

Minutes  
KMEA Marching Band Committee, John Fannin, Chair  
November 20, 2010  
Baymont Inn—Elizabethtown, KY

Joe Stites (substituting for John Fannin) called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

1. Roll Call

- |                       |                     |                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Andrew Mroch       | 5. Matt Leedy (sub) | 9. Pauletta Smith (sub) |
| 2. Mike DiPasquale    | 6. David Owens      | 10. Curtis Ervin        |
| 3. David Graham (sub) | 7. Dee Bishop       | 11. David Ratliff       |
| 4. Ed Johnson         | 8. Andy Critz       | 12. David Epperson      |

Ex Officio: Joe Stites, Tanya Bromley, David Dunevant, John Stroube, Tom Case  
Guests: Tim Allen, Chris Yoo, Jaime Smith

2. Approval of agenda (Approved as submitted)

3. Approval of minutes from April 17, 2010 (Approved as submitted)

**Reports**

4. John Stroube, KMEA Executive Director, SMBC manager

A. Championship Report

•John has reviewed feedback from the quarterfinals sites regarding judges and facilities, and this will provide guidance for future decisions. Some of this information will be available when these sites are proposed for next year. The weather was very cooperative this year, and no alternate sites were necessary.

B. Failure to meet deadlines report

•There were six local contests in which deadlines were missed. John presented the information (included in the agenda packet) and asked for consideration from the MBC. There were extenuating circumstances in a few of these, but no excuses for others. Although this represents far fewer problems than in the past, the number this year is greater than in 2009. Previous actions have been either a letter of warning and probation, and one contest manager was suspended for a year. There was a suggestion to again provide letters to those that missed deadlines this year, and ask for information regarding the problems. **John Stroube and John Fannin will consult and propose appropriate action for the February meeting.**

5. Dave Owens, chair of the subcommittee regarding KMEA marching band adjudication

•The subcommittee has been active in working on a marching band manual for directors and adjudicators, as well as an overall evaluation of marching band activities in Kentucky. A written report from the subcommittee is included in the agenda packet. John Fannin developed the Philosophy of Adjudication statement, and John Stroube developed the Purposes of KMEA Levels of Marching Band Competition. Dr. Stroube presented his report. Tanya Bromley suggested that the subcommittee consider adding statements regarding how the Mission and Beliefs align with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and national standards. This would make these stronger for presentation to non-musicians and administrators. Pauletta Smith

suggested that one of the original purposes for developing sanctioned contests was to provide consistency for the operation and adjudication, and that a statement to this effect be added to this section.

- The subcommittee presented a more national-centric approach for a standardized scoring progression chart for sub-captions, and guidelines for numbers management and point spreads.

- The subcommittee presented suggestions for employing a criteria reference system that better aligns with the new philosophy. This will provide more consistency with national trends, and will be more familiar to out-of-state judges hired for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.

- The subcommittee is working hard to develop means for both consistency and accountability. Joe Stites suggested that MBC members continue to share this information in districts, and communicate with members of the subcommittee.

- The hope is to have this proposal ready for a vote in February, 2011, and implementation in Fall 2011. The proposal should be available for review on the KMEA web site.**

#### Old business

##### **6. None**

#### New business

##### **7. Incident at Barren County**

II.B.1.c.—All performing members, including conductors or manipulators of any visual equipment or musical instruments, must be enrolled members in grades 7-12 of the school or feeder school they represent. (Students in 6th grade and under are not allowed to be part of the performance.) For a marching band to participate in KMEA sanctioned contests or to be admitted to the Regional Quarterfinals and beyond, its members must all attend a single high school or its feeder schools.

II.E.6.c—Only band members, band staff and equipment crews will be allowed in the performance area. Once the performance has begun, band directors and staff must leave the performance area. For the safety of the students, band staff/adults may remain on the field to secure props, if needed.

The Code of Ethics tenet #7—Violators of KMEA Assessment Event Rules and Regulations may be barred from further participation for a given period by action of the MBC/Band Council and the KMEA Board.

- John Stroube provided the committee with a written communication from Stephen Keys regarding the incident occurring at the Barren County contest on October 16, 2010. Joe Stites provided an explanation of the incident in which Mr. Keys joined his band as a performing member.

