such as transpositions; we don't know if we have enough judges until Saturday morning because people don't let him know like they should
  7. Uley wishes we would look at rooms that are doing junior and senior in one room and see if we can keep kids from getting there early and auditioning later that day; if kids even knew in advance that they are auditioning early that would help; possibly rotate

8. Scott stated District IV has pre-registration, and you pay registration fee upfront; if you're not there to judge then your students won't be allowed to participate; time slots are given when they register so they knew what their audition time was; might be worth looking into—everything is computerized
  9. Bob mentioned electronic scores and the program Logan has created that we could use—you still keep a paper trail, but scores are entered on an electronic device that goes to the tabulation room in real time and have the tally sheet there for verification of scores—thinks it's something we should consider
  10. Bruce said All-State tested a room last year with electronic scoring and Logan observed it; he thinks we need to do a test run before we fully decide on it—are we in agreement to do that? Would Mark be in agreement?
  11. Mark wouldn't be opposed to it but would rather not reinvent the wheel; you would know the window of time of who's coming in
  12. Scott said with District IV that you didn't know who was auditioning when—it was a period of time for auditions, not a specific time
  13. Logan says we need to make something work for our situation, instead of taking and using someone else's program completely
  14. Jared stated we need better communication with our runners; Mark said his kids know to listen to the judges and make sure no one is in the warm-up room when breaks are taken
  15. Anyone who would like to meet to discuss more about auditions, meet at 9:30 Saturday morning
- ix. Bruce wants to know if we as a district need to meet more than once a year; do we want to consider meeting another time? We need to consider options.
1. Michael says we just need to be adult enough to talk to each other and put other things aside
  2. Katie says maybe we could setup a Skype conference
  3. Matthew Warnock expected to have more participation coming into the district as a new teacher
  4. Bob suggested a District VII band directors Facebook group
  5. Will suggested "Go to Meeting"—can log in with a web browser or phone and click on the link to login and could also present with it
  6. Kevin wondered if anyone would be opposed to a meeting of directors from the district who attend VMEA
- x. Paperwork
1. Bruce reminded us that we need to be careful with paperwork whenever we have an event and our paperwork is our legality for keeping us from being sued
  2. We, as directors, need to do a better job of getting paperwork to people (such as Logan and Taryn); need an official cutoff for All-District—JJ says we would lose kids because of emergencies that happen; Ric says things like that will happen, but be professional and get paperwork and money in on time
  3. Ric Burns wondered what kind of a time window would they (Logan and Taryn) be comfortable with?
  4. Taryn says the last two weeks before the event gets crazy. Logan said we need to have a small set window.

5. Mark suggested having the first two alternates paperwork and fee collected already if they are needed. If not needed, it's easier to refund that.
  6. Kim stated that if we have to arrange lodging, then not knowing about extra kids could cause issues about needing more rooms
  7. Scott said that in the four districts he has taught in, the students have to sign a contract knowing their responsibility of attending. If they have a family or medical emergency, then they are fine. But if because of sports or something else, then they wouldn't be allowed to audition the following year.
- c. Motions
    - i. No motions on the floor
  - d. Elections
    - i. No elections to take place
  - e. Special Recognitions
    - i. Scott recognized Uley Daniels as the VMEA Outstanding Music Educator of the Year. His award was given out at the VMEA conference in Norfolk.
  - f. Miscellaneous
    - i. Frank Pugh talked about him directing the Wytheville Community Band and wanted to extend an invitation to any directors and students to join—has a wide age range; WCC does offer credit for it; rehearsals held at George Wythe HS on Tuesdays at 7 pm; contact Frank for more detailed information
  - g. Adjournment
    - i. Motion made by Ben Parks to adjourn
    - ii. Beverly Campbell seconded