

VBODA DISTRICT IV WINTER MEETING

February 3, 2007
Hickory High School

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM. Chris Dunn, District Instrumental Representative presiding.

1. Introduction: Thanks to the Hickory HS Band staff and parents for hosting All-District Band. Special thanks to Zach Rooksby for chairing the event.

2. Old Business

- A. Check the website, vboda4.org, for information regarding events, deadlines and forms.
- B. If you have not been receiving email notices about meetings, etc., please update your email address and contact information with Chris Dunn.

3. New Business

- A. **All-Virginia Middle School Band and Orchestra Survey.** The executive board is looking for feedback from the membership as to whether we should create an All-Virginia Middle School Band and String Orchestra. Our unanimous response was no. Chris Dunn to report our answer to the executive board.
- B. **Festival Committee recommendations.** The executive board has formed a committee to suggest some change to the rules / policies governing Festival. Again, feedback was requested from the Districts. The detailed report of our survey answers was to be forwarded to the executive committee by Chris Dunn. Briefly, proposed changes included:
 - a. *Bands must play a march, and it is to be adjudicated. Bands not playing a march will not receive a rating (comments only) and will not be eligible for VBODA awards or recognitions.* District IV membership seemed to agree with this section.
 - b. *Bands cannot use photocopied scores without a letter from the publisher granting permission to photocopy. Bands using photocopied scores without the publisher's permission will not receive a rating (comments only) and will not be eligible for VBODA awards or recognitions.* District IV membership generally agreed with this section. We wanted some clarification from the executive committee regarding a letter music vendors have supplied in the past, quoting from the US Copyright Act, regarding music that has been ordered and may be temporarily out of print, publisher no longer in business, music is back ordered, etc.
 - c. *Bands cannot register as a split grade level. Bands performing selections at two or more grade levels will be considered performing at the lowest grade level. Clarification: if a band plays a grade III piece and a grade IV piece, the band is a grade III band. The band is not to be listed in the program as a grade III/IV, nor will they be recognized as a grade III/IV for VBODA awards or recognitions.* District IV membership agreed with this section.
 - d. *The Festival host site will post results in a public and obvious place. Information will include the ensemble's name, grade of music and final rating.* District IV membership agreed with this section.
 - e. *The committee is considering removing the option to prepare three selections with the judging panel selecting one to perform and the director selecting the other. In an effort to align festival with Virginia music SOLs, all bands must sight-read.* District IV membership generally disagreed with this section. Understanding that sight-reading is an important skill, we did not agree that

band festival needed to remove the *option* to sight-read. Understanding school schedules differ across the District and state, with some bands not able to rehearse together as a full ensemble on a regular basis. This makes adequately preparing for the sight-reading evaluation difficult at best. Another suggestion was if the direction of the executive committee was to make Festival an "SOL test", then the title should be changed from Band and Orchestra "Festival" to something along the lines of "VBODA State Evaluation". There was also concern that the sight-reading music, which is being purchased from and written for Texas bands, does not necessarily follow VBODA guideline for grading music. This led to the fact that VBODA does not have any published guidelines / rubric for grading music. It would seem that if bands were to be required to sight-read, then VBODA would be able to publish a grading rubric and assure the membership that the sight-reading music will follow these criteria.

