

Chinook Music Educators Association

Agenda

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Location/Time: River's Edge, 6pm

- Welcome and Introductions Rachel Landowski, Andrew Landowski, Lisa Pearson, Austin Schlichting, James Harper, Tim Henderson, Jessica Ewing, Jennifer Lyne, Maria Hoffman, Allison Wenzel, Rebecca Gage, Genevieve Schooler, Patrice Lins, Cal Anderson, Travis Sipher, Cal Anderson, Tony Nguyen, Greg Allison, Kathleen Alviar, John Rants, Josh Keeling, Randy Grostick, Peter Klinzman, Nick Sanders, Grant Sears, Reid Blickenstaff, Nick Sanders, Jennifer Palmer, Kim Merkle,
- Approve Fall Meeting Minutes Motion to approve Tim Henderson, Jessica Ewing Second all approve
- New Officer Nominations
 - President-Elect
 - Secretary
- Treasurer's Report and Approval- last year was a very different year as was this one. If you look at the festivals they have kept on budget. Solo and ensemble have collectively gone into roughly \$1700.00 in debt. There is possibly a need to raise the fees for these festivals. There are \$1650.00 outstanding, after sending out these invoices, we got \$1000.00 in. Outstanding schools are listed on the treasurer's report, important to get these paid. Credit card fees are missing from the report, less than 3% processing per transaction. Austin will amend. Lots of support from festival chairs, people did a great job taking care of things- like food for the students paid by boosters. People paying out of pocket for adjudicator hotels, thank you festival chairs. The emails that came in the week of festivals were stressful, please CC Austin with your correspondence to get it on your radar. Question: does S&E always lose money? Usually yes but the large group festivals usually balance this out. We did bump up our prices to \$20 across the board but we haven't seen the effects of that because of COVID. Motion to approve by Jennifer Palmer and second Travis Sipher. All approve.
- Old Business
 - Festival Reports & Discussion: were we happy with the way we did festivals this year? One problem was that some festivals planned for more groups than they did- the jazz festival planned for 12 bands and ended up with 5. Kathleen: It might be important to do a survey and decide how we want to proceed so that we can serve the needs of all schools. Tim: Is the cost to come to Large Group worth it? From Yelm it was \$2,000.00 just for one day when it might be better to bring in someone to work with the whole group for that amount for a week. Kathleen: We are currently Olympia centric and would be able to move our meetings to the harbor and ask the harbor to host. Tim: Is it time for the choir world to move to a different model? Would a choir exchange be a better option? Counterpoint: the whole point of Large Group is to go and see the other schools so that kids can

see other groups? Point: but could we change more to a clinic/sectional option? Like the band performance institute? Could we look at bringing schools together in more of an honor-group format where we perform together? We could send students to a sectional with other teachers at different schools throughout the month? Counterpoint: the problem with any model is that transportation is the largest expense. Peter: With our smaller district level festival we were able to have section coaches and we did it in our own space and we didn't have to pay for transportation. Grant: kids were able to listen to each other and have a section coach experience. Because it was Saturday, we had lots of parents there, and if it is a weekday parents can't see the festival. Josh: Tumwater strings is leaning toward this model, but for the younger kids the Saturday model is a little tougher to get everyone there. Because we are in a position where we're rebuilding, having the middle school kids listen to the high school kids is a good fit because they can see the progression. Jennifer: middle school going to high school is where we lose the most students and it was good to develop a special event for them to pique their interest. Lisa: The old large group festival rating is difficult for the smaller schools and younger students. It was nice to focus on feedback rather than a score. Jessica: they did a festival without ratings and it felt good because of our developing situation. Grant: as an adjudicator it was nice not to have to put a rating. Darren and Grant put the band and orchestra together, and Cal brought groups too. They were able to find 2 great adjudicators with expertise in both camps. Kids filled out and turned in evaluation sheets. The cost was low and it was a good experience. Lisa: the mini festivals made money.

- New Business

- New Officer Elections

- President-Elect Darren Johnson, Jerry Huff; Kathleen Alviar: it would be nice to have some younger people or people from the outlying districts involved
- Secretary- Jessica Ewing volunteers thank you Jessica!! Tim Henderson second
- Web Design- Randy is interested in giving this up. Discussion Point: What about outsourcing this? Counterpoint: The \$17,000.00 in our account is good, but we have to keep a certain amount and this year we have spent \$15,000.00 so we don't really have an excess. Point: The cost of this person may be about \$200.00 because we could ask them to only do it once a year. Counterpoint: Randy spends more time than once a year. One idea would be to use square space but that's \$50-60/month. Cal penciled in to take over- we may explore some options of a different website.

- Festival Schedule for 2022-2023 We did prepare a draft festival schedule if you do feel that the old model doesn't work for you, please email James Harper or your festival coordinator. Propose Middle school S&E to April or potentially May.

Move MS festival to March 17. Could we extend the S&E instrumental festival registration deadline earlier?

- Regional Awards
 - Educator of the Year- propose to have an educator of the year yearly? What is the descriptor for educator of the year? Could the nominator please give reasoning for the nomination. This will be done via google form.
- Retirements/Job Openings? Grant Sears North Thurston High School Orchestra, Reid Blickenstaff Madison, Pioneer
- Open Items
 - Olympia Symphony Orchestra- finishing music director search 4th and final candidate concert May 22, 2022. Each candidate has visited a high school orchestra and band. Student rush tickets are available for a very good price.
 - SOGO Concert on Sunday 5/15 end of the year concert. It has been lovely being together with students. Received some significant donations this year, SOGO to school is available to any school. Teaching artists go in and meet with students twice during school. Students can apply for 4 free private lessons over zoom. After 4 lessons are completed, kids can apply for more. Touched 12 schools and completed 213 lessons with students with 52 kids participating. Many students have taken over 4 private lessons. 77 sectionals this year. Jennifer Palmer shared that it has been a big game changer for students not because of the sectionals but the professionalism of the people that come out and the way they work with students is wonderful and there is great communication and follow up from the teachers. They are not just selling SOGO, they are really invested in supporting students. Even though the percentage of students is small, it makes a significant difference for them.
 - SPSCC - Associate in Music Program
 - Daniel Ayott in Hoquiam was awarded a music matters grant
Jennifer Palmer moved to adjourn Travis Sipher second all agree.