- The committee discussed (Epperson/Smith) the violation of the above rules and ethics.

- MOTION** The MBC recommends (Bishop/Owens) to the Band Council that Stephen Keys be sanctioned for violating the KMEA Marching Band Code of Ethics, tenet #7, on October 16, 2010. (**Motion passes unanimously**)

- MOTION** The committee further recommends (Owens/Bishop) that Stephen Keys, and any band under his direction, be barred from participating in the 2011

KMEA State Marching Band Championships. (**Motion passes 9/3**)

8. The following items could be accepted as one motion:
- John Stroube presented these items for consideration. **MOTION** to approve these changes (Ervin/Ratliff). (**Motion carries unanimously**)
- a. Because it is fully covered in the sentence that follows it, remove the sentence from rule II.B.3 that says, “Bands that do so will then be placed into one of the five classes.”
- b. *REORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK—NOT RULE CHANGES*
- i. **Remove “DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION”** as a subtopic from “II. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT EVENT OPERATION” and elevate it to the status of topic. Place it as the first topic in the Rules and Regulations section of the rulebook. Increase the designation number (roman numerals) of the existing topics by one.
  - ii. **Reorganize the section** entitled “II. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT EVENT OPERATION” from the current configuration—
    - A. EVALUATION
    - B. DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION (to be removed from within this topic)
    - C. ANNOUNCING AND TIMING
    - D. SCHEDULING BANDS FOR ASSESSMENT
    - E. ENTERING AND PARTICIPATING
    - F. SCORES, RATINGS AND AWARDS
    - G. PENALTIES

...to a configuration that reflects the chronological order in which things occur in the operation of an assessment event—

    - A. ENTERING (1–5 of the existing “Entering and Participating”)
    - B. SCHEDULING BANDS FOR *ASSESSMENT*
    - C. PARTICIPATING (6–19 of the existing “Entering and Participating, to be numbered 1–14)
    - D. ANNOUNCING AND TIMING
    - E. EVALUATION
    - F. PENALTIES
    - G. SCORES, RATINGS, AND AWARDS
  - iii. **Move “KMEA State Marching Band Championships”** to number III and “Marching Band Committee” to number IV.
  - iv. **Move IV.C.1.d** to be a new IV.A.4 because the new placement will be in the chronological order in which things occur. Increase the designation number for each of the succeeding rules in the IV.A section by one. This rule says, “Bands will be assigned to an east or west regional site based on their geographic location and equal division of the classifications for all registered

bands. Assignments will be made by the KMEA Executive Director, Band Division Chair, and MBC Chair and posted on the KMEA web site within one week after the August 1 deadline. Bands must participate in the regional events as assigned.”

- c. **Change IV.A.3.d as follows**, “A director may request a change of division at the Regional Quarterfinal event by notifying the ~~Regional Quarterfinal manager~~ KMEA Executive Director in writing. This written notification must be received by the ~~regional manager~~ KMEA Executive Director 12 days prior to the Regional Quarterfinal date. If not received by ~~mail or fax~~ in writing by midnight 12 days prior to the event, the request for change will automatically be denied. Competitive division bands that receive one of the eight highest scores will qualify to continue in semifinals competition.
9. Remove “Electrical outlets will not be provided for use during the event.” from rule II.E.11. Create a new rule 1.B.3 that says “Electrical Service: KMEA-Sanctioned Marching Band events are not required to provide electrical service for participating bands. State Marching Band Championship events *will not* provide electrical service.” Increase the designation number for each of the succeeding rules in the 1.B section by one. (This rule is modeled on the shuttle rule.) •**MOTION** to approve (Owens/Ratliff). **(Motion carries unanimously)**
10. As per BOA rules, add a sentence to II.E.11 as follows: “Prerecorded sounds other than music, such as narration or sound effects, may be used without penalty, but must be actuated by a student performer. The use of sampled sounds, either prerecorded or sequenced, of human voices, woodwind, brasswind, and percussion instruments will not be permitted. Any prerecorded sounds used that are copyrighted must have permission obtained for their use, similar to copyright consideration for music. Evidence of such authority must be included in the Music Information Form required for your participation. (See “Copyright Compliance” on p. iii.)” •**MOTION** (Bishop/Graham) for this to be postponed until February meeting. **(Motion carries unanimously)**
11. Augment II.C.1.d as follows: “Unofficial announcements are prohibited at KMEA sanctioned contests and at any level of the state championships. These include but are not limited to personal announcements (i.e. “band-o-grams”). Reports of news and athletic scores are considered to be unofficial in nature and are **not** allowed. Recognition of host band seniors or other similar honors is considered to be unofficial in nature and is **not** allowed.” **(Motion withdrawn)**
12. **Augment II.G.1 as follows**: “Any participating band violating any printed rule in sections II.E.6, II.E.7, II.E.8, II.E.9, II.E.10, II.E.11, II.E.12, ~~and/or~~ II.E.13, and/or II.E.19 in the KMEA Marching Band Rules, Regulations and Policies will receive a penalty. •**MOTION** to approve (Epperson/DiPasquale). **(Motion carries unanimously)**