- f. *All bands pursuing Virginia Honor Band status will sight-read.* District IV membership generally disagreed with this section. Our opinion was based on all the above reasons regarding requiring bands to sight-read. This motion is also vague (will marching bands sight-read?)
 - g. *Bands performing two grade levels (grade III/IV) will sight-read the higher grade level music.* District IV membership unanimously disagreed with this section. We thought it was ridiculous this was even presented to the membership. Earlier in this survey it was very clear that there is to be no VBODA recognition of this type of registration. A band performing a grade III piece and a grade IV is a grade III band. Period.
- C. House Bill 1442:** General information regarding this was presented to the membership. Some questions were raised as to how the VMEA Legislative Oversight committee totally missed this?
- D. VMEA 2007 Conference:** The 2007 VMEA conference will be back in Norfolk. Room reservations information is now online on the VMEA website.
- E. VMEA Performance Applications** are due May 1 – info on VMEA website
- F. Clinic Proposals for VMEA** info on VMEA website
- G. Elect Judge/Clinician Chair:** Special recognition and thanks to Amanda Rossetini for her work at this position. Discussion on the duties of this position includes:
- a. Contracting Band Festival judges
 - b. Contracting District Band clinicians
 - c. Working with the chair of District Band to establish a budget based on the clinician's fee. (Fees may vary based on the reputation of the clinician.)
 - d. Motion passed: The term for the Judge/Clinician Chair is to be 4 years
 - e. Motion passed: David Enloe was unanimously elected Judge/Clinician Chair for the 2007-2011 Term. (The next election is to take place during the Winter meeting, February 2011.)
- H. District Representative Election:** Zach Rooksy was unanimously elected District IV Instrumental Representative for the 2007-2009 Term. (The next election is to take place during the Winter meeting, February 2009.)

4. Festival Information: The 2007 band Festival to be held at Great Bridge HS has some modified procedure for this year. There is a building conflict at Great Bridge this year with the Ring Dance. Bands performing on Friday and Saturday will have to enter via the "gym" entrance at the back of the building. (All parents and audience members will have to use this entrance as well.) No classrooms will be available for storage. Bands will have to use the gym as a storage area. GB Band Parents will be on duty in the gym to watch cases, belongings, etc. Students are to be discouraged from bringing any personal belongings with them. The warm-up, performance and sight-reading areas and procedures remain unchanged. Again, these changes only affect

groups who perform on Friday and Saturday. We have been assured by the GBHS administration there will be no Ring Dance conflict next year. Also, Festival costs have “sky-rocketed”. Even with the increase in fees this year, the budget is very tight. Mike Oare, Festival Chair, expressed concern with making budget this year. Chris Dunn reminded the membership of the Friday, February 9th registration deadline.

5. All-Virginia Band Audition eligibility: Those students eligible to audition for All-Virginia Band were notified. Information will be forwarded to the Auditions Committee (Chris Dunn).

6. District Jazz Festival will be held on April 18th at Jolliff Middle School. Cost is \$100 per band. Registration information will be on the vboda4.org website.

7. Open Floor / Additional New Business

- a. **Percussion Committee:** Matt Phillips was unanimously elected chair to form a new “Percussion Committee”. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Matt. Some goals of the committee are:
 - ?? Clarify district band audition requirements and procedures
 - ?? Develop resource material for the membership
 - ?? Develop “sample” material and information regarding District auditions
 - ?? Become a general resource for the membership on “percussion” topics
- b. **Horn Audition Requirements:** David Enloe voiced a concern regarding the High School chromatic scale range for French Horn. Would like to update the chromatic range to be played from low “F” to high “Bb”. This would obviously also change some major scale ranges as well. Would like for our District Rep, to begin the appropriate process for trying to make this change at the state-wide level.
- c. **Music Grading:** David Enloe voiced concern over the process for grading music for the “Selective Music List”. Some works seem to “mysteriously” move from the grade VI list to the grade V list. Additional concerns were raised regarding the fact that VBODA has no published system or rubric for grading music. It often “appears” that music is somewhat inconsistently graded. Our membership would like the VBODA to develop a published set of criteria for grading music.
- d. **Great Bridge Jazz Festival:** Eric Gerhardt made an informal presentation for his “vision” for the Great Bridge Jazz Festival. His ideas include: guest artists, performing for comments, ratings, or competition, evening concert with professional group and competition winner (with the guest artist), basically increasing the size and scope of the Festival. Generally, the membership was in favor of merging the relatively new District IV Jazz Festival with the Great Bridge Jazz Festival, taking advantage of the larger “experience” for our students.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM