

KMEA Marching Band Committee

Tim Allen, Chair

November 20, 2021

John Hardin High School

MINUTES

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

I. Roll Call, MBC Chair, Tim Allen

Dist. 1 James Gregory, proxy P

Dist. 2 Kyle Payton, proxy P

Dist. 3 Travis Miller, proxy
present on Facetime

Dist. 4 Brian Ellis P

Dist. 5 Ryan McAllister P

Dist. 6 Austin Bralley P

Dist. 7 Michael Stone P

Dist. 8 Jenny Griffin P

Dist. 9 Pauletta Smith P

Dist. 10 Curtis Ervin P

Dist. 11 Jason Bowles P

Dist. 12 Jason Gregory present
on Facetime

Also present were Band Chair Joe Craig, Band Chair-elect David Centers, President David Graham, Vice-President and Marching Band Judge Coordinator George Boulden, and Executive Director John Stroube.

II. Motion by Ellis, second by Stone to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Motion by Smith, second by Ervin to approve the [Minutes from Feb. 27, 2021](#). Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Tim Allen, KMEA Marching Band Committee, Chair

B. George Boulden, KMEA Marching Band Evaluator Coordinator, spoke from the viewpoint of the championships host, saying they learned some things that can be improved, pointing out that medics must be allowed to attend to those in need; there is no cost to those treated. He expressed disappointment at rude behavior that had been expressed toward UK students and staff. As judge coordinator he reviewed some concerns that had been expressed.

C. John Stroube, KMEA Executive Director, SMBC manager, discussed several items:

1. Boyle County judge materials had not been turned in, and the band director had explained that the distraction from configuring the online scoring system that was being trialed at the contest diverted his attention from his responsibility regarding judge orientation. He expressed remorse. Executive Director Stroube recommended that no action be taken. He also mentioned that we need to orient contest managers more formally in future years using videoconferencing, emphasizing judge orientation and penalties, at least warning directors they have broken a rule.
2. Competition Suite, the online scoring platform in use this year, presented a steep learning curve, but by the time of the championships the site administrators' skill at managing various problems had improved such that no noticeable problems occurred.

3. In packing materials for semifinals sites, a series of mistakes led to 4A bands not having credentials packets at semifinals. It should not happen again.
4. For the conference marching band clinic, there needs to be input to identify a clinician. Several names were suggested and they were put in priority order.
5. The results of a post-season survey were presented and discussed. Only fourteen band directors had responded, so Stroube was asked to resubmit several key questions to all the competing directors.

V. Unfinished Business (none)

VI. New Business

- A. Motion by Ervin, second by Stone to revise I.B.1.b.: All bands that ~~were enrolled~~ in the State Marching Band Championships ~~for either or both of the previous two years~~ will be sorted by school size, and divided into five equal-number groups. If there is a remainder of one, it will be added one to the group containing the smallest schools; if there is a remainder of two, one band will be added to each of the two groups containing the smaller schools, and so forth. **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- B. Motion by Stone, second by Bralley to use the expression “Kentucky Marching Band Championships.” in all places where the rule book reads “State Marching Band Championships.” **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- C. Motion by Bralley, second by Stone to delete II.B.6 ~~Equipment Shuttle~~ KMEA-Sanctioned Marching Band events are not required to provide Equipment Shuttle services and State Marching Band Championship events *will not* provide Equipment Shuttle service. **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- D. Motion by Bralley, second by Ervin to delete II.C.5, because it is covered in III.E.12 ~~Adjudication sheets, recaps, and judges’ recorded comments will be distributed at the conclusion of prelims.~~ **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- E. Motion by Bralley, second by Stone to **revise** III.B.1.b.: The method of scheduling finals is to be determined by the host and must be announced in advance on the application forms sent out to directors. **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- F. Motion by Ervin, second by Stone to revise
 1. III.C.3: When the band is in starting position, a student ~~the drum major(s)~~ must present a salute. The announcer will respond, “(name of band), you may take the field.” A student ~~The drum major(s)~~ will signify the conclusion of the band’s performance with a final salute immediately following the last prepared selection. Non-compliance carries a 5-point penalty.

AND

 2. III.E.8 Evaluation must end with the final salute from a student ~~the drum major~~.
Motion carried unanimously.
Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.

- G. Motion by Smith, second by J. O. Gregory to delete III.C.14 because it is covered in III.E.12: ~~Assessment forms, recordings from the judges, composite sheets and Directors Report on Adjudicators forms must be provided to each director immediately following the conclusion of the event. If finals are held, assessment forms, recordings from the judges, and evaluator evaluation forms must be provided to each director immediately following the conclusion of the preliminary evaluation. If practical, composite sheets should be given to bands in Festival Division following preliminary evaluations.~~ **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- H. In light of the implementation of online electronic scoring at some contests and the championships, John Stroube asked the committee what they want to do with III.E.6., which reads, “Each evaluator must complete a written and verbal assessment of each band, and give each band a score based solely on the criteria of the caption sheet he or she is assigned. Official KMEA forms, licensed from Bands of America, will be used to record an evaluator’s written comments and score. The evaluator must initial any change on the evaluation form. The host must send to each evaluator a copy of the appropriate assessment form with corresponding instructions at least ten days prior to the event.” Discussion included possibly adding that written commentary is optional, but any **action was postponed until February.**
- I. **Action was postponed until February** regarding a proposal to revise III.E.12: Assessment forms, *if used*, recordings from judges, composite sheets and Directors Report on Adjudicators forms must be given to each director immediately following the conclusion of the event. If a critique session is to be held, recordings from the judges may be given to band directors as soon as possible after each band’s performance. If finals are held, assessment forms, recordings from the judges, and evaluation forms must be given to each director immediately following the conclusion of the preliminary assessment. If practical, composite sheets should be given to bands in the Festival Division following preliminary evaluations. Audio comments may be in the form of cassettes, compact discs, or digital files (mp3, etc.). The contest host must inform the participating directors of the particular audio format before the contest.
- J. **Action was postponed until February** regarding a proposal to revise III.G.B: The evaluator must initial all changes on evaluation forms (*if used*).
- K. Motion by Ervin, second by Stone to delete IV A.9. because it is covered in III.A.10. ~~Bands qualifying for the State Marching Band Championships are limited in the number of performance assessment events they may enter during the marching event season. Bands wishing to qualify for the State Championships are limited to six events. It makes no difference whether these events are sanctioned or unsanctioned, nor whether they are in-state or out-of-state.~~ **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- L. Motion by Stone, second by Ervin to revise IV.D.1.f: Regional Quarterfinals managers will report to the manager of the State Marching Band Championships by 11:00 p.m. the day of the regional event the names of bands (~~maximum of 68~~ per class) qualifying for the state championship semifinals. Failure to do so may cause the bands to be disqualified. **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**

- M. **Action was postponed until February** regarding a proposal to revise IV.D.2.b.: A drawing for performance order at the semifinal event will take place on the Saturday of the Regional Quarterfinal, immediately following the event. ~~Bands placing 1st-4th at Regional Quarterfinals will randomly draw for performance slots 9-16. Bands placing 5th-8th at Regional Quarterfinals will randomly draw for performance slots 1-8.~~ In even years, even numbered slots will be assigned to bands from the east region and odd numbered slots will be assigned to bands from the west region. In odd numbered years the reverse will be the case
- N. **Action was postponed until February** regarding a proposal to revise IV.D.2.d.: A drawing for the order of performance in each class for finals will be held at the conclusion of each semifinal event. This drawing will be held immediately after the finalists are announced. ~~The top three scoring bands in Semifinals will draw for slots 4, 5, and 6 for Finals, and the next three scoring bands would draw for slots 1, 2, and 3.~~
- O. Motion by Stone, second by Smith to delete IV.D.2.f.: ~~Finals will begin at 6:00 pm local time.~~ **Motion carried unanimously. This was a first reading.**
- P. **Action was postponed until February** regarding a proposal to revise IV.F.3: At Regional Quarterfinals and Semifinals, judges will be allowed to retain score sheets, if used, until four bands have performed.
- The Press Box Manager will instruct the judges to consult, especially within caption.
 - After the fourth band's performance, the four sheets, if used, will be collected by the tabulator and no further retention of score sheets will be allowed.
- Q. **Action was postponed until February** regarding proposals from District 10:

Proposal #1

Eliminate seeding at KMEA State Semifinals.