### 13. Classification proposal #1

•**MOTION** to accept the proposal.(Owens/Ervin) (**Motion carries unanimously**)

Under the current method of classification in which we divide the participating bands into five groups, it is important to classify bands prior to the first deadline for contests. Therefore, it is important for the office to receive Applications Part 1 by August 1.

Although this is the sixth year of the August 1 deadline for enrollment in the SMBC, this year three band directors missed that deadline. There would have been others if I had not hounded people by email and phone during the last week of July. Whenever we place the deadline there will be a rush at the end, but I have to believe it would help avoid accidental oversight if we could place this deadline after the start of school. If it were, it would be more conspicuous to and more convenient for the directors. I still would contact seemingly missing directors as the deadline approaches, but the odds of them seeing my emails, getting my phone messages, and hearing warnings from their buddies is greater after school starts. In order to have a later deadline we need a way to classify bands that does not require, as a prerequisite, enrollment of the bands.

Rather than waiting until August 1 to find out what bands actually are participating and then to classify, the plan described below allows classification to occur in the previous spring. If adopted, this method would result in almost identical class assignments, with the occasional band director happier and the occasional band director less happy. Over time, the glad vs. mad factor should be a wash.

Proposal for II.B.1: Prior to the spring Marching Band Committee meeting, school sizes for classifying bands shall be determined for the subsequent fall by the following process:

1. All bands that were enrolled in the SMBC for either of the previous two years shall be divided by school size into five groups of equal number, based on a two-year average using sizes from the current and previous school years. When the number of bands is not equally divisible by five, the classes in order from lower (smaller schools) to higher (larger schools) shall be assigned one additional band to absorb the remainder.
2. A band from an existing school that has not participated within the past two years will be included in the class appropriate to its own two-year average size.
3. A new school's size would be determined as per Rule II.B.2 and the band from that school would be included in the class appropriate to its size.
4. A school that has been changed in size due absorption of a portion of the student population from or by another school will be sized according to a revised II.B.2 proposed below.
5. In each of the scenarios described in 2, 3 and 4 above, if the school's size is between that of the smallest band in one class and the largest band in another class, the band will be placed in the lower class.

6. Each year this procedure will recur, and new classification boundaries will be established.

Adopting this plan will require changing Rule II.B.3 to list the due date for SMBC Application Part 1 as August 15.

Implementation of this plan would be aided if II.B.2 were changed as follows: “In the event that a new high school is opened, taking its membership from one or more preexisting schools, or the size of an existing school is dramatically changed due to the combining or dividing of schools, the KMEA state office is authorized to consult with the school system administration to determine, for KMEA marching band classification purposes, the enrollment of the affected high schools in the school system for the fall of the first year, and that a one-year average from the Kentucky Department of Education be used to determine their classifications for the following year.

Because directors would know what class they were to be in far in advance, they could decide in an informed way whether to enter the SMBC. Although the classes might be unequal by one or two bands, this would NOT compound in successive years. Instead, the boundaries of each class would re-calibrate each spring based on the school sizes from the past two years’ enrolled bands, with no regard to what class any bands had been in.

The assignment to regions would occur after the August 15 deadline in order for the two regions of each class to be as equal as possible. Once the regions are established, the draw would occur. Since school would already be underway, the draw could not as easily be held at the office on a workday, so another plan would have to be crafted. With classes and regions already set, the draw procedure takes less than an hour. Maybe it could be done more publicly than the currently method, such as in a band room somewhere on an evening when nearby directors could come and observe, leading to more transparency.

The attached chart lists all schools that participated in the SMBC in either of the past two years. The schools are listed in size order based on the two-year school-size average for 08–09 and 09–10. It shows the classes into which the bands were placed for each of the years and groups them according to how the plan in question would have done so. This particular year, a band or two that was in 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A would have been in a lower class. The dividing line between 4A and 5A would have been the same.

Prior to discussion by the MBC, a motion would be in order to accept (or reject) the proposals for II.B.1, II.B.2, and II.B.3 as described.

#### **14. Classification proposal #2**

- MOTION** to approve (Smith/Epperson). (**Motion fails 4/7**)

#### **II.B. DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION**

1. Bands will have the option of entering either Competitive Division (for both a ranking and a rating) or Festival Division (for ratings only).

- a. All bands will be further classified based on **band size (including winds and percussion)**. By August 10 (to allow the addition of new transfers at the start of school), of each year, band directors must submit the appropriate form (to be constructed) to the KMEA office. The form must be verified by including the signature of the principal or superintendent and may be faxed or emailed to the KMEA office. Any student that plays a musical instrument at any point of the show will be considered a wind player or percussionist (including guard, prop manipulators, etc.).
  - b. All performing members, including conductors or manipulators of any visual equipment or musical instruments, must be enrolled members in grades 7-12 of the school or feeder school they represent. (Students in 6th grade and under are not allowed to be part of the performance.) For a marching band to participate in KMEA sanctioned contests or to be admitted to the Regional Quarterfinals and beyond, its members must all attend a single high school or its feeder schools.
2. All bands wishing to participate in the Regional Quarterfinals and beyond must submit an *SMBC Application Part I* to the KMEA office by August 1. Bands that do so will then be placed into one of the five KMEA classes. This process will be achieved by being divided equally into five classifications based on band size (winds and percussion):
    - Class “A” Bands with the lowest 20% of winds and percussion
    - Class “AA” Bands with the next highest 20% of winds and percussion
    - Class “AAA” Bands with the middle 20% of winds and percussion
    - Class “AAAA” Bands with the second highest 20% of winds and percussion
    - Class “AAAAA” Bands with the highest 20% of winds and percussion
  3. Upon the release of classifications for the year, band size will be verified by the Timing & Penalties Adjudicator at each event. To compensate for students that occasionally quit marching band throughout the season, bands will be allowed to perform and compete with less than their stated number of performers. Bands will be disqualified from an event if they perform with more than the specified number of winds and percussion. Bands with two or more violations will be disqualified from the SMBC.
  4. Bands that do not apply for SMBC events, but plan on participating in regular season events, must submit the same classification paperwork as bands planning to participate in SMBC events.

**The rationale for this change in classification:**

1. The plan continues to keep classifications equal in numbers participating.
2. The plan provides an opportunity for marching bands to compete against bands of similar size.
3. The plan provides protection from students being cut to secure a spot in a particular classification, by means of the anonymity of band size numbers prior to their release by KMEA.
4. The plan provides an avenue for the best twenty bands in the state to perform in Finals, rather than “being lucky” to fall or rise into another class (due to school enrollment fluctuations).
5. The plan provides continued opportunities for success in programs that fluctuate in numbers (large senior classes graduate, etc.).
6. The plan provides continued opportunities for the growth of struggling programs

- by giving students an opportunity to experience success by competing in classifications of similar sized groups; furthermore, the plan provides current and new directors an additional tool for promoting their programs as they experience success.
7. The plan does not punish students or directors involved in large schools for the lack of numbers involved in band, which could be due to a lack of school and/or district administrative support, etc. Perhaps a bit of success in a more appropriately suited classification could spawn support from key individuals in the school community, which could contribute to a rise in the number of students participating in band.
  8. The plan provides an incentive for bands to compete within KMEA Sanctioned Contests, rather than seeking opportunities outside KMEA (i.e. Mid-States), due to differences in classification procedures.

### **15. Online Application**

- David Epperson presented this proposal. **MOTION** to approve (Ratliff/Ervin).  
**(Motion carries unanimously)**

#### Problems:

1. The control of compliance with the 7 pm application deadline is in the hands of contest hosts who have a conflict of interest regarding strict enforcement of the deadline.
2. During the enrollment period, contest hosts sometimes have a conflict of interest when asked to list the bands that previously have enrolled. There is a need to counteract any suspicion that a sanctioned contest host has withheld any bands from their list of enrollees prior to the deadline.

