

South Dakota Band Masters Association
Executive Board Special Meeting
Sunday September 16th, 2012
Chamberlain, SD High School Library

A special Executive Board meeting of the South Dakota Bandmasters Association was called to order at 12:29 PM CDT by president Gary Hansen: Board members present; President Gary Hansen, President Elect Helen Mogen, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Bray, Region Representatives George Dragoo, Kevin McLouth and Sara Olson. Past President Bob Carlson was in contact via cell phone, on speaker mode, from Sioux Falls. Director Reid Johnson was absent. A quorum was established according to SDBA by-laws.

Discussion: President Hansen set forth discussion on five (5) items with regard to the “Weaver Proposal” dealing with having the four all state events on the same weekend in late March. President elect Helen Mogen presented letters from Reid Johnson (form letter) and Jerome Letcher (addressed to James Weaver) regarding this change along with a portion of the minutes from Helen’s region meeting discussion regarding this proposal. It was noted that there has been overwhelming opposition to this proposal from the eight region mandatory-attendance meetings.

Item 1 “Effect On Students”: According to Weaver’s proposal students will be forced to choose which ensemble they will perform in. If students are required to do this it will, according to “Weaver’s Proposal”, allow more students to participate. The SDBA board agreed that students should not be forced to do this which would lessen the overall all state experience for our best musicians and would dilute the quality of the all state groups. Other discussion in sued that if a band director had trained, for example, a trumpet player from elementary through high school and that student made both all state orchestra and band and/or jazz band wouldn’t that director encourage that student to choose band over orchestra? Orchestra would greatly suffer quality in the wind section. This has been proven in states that use this system according to directors who have taught in other states. It was mentioned, from one board member who taught in a state using this system, that the orchestra suffered greatly and it became a requirement that the top wind players were forced to play in the orchestra.

Item 2 “Venues”: It was the opinion of the board that the host venues would be reduced to Rapid City and/or Sioux Falls. James Weaver’s proposal includes that Aberdeen could still host because of current construction of hotels etc. One board member, from Sioux Falls, feels the only venue could be Rapid City because of the combination of a theater and arena in one place. It was mentioned that if we manage to keep the existing all state instrumental groups, one orchestra, two bands and four jazz bands, a question was, where will all the equipment come from?

Item 3 “Cost” The president made it clear that Mr. Weaver stated, at one of our 2012 meetings, that cost was not an issue. The president said is was mentioned, by Weaver, that some fine arts events help to supplement the cost of other fine arts events and that cost was “not a factor”. It was questioned do oral interpretation, one act play, student council, debate etc. pay for them selves? Why are musical fine arts now being singled out as a cost factor?

Item 4 “Effect On Current All State Groups”: President Hansen pointed out that it is unclear what SDHSAA’s intentions are as to reconfiguring the current all state groups. George Dragoo said there was, at some point, “informal discussion” between James Weaver and the All State Jazz Band committee regarding the reduction of the jazz groups from four (4) to three (3). There has been no discussion from SDBA in that regard. It was questioned; would the orchestra be reduced to a “chamber group”, would the choir be reduced, would the band be reduced back to one smaller band?

Item 5 “Concert Format”: The president asked how the concerts will be arranged. Who will be the “headliner”? It was mentioned by board members who have taught in North Dakota and Minnesota that at those events, the concerts were painfully long and people would be entering and leaving as their students performed or were done performing. At some events, when the concerts were in conjunction with a state convention, the concerts were poorly attended because of other activities at these conventions.

Other Discussions: Helen Mogen stated that James Weaver and two members of SDMEA want to meet with two members of SDBA. The board decided to draft a letter to James Weaver stating that the SDBA board does not feel this meeting would be productive until the memberships of both SDBA and SDMEA have an opportunity to thoroughly discuss this matter.

Motion: by Kevin McLouth second by George Dragoo to go into executive session at 1:52 PM to discuss a personnel matter. Carried. Motion by Helen Mogen second by Sarah Olson to leave executive session at 2:04 PM. Carried.

Dennis Hegg Memorial: Helen Mogen presented two checks one from the Hegg family and one from Merl Larson for \$100.00 each. Motioned by Helen Mogen second by Sarah Olson to use this money to attach Dennis Hegg’s name to the “Outstanding Young Band Director Award” as a memorial and have a plaque with a yearly inscription of the recipient and memory of Dennis to display, along with other awards, at the convention and All State Band. Carried.

There being no other business before the board. The president adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM CDT.

Respectfully Submitted
Marklen H. Bray
Secretary/Treasurer