

NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

2008 DISTRICT MUSIC COORDINATORS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 19, 2008 Lincoln, Nebraska

The 2008 Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) District Music Coordinators Committee met on May 19, 2008, at the NSAA offices in Lincoln, Nebraska, with seven coordinators present:

District I - Jim Kucera, Waverly Public Schools
District II - Doran Johnson, Omaha Westside High School
District III - Tim Gansebom, Norfolk High School
District IV – Teresa Rotert, Hershey Public Schools
District V- Mark Butler, Holdrege High School
 Dan Wiese, Holdrege High School
District VI - Sharon Hoffman, Bayard High School
NSAA – Bud Dahlstrom, NSAA Assistant Director

NSAA Assistant Director Bud Dahlstrom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of this 2008 NSAA District Music Coordinators Committee meeting was to evaluate the District Music Contests that were held April 14-19, 2008 and to plan for the 2009 Contests. Reports and discussion on the District Music Contests comprised most of the meeting.

The following were the major items that were reported on and discussed:

1. **Reports from each of the 2007-2008 NSAA District Music Coordinators:**
 - A. **Overview of 2008 District Music Contests at each site:**
 1. Each of the District Coordinators reported that the 2008 District Music Contests went well.
 2. District I reported that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) returned to participate in District Music Contest and hosted a site at Lincoln North Star High School that was very successful. This performance site took place on Monday April 14 and included Large Ensembles from the Lincoln area Class AA high schools. One issue reported by the District I Music Coordinator had to do with the ineligibility of students for contest participation who are not bona fide students of NSAA members high schools. According to NSAA Bylaws, exempt-school or home-school students, unless enrolled in a minimum of twenty credit hours of schoolwork in the member high school, are not eligible to represent a member school in NSAA activities, regardless of the level of participation or competition. One Lincoln high school orchestra could not perform with all of its student musicians because they are home-school students and ineligible for this event.
 3. District II reported performance venue adjustments which were made this year to accommodate requests from music directors who requested that gymnasiums not be used for orchestral performances at contest.
 4. District II reported that a contest site for next year had not been secured yet for the AA schools in the Omaha Metro area due to the reluctance of larger schools to give up school time to host the music contest.
 5. District III indicated that a scheduling conflict with District Music Contest continues due to a track meet being scheduled on the same day.

6. The District III Coordinator stated that the consistency of adjudication was good this year and is the primary concern more than actual standards applied to performances by different contest judges.
7. The new Show Choir rule, which exempts Show Choirs from the requirement for providing scores to the judges at contest, was discussed and does not include Jazz Choir group performances. It was suggested that the wording of the Bylaw be restated to include this distinction.
8. District IV reported that one site was challenging to communicate with and that some schools attending contest there had expressed concerns over the acoustics and suitability of some performance venues.
9. The identical dates used by NSAA Districts for scheduling contests across the state (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) was discussed and causes competition among the sites to contract from a limited pool of music adjudicators. This often results in hiring judges that must travel longer distances to work and thus increases the expenses for the contest sites.
10. District V reported a slight deficit this year in the financial balance at the east site due to the rental charge from one of the contest performance centers which was not anticipated.
11. The appropriateness of music performed at contest was discussed as a possible separate adjudication ballot element for emphasizing that "pop music" be discouraged as literature performed at District Music Contest. It was agreed that this is a music educator's responsibility and including this on the ballot was secondary to evaluating the student's performance. However, this standard is included in Other Factors and it was suggested that the adjudicator use the "Comments to Music Teachers" provision to emphasize a poor choice of contest literature. It was suggested that the Nebraska Music Educators Association, the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, the Nebraska Choral Directors Association and other interested state music groups be contacted for their input on standardizing music contest literature in Nebraska. The NSAA will emphasize the appropriateness of contest music to music educators in the 2008-2009 NSAA Music Manual and to contest adjudicators in the NSAA 2009 Letter to Contest Judges information supplied by contest site hosts.
12. District VI reported that 2 schools were likely to request changes of contest site participation in District III due to long distances involved with attending District VI sites.
13. District VI indicated that the fee schedule for this district would be reviewed for the coming year and the possibility existed that the fees would be adjusted.

B. Number of schools and individuals participating at each site:

There was a decrease in the numbers of schools and students participating at District Music Contests this year.

C. District Contest entry fees at each site—late fees, expenses/receipts, future adjustments:

1. Each district coordinator discussed their sites formula for determining contest fees. The need to closely monitor the impact of increasing transportation costs was emphasized and options recommended for efficiently managing both school transportation costs and contest adjudicator expenses.
2. Three schools that began completing the District Music Contest entry form missed the March 20 deadline. One of the three schools attended contest by meeting the provisions of NSAA Approved Ruling for Bylaw 7.6.2.1.

D. Other items for discussion from each of the districts:

1. The use of digital recording devices for adjudicator's comments to large ensembles replacing older tape models was discussed by the committee.

2. District II presented a proposal for the creation of an 'Outstanding Performance Award' for soloists and small ensembles to recognize the top performers at NSAA District Music Contests. The award would be presented to the top performers from each contest site performance center (adjudicator's room), regardless of class or type of vocal or instrumental performance in the solo or small ensemble categories. The music committee agreed to take the proposal under consideration and survey their district's schools for their interest in the concept. Each music coordinator will be provided a draft of the special award's provisions following the meeting.
3. Discussion of NSAA policies regarding rules infractions and clearly stated penalties for those violations resulted in the formulation of several recommendations to amend NSAA Bylaws. The committee agreed that proposals should be considered for introduction at next year's NSAA District meetings to include:
 - A. Performers or their accompanists using illegally copied music will not be allowed to perform.
 - B. Solo and small ensemble performers shall present 2 music originals to the adjudicator. One set is for the judge and one set is for the performer and accompanist who may use photocopies due to awkward page turns.
 - C. The numbering of measures for adjudicators will be strongly recommended but will not be required.
 - D. NSAA Bylaw 7.7.10 will be clarified to reflect these changes and clarify the intent and wording of the rules.
2. **2008 Expense Reports from the Six District Music Contest Sites.**
 - A. Four of the six districts reported a net surplus in contest revenue for this year.
 - B. A detailed breakdown of finances from each of the six NSAA Districts and their District Music Contests was provided and will be presented to the Board of Control at their May 23, 2008 meeting.
3. **Planning for 2009 NSAA District Music Contests was discussed with the emphasis on securing host sites and Directors for all of the contests.**
 - A. Dates for the 2009 NSAA District Music Contests will be April 20-25 and all six District Coordinators were finalizing dates, sites and directors for next year.
 - B. The content and impact of the newly passed Music Bylaws for 2008-2009 were discussed.
4. **Discussion on any changes that need to be made to the NSAA Music Manual:**
 - A. The committee discussed changes to rules infraction penalties as shown above.
 - B. Emphasis will be made on selecting appropriate music for formal adjudication at contests.
5. **2008-2009 NSAA Music Proposals:**
 Music proposals for the 2008-2009 school year will be drafted and presented to the committee at the beginning of the school year.

The next meeting of the NSAA District Music Coordinators Committee has been set for May 26, 2009, at the NSAA office in Lincoln, Nebraska.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Bud Dahlstrom, Assistant Director