Proposal: KMEA shall establish a secure online method by which marching band directors shall submit applications for all KMEA sanctioned marching contests.

- 1) All sanctioned contests shall be listed online, and shall be categorized by date
- 2) All contest hosts must have the following information available to KMEA on the sanctioned contest application.
  - a. Name of the contest
  - b. Date and starting time of contest
  - c. Whether the contest shall be a single performance or prelims/finals format
  - d. Names of at least four of the judges
  - e. List of awards
- 3) Directors who are applying for contests shall not be asked to list band information. Instead, the band information from the SMBC application shall be made available to the contest hosts.
- 4) Once a director enrolls his/her band, the band's name and classification shall immediately and automatically appear on an enrollment list.
- 5) Contest deadlines shall be administered automatically; submissions will not be accepted after 7:00 PM local contest time
- 6) If a contest manager cancels the event due to insufficient enrollment, directors of affected bands shall be able to enroll in an alternate contest until 7:00 pm the next day, 24 hours following the original deadline.

Portions of the II.E. section of the rules would be stricken if this proposal is accepted:

## II.E. ENTERING & PARTICIPATING

### 1. Deadline

- a. The entry deadline **for sanctioned events (other than State Championships) is 26 days prior to the event date at 7:00 pm contest site time. (When a contest falls 26 days after Labor Day, the deadline shall be 25 days before the contest.)** Bands must enter in Festival Division or Competitive Division. **The contest manager must inform the KMEA office of all entered bands and indicate whether or not the contest will be held within one hour after the entry deadline. Notification can be by email, fax, or phone message. Failure to comply will trigger an automatic loss of sanction for the following year.** Directors may appeal loss of sanction penalty by submitting an explanation in writing to an ad hoc sub-committee of the Marching Band Committee that will convene at the fall MBC meeting.
- b. After a band is entered in a sanctioned event it may not be withdrawn unless the event is canceled (consequence described in Section II.E.4). If an event cancels or if an entered band is the only band in its class, it shall be the responsibility of the event manager to notify the band(s) immediately (26 days prior to the event). Bands so notified, and the host band of a cancelled contest, shall have the option of entering another performance assessment event for that date and may do so by phone 25 days prior to the event. (When a contest falls 26 days after Labor Day, the option to enter another contest shall be 24 days before the contest.) Any phoned-in applications must be followed by a written confirmation postmarked within 24 hours of the phone conversation. **These are the only exceptions to the 26-day deadline.**

## 16. Change the wording

- Proposal submitted by Mike DiPasquale. **MOTION** to accept proposal (DiPasquale/Mroch). **(Motion carries unanimously)**

in II. E. 6. d. to say “The pit area is defined as the area off the regulation football field playing area, between the 35yard lines, extending a distance of 10 yards, or 30 feet, from the front sideline toward the audience/evaluators if facilities permit.

The addition of “if facilities permit” is in clarification to the previously stated rule I.B. e. (sidelines must) be free from any obstructions for a minimum of twelve feet from the front and back sideline.

This caused some confusion at 4A west quarterfinals when a band was accustomed to placing their drum major further from the pit than Owensboro High School's facilities allowed. While the stadium exceeded the minimum requirement of 12 feet from the sideline, 30 feet was simply not available.

## **REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY 2011.**

17. **A new rule specifying** that any band wishing to hold a senior recognition at their contest must hold said ceremony before the first competing band performs. In the case of a prelims/finals contest, senior recognition may be held before the first

competing band in finals. This is simply to get contests moving along and improve efficiency.

**18. Create a program** which includes information on all Kentucky marching bands in all classes for sale at quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. This would create greater exposure and recognition for all the bands in the state.

**19. Adopt a scoring rubric** which aids judges in the area of numbers management. This rubric should be more specific than the existing rubric and could include a ratings guide or a guide to point spread differentials. (Withdrawn)

**20. Date, time and location of next meeting** 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 9th, 2011

**21. Adjournment: Meeting (Bishop/Ratliff) was adjourned at 2 pm.**