
MMEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Perpich Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley, MN
September 12, 2009

SESSION I

I. CALL TO ORDER

MMEA President Cynthia Shirk called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Board member not present: Scott Carter.

II. MINUTES

President Shirk presented the minutes from the May 16, 2009 board meeting for board approval.

It was moved by Lee Varpness, seconded by Dennis Conroy, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2009 Board of Directors meeting.

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

President Shirk presented the written agenda for review and adoption.

It was moved by Cathy Engbloom, seconded by Jennifer Krinke, and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda for the September 12, 2009 Board of Directors meeting.

IV. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CYNTHIA SHIRK

President Shirk traveled to Washington as Minnesota's delegate to the MENC National Assembly, held June 18-21. The two candidates for MENC President-Elect are Nancy Ditmer from Ohio and David Weatherred from Washington.

MENC announced last winter that they were going to establish a national competition called the MENC National Invitational to select the "best" band, choir, or orchestra in the country. Each state was to choose its most outstanding groups who would then travel to Washington to compete in a "President's Cup". MMEA saw that there were considerable concerns with this event. After carefully studying the event, surveying members, and discussing concerns at length, it was agreed that MMEA could not support the event. MMEA wrote a letter to MENC North Central Division officials, as well as to members of the MENC National Executive Committee, explaining our position. Other North Central states followed Minnesota's lead and spoke up at the National Assembly in June. After hearing the concerns MENC decided to withdraw the competition aspect, opting instead to create a different type of event. The new invitational event will critique groups against a standard.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Executive Director Mary Schaeffe reported there is a decrease in the cost of printing and facilities due to changing vendors and using free space for meetings, and that travel expenses are up 3%. Schaeffe reported accounts receivables have higher balances due to the economy. Schaeffe reviewed the 2009 budget versus actual by expense type and reported expenses are on track for 2009.

Schaeffe reviewed 2008 Annual Report to MMEA Membership. Schaeffe reported MMEA student programs serve more than 8,500 students.

Early in 2008 the MMEA Executive Committee reviewed financial forecast and made adjustments to that year's budget. MMEA did experience a loss of \$7,313 of its unrestricted revenue and \$12,155 of its total revenue.

It was moved by the Diane Heaney, seconded by Michael Walsh, and carried unanimously to accept the financial report.

VI. 2008 AUDIT REPORT, WENDY BARDEN

Past President Wendy Barden covered the 2008 audit findings as presented in the Management Letter from Mayer, Hoffmann, McCann Ltd. The MMEA Executive Board met with the auditors in August. MMEA's financial statements are in good order. MMEA should strive to increase net assets (reserves) to \$210,000. Recent years have experienced a pattern of losses.

VII. 2010 MIDWINTER CLINIC DISCUSSION, RICK GEIGER

President Elect Rick Geiger reviewed the 2010 Midwinter clinic. Geiger asked board for input on the schedule. Headliners are Glenn Nierman, MENC North Central Division President, Bob Phillips, and Dallas Brass.

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- VIII. PERPICH CENTER PARTNERSHIPS, MIKE HIATT, SUE MACKERT, PAM PAULSEN, NYSSA BROWN
Hiatt reported for the Perpich Center for Arts Education. The Perpich Center is an agency of the State of Minnesota and serves students, teachers, artists, schools, and arts organizations throughout Minnesota. The Center's mission is to provide all Minnesota students the opportunity to develop and integrate their artistic and academic abilities to their potential. The Perpich Center Arts High School is a comprehensive, tuition-free public high school offering a rigorous academic program, with intensive coursework focused in the arts. The Arts High School offers instruction in six arts areas: Dance, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Music, Theater and Visual Arts. The Perpich Center Library has over 17,000 items in its catalog and any resident of the state can check out materials from the library. MMEA Board members shared their interaction with the Perpich Center.

The board broke into four breakout groups to discuss collaboration between MMEA and the Perpich Center.

