

Meeting Minutes
ATSSB Region 8
Saturday, January 14, 2023

Submitted by: Eric Senzig, ATSSB Region 8 Secretary

Link to the meeting agenda:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/Region-8/2023-Winter-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Jon Schriver called the meeting to order at 1:00.

The minutes from the previous meeting (August 2022) were approved with a motion by Mark Dorsey and a second by Sara English.

Treasurer report, Stephanie Schmidt: "We have a lot of money". The bank has put a hold on 25 deposits so she can't give an exact balance, but when the dust settles our balance should be around \$30,000. Our region is financially very healthy.

Vice Coordinator report, Jon Schriver: If you have clinician suggestions for next year's clinics and concerts, please contact Marc Nichelson.

Groesbeck Zone Middle School coordinator report, Brian Boecker: next year's audition music is on the website.

Robinson Zone Middle School coordinator report, Mark Dorsey: next year's audition music is on the website.

Region coordinator report, Marc Nichelson:

Next year's high school audition music will be Year C. All audition dates for next year (which are found on the agenda) are comparable to last year's dates. Jon adds that the agenda also contains the start times for all of these audition dates.

The OPS deadline is in the newsletter and Collin Anderson (state OPS coordinator) will send out an email soon. Jon and Collin both encourage everyone to enter. Collin counted 937 total entries last year!

The state ATSSB meeting at the TMEA convention will be on Friday Feb. 9th at 2:30 in CC214. This meeting will include the 2nd round of state officer elections.

Agenda items:

Rustin Honeycutt proposed adding a freshman band to our auditions, with shorter cuts than are required for 10th thru 12th graders. He feels there is a huge dropoff between the # of middle school auditions and HS auditions, and this could help bridge the gap. Discussion: Sara English asked how many freshmen auditