

**MINNESOTA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Monday, December 7, 2020

Held via Zoom Conference

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

MMEA Choral Vice-President Tonya Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Teri Akervik, Kyle Anderson, Wendy Barden, Tonya Barnes, Erin Berg, Brandon Berger, Catharine Bushman, Kristin Chase, Casey Clementson, Adrian Davis, Peter Guenther, Jennifer Gylland, Brianna Ingbretson , Amanda Kaus, Willy Leafblad, David Mantini, Bradley Mariska, Sarah Minette, Natalia Romero Arbeláez, Maria Wilson.

Board members not present: Jeff Iverson, Anthony Jirschele,

**II. WHERE WE ARE**

- a. State of our State
- b. Can we move forward?

MMEA Choral Vice President Tonya Barnes said she was shocked and blind -sided by the resignations. Can we move forward without having our three executive positions? Is it possible? We have things in this letter to address but we need to address that at another meeting. I really want us to focus on what we can do and how we can move this organization forward in the best way possible. Where to you think we need to go and is it possible?

- Minette said she thinks it is possible. We can acknowledge that maybe one of the reasons we are here today is because of the divide for whatever reasons.
- Chase said we can see this as an opportunity to kind of reimagine what we want MMEA to be like. We can decide what we want to keep and what we want to change. We need to focus on priorities – what we need to today.
- Berg said she was looking at by-laws and it says the Vice-Presidents are next in line.
- Mariska said the vice-presidents met earlier today and had conversations about that. We want to let you know and the membership that we will step-up. We will get through this.
- Barnes said she thinks all positions need to be filled.

- Mariska made a nomination for Tonya Barnes to fill interim president position.
- Akervik agrees we need to fill at least an interim president.
- Berger said moving forward we need to have an additional December meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> to potentially address some of the concerns that all three of the executive board addressed. If we fill the president role right now allow for some time to maybe clarify the roles of the executive board that will eventually get nominated.
- Clementson said would the three vice-presidents consider being a co-executive team.
- Minette raised questions about the election process and in the future we may want to consider on how this done.
- Chase agrees we need to do that at some point.
- Barnes agrees we need to but not today.
- Mantini said after reading the by-laws the vice-presidents are the executive committee.
- Barnes said she will do whatever role the board decides.
- Mariska said we will work as a team. We need to add president and past president to the ballot.
- Barnes said she interprets the by-laws as the president elect and president will move to the next positions and stay on the board.
- Berger agrees with Tonya and would like to see who ever fills the role as past president stays on the board in another position.
- Chase said we should move forward right now and put a title in January.
- Mariska said can we have the vice-presidents that start in May start in January after they are elected.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF POSITION – INTERIM PAST PRESIDENT, INTERIM PRESIDENT, INTERIM PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**It was moved by Maria Wilson, seconded by Willy Leafblad, and carried unanimously to have the current Vice-Presidents assume the role of Interim Executive Board.**

- a. Do we need to craft a statement to the membership answering the following?
  - Can you shed some light on why the executive board resigned?
  - Will there be a letter coming out explaining all the changes?
  - Is there a national search for an executive director?
  - Who writes this letter?

- Deadline – 1<sup>st</sup> draft by 12/8. Send 12/9 to entire board

The three interim executive board will draft the letter and make it available on Wednesday morning, December 9 for the board to review.

#### **IV. UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

Tonya Barnes reported the following candidates are running in the upcoming January elections: Band Vice-President- Tony Boldt, John Kleppe; Classroom Vice-President- Stefan Wolf, Liz Johnson; Choral Vice-President- Chad Garrels, Kathy Larson; Orchestra Vice-President- Brad Lambrecht, Nick Gaudette; President Elect- Laura Sandham, Sarah Minette. Barnes asked board members to assist Lori Lenz in elections.

- Wendy Barden and Eric Berg will assist Lori Lenz in elections.
- Teri Akervik said one of the executive committee needs to communicate with election candidates that position will start immediately after election results.

#### **V. BANK ACCOUNT/CREDIT CARDS**

- a. Tonya Barnes reported the bank account needs to be put in someone(s) name. Lori Lenz, Administrative Secretary, suggested someone who lives close to her to handle signing checks.
- b. Tonya Barnes reported MMEA credit cards are still in former Executive Director Mary Schaeffe's name.
  - Barnes will work with Lori Lenz on this.
  - Mantini said the finance task force was created to support the treasurer position.
  - Tonya Barnes will contact Lori about signing checks and work on credit card.
  - Tonya Barnes will take on the role of finances.

**It was moved by Willie Leafblad, seconded by Brianna Ingbretson, and carried unanimously to have Tonya Barnes and Dave Mantini as signers to MMEA bank accounts.**

- c. Finances  
MMEA needs to start fundraising to make money.

#### **VI. MIDWINTER CLINIC**

Tonya Barnes reported Bradley Mariska will head up, along with Pete Guenther, and Kristin Chase. Bradley Mariska and Pete Guenther have been working on the schedule for almost two weeks. A task list was sent out earlier today. Pete Guenther and Kristin Chase will work on a clinician notification email to be complete by December 11.

- Mariska worked on exhibits and fundraising and the letter has gone out. MMEA has the opportunity to make more money off of this clinic than anything else. We cut the exhibit booth cost for 2021 by half. Kristen made an event in August that made \$20,000 that didn't even exist before. We are going to need everybody to help.
- Chase will work on organizing and coordinating logistics. Board members will need to host sessions and help. Pete and Brad have worked really hard on the schedule to make sure people want to go.
- Guenther said no presenters have been notified. There will be two or three mystery sessions. We are trying to make this be an effective clinic. We can make videos. There are some deadlines that have to be acted on now.
- Barnes made a deadline of Friday, December 11 for session notices to go out.
- Clementson asked for teasers to tell people about the clinic.
- Clementson asked is there is going to be an advocacy session.
- Barnes would like to receive an email list. We need to send a list to region representatives too.
- Adrian said if our end goal is to come to Midwinter Clinic, then Midwinter clinic just becomes a cheap hot versus being something that people are actually truly invested in. Is MMEA about the Midwinter Clinic or about MMEA? We need to engage members in ways that are not Midwinter or All-State related.
- Adrian said when all our eggs in our one basket and those things can't happen we are in financial trouble.
- Kristin encourages all board members to share their ideas.

## **VII. ALL-STATE**

- Catharine will need help with registration. Sponsoring teachers are getting notified this week. There are two hybrid sessions and hopefully one live session in February. Catherine has a meeting with Orchestra Hall this week.
- Barnes said choir teachers are excited to do this. The groups will be made smaller and each ensemble will sing only a few pieces. We need people to step up and help. We are going to talk to Orchestra Hall to see if they will cut us a deal for having multiple events.

- Mantini said from a budget standpoint the event is to break even. Right now we are looking at a range from \$300 to \$350. They will have two weekends and the event at Orchestra Hall or a documentary.
- Chase said thank you to everybody that has been working on this. She worries we are too late to feasibly put this together especially with VP's taking over as executive committee. We don't have student contact information.
- Barnes said a survey was sent to students.
- Mariska said he wants this to happen more than anything. We don't have student information for these students. There has been no urgency to contact them for contact information.
- Mantini said Catharine now has something ready to go. We still have a window here. And next year when we do this we get the contact information with the audition application and this won't happen again.
- Chase said how much are you willing to continue this and invest? Are people okay with pulling it if it doesn't work?
- Barnes said it's a hard call. We are going to need people to take this on. We need deadlines to start pushing this out.
- Berger said use this as an opportunity to get students in contact with professionals.
- Minette said reach out to MBDA for help
- Deadlines – Send information out by Friday.
- Choir directors get until next Friday for music.

### **VIII. ALL-STATE AUDITIONS**

- Should we grandfather juniors into ensembles next year without having to audition again?
- Any junior who made it in an ensemble (not alternate) would get to get in. They would have to let us know by audition deadline.
- Changing the format for All-State has to be approved at the next board meeting and the All-State committee needs to discuss it.

### **IX. SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- Committee - Vocal Music/Rural School – Dan Hampton, Collegiate Music – Sam Bergstrom, Past President/Perpich – Wendy Barden, Urban School – Adrian, MMEA President-Elect, General Secondary/Elementary Music Teacher, Instrumental Music/Suburban School.

- Akervik said we should add a General Music Teacher on search committee.
- Wilson said we talked about having a meeting - Dec 28-30.
- Minette said she has been in touch with Doug Orzolek and he believes the ultimate person that we hire is really grounded in non-profit work. Need somebody that has that eye and experience.
- Clementson said the ideal candidate would have teacher experience and 501C non-profit experience.
- Barnes said wouldn't it be nice if we say we are going to post the job by Feb 1. Interviews in April and start in June.
- Barnes asked is it better to have a long meeting or separate meetings? Or use breakout rooms?
- Ingbretson said I like the idea of having shorter meetings focusing on an idea.
- Clementson said I would love to have us look at the job description.

**It was moved by Tonya Barnes, seconded by Brianna Ingbretson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**