IX. PERPICH BREAKOUT GROUP REPORTS

- A. Breakout group one discussed sending Perpich staff out-state to help teachers, having a short professional development session after school with an on-line follow-up, training during MEA break, and putting information about Perpich Center in an *Interval* article.
- B. Breakout group two discussed having summer workshops the end of July - early August, or right in June after school is out and having a link from the MMEA web site to Perpich Center.
- C. Breakout group three discussed collecting data with surveys, having the University of Minnesota help with analysis. They discussed the National Standards needing to be more specific, the need for more advocacy, finding support for teachers in grant writing, using *Interval* to get information out.
- D. Breakout group four discussed ways MMEA can support Perpich Center by sharing ideas, workshops, communication, surveying, and gathering data.

X. LUNCH BREAK

XI. OPEN FORUM

Retired Members Chair Sandra Munson reported on Clinician-For-A-Day concept. Retired music educators would spend a day with new or newer teachers and their students. They would give active teachers ideas, review situations which are causing the active teacher concern, and assist teachers who find themselves in new teaching areas. The only cost to schools would be to pay for clinician's mileage and lunch.

Collegiate Chapters Chair Janet Heukeshoven reported about the Fall Collegiate Conference, – CMENC Plus. The conference is for collegiate students and new teachers. The conference is October 16-17 at the Perpich Center for Arts Education and is co-hosted by CMENC chapters of Northwestern College and the University of St. Thomas. Heukeshoven would like MMEA Region Representatives to help get the word out to new teachers about the conference. The cost is \$10, which includes pizza, breakfast, and lunch.

Advocacy Chair Bob Ouren reported MMEA had a booth at the State Fair.

Elementary Chair Cathy Engbloom reported the 2010 Elementary Festival sites are Columbia Heights, Marshall, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, Mabel-Canton, and Monticello. Engbloom would like to add a couple more sites.

Middle Level Chair Jennifer Ulven reported the 2010 Junior High/Middle Level Festival sites are Alexandria – Band, Monticello – Band/Choir, Edina – Band, Robbinsdale – Band, and Willmar – Choir. Ulven is looking for more hosts.

XII. COMMITTEES

The board broke into three committees – All-State, Region Representation/Partnership Requests, and Elementary

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XIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Classroom Chair Ardis Nelson reported for the Elementary committee. They discussed Nelson reaching out by touring the state, primarily out-state, being an advocate for MMEA and other organizations. The committee suggested lining up three days in SE Minnesota and seeing how many schools she can make contact with. Nelson would bring packets containing information on elementary festivals, Midwinter Clinic, and the Perpich Center for Arts Education. The preliminary cost to MMEA would be around \$500. Increased MMEA/MENC membership may off set some of the cost.
- B. Michael Walsh reported for the Region Representative and Partnership Request committee. The committee reviewed the current region assignments per the MSHSL and decided to only make minor changes. It was decided that districts that have schools assigned to multiple regions would all be assigned to the region where the majority of their schools are assigned. They discussed a partnership request with Minnesota Beatles Album, Vol I/Vega Productions. Proceeds from charity album would be distributed to public K-12 school music programs. Beginning grants would likely be in the range of \$1,000 - \$5,000. The committee discussed a statewide used instrument donation drive. MMEA's potential role would be helping to gather information about what schools currently accept, and providing input to make this a win/win for schools and donors.
- C. Band Vice-President Michael Buck reported for the All-State committee. The committee recommended applying the camp behavior expectations to dorm counselors and/or camp staff. They discussed MMEA coming up with a list of expected behavior and including that information in the All-State Camp bid application. MMEA will perform a back-ground check on all counselors and camp staff. The All-State committee also discussed summer eligibility issues. In the future, if a student replacement is required in the summer, MMEA will contact the director prior to contacting the student. The committee discussed recent changes in MSHSL rules (music is now a Category II activity) and how that impacts student behavior expectations, especially related to chemical health. The committee recommended that legal counsel be consulted in this matter.

It was moved by Keitha Hamann, seconded by Tim Davis, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.