Rationale: Since only 12 bands will be competing at KMEA State Semifinals and 6 will be advancing to finals, there is no longer a need for seeding groups. There will also never be a truly fair way of seeding groups as long as we have two separate Quarterfinals (East and West) since the caliber of the groups will not always be equal. The adjudicators at KMEA State Semifinals are more than qualified to be able to select the six groups that should advance to finals without seeding. It also eliminates bias in the judges' minds on who the likely finalists should be, allowing them to be completely objective in evaluating all 12 bands' performances.

Proposal #2 (If the proposal to eliminate seeding at State Semifinals fails)

True seeding at KMEA State Semifinal. Eliminate the random draw for the top six/bottom six and put groups in reverse performance order based on their finish at Quarterfinals.
Eliminate the break at Semifinals

Rationale: If seeding continues, the most fair way to compare groups that finished in close proximity to each other at KMEA State Quarterfinals would be to have them perform within a shorter time frame from each other. Example: It would be much easier to compare groups who finished 4th and 3rd in their respective State Quarterfinals if they performed in performance slots 5-8 than if they performed in slots 1-2 and 11-12. This would help to offset possible imbalances in the caliber of bands between East and West Quarterfinals and allow the adjudicators to have a closer comparison of groups within each range of semifinalists.

Proposal #3

Only hire out-of-state evaluators for KMEA State Quarterfinals

Rationale: If we are going to continue to place an emphasis on seeding for KMEA State Semifinals, we need adjudicators at KMEA State Quarterfinals that are going to be completely objective while evaluating the bands that will be performing at each Quarterfinal. While this may not be as cost effective as hiring in-state adjudicators, it will help to eliminate any potential biases that might exist and allow for a more fair adjudication of the bands in each quarterfinal.

R. Action was postponed until February regarding proposals from District 2:

Adjudicators for “summative KMEA events” (quarterfinals, semifinals, finals) must complete the currently offered judge training modules.

Rationale: KMEA bands currently compete at local contests where statewide training modules are used in the training of contest adjudicators. Currently, completion of these same modules is not required of the judges at our summative events based on their pedigree/resume. While the intent behind this makes sense there were widespread issues with the 2021 semifinals judging that is directly addressed in our training modules. The most prominent issue is the occurrence of subcaption ties.

The occurrence of subcaption ties breaks down per class in the following manner:

A: 6 subcaption ties

AA: 7 subcaption ties (1 three way tie)

AAA: 2 subcaption ties

AAAA: 19 subcaption ties (1 four way tie, 1 three way tie)

AAAAA: 4 subcaption ties

Total: 38 subcaption ties (1 four way tie, 2 three way ties)

While most directors will accept that there is not a “perfectly judged event” I believe this stands as proof that our current expectation of judging panels isn’t enough to prepare judging panels to “get it right” after one read of the performing bands.

The expectation that out-of-state judges should complete the same judging modules as our local judges establishes congruence between events across the duration of the marching season and should help to better manage the occurrence of scoring irregularities at semi, and state, finals. Additionally, as we add additional modules to the current training offered by KMEA, out-of-state hires should be able to offer better feedback to students competing at SMBC events.

VII. John Stroube presented for discussion information about risk of injury created by the traditional on-field celebration held by finalist bands

- People come over the walls and risk injury, as has occurred at sporting events.
- Too many people are then on the field creating a danger if a need for an evacuation should arise.
- Too many feet are on the turf, already a sensitive area, increasing the amount of time and expense for reconditioning it.

In order to evacuate the bands from the field in a safe and orderly fashion, he suggested a reverse-order, band-by-band exit to a drum cadence, much like how the bands entered. Consensus was that the on-field ceremony has merit but there is no choice. The bands must leave in order to remove the attraction for fans to come onto the field, and an orderly departure would be safest and most efficient.

Joe Craig asked that one field photographer pass per band be issued in the interest of capturing the student reactions to awards announcements

VIII. Chair Allen announced that the next meeting would be Wednesday, February 2, 2:00 PM EST, in the Galt House

IX. Motion by Stone, seconded by Ervin to adjourn the meeting. There was no objection. Chair Allen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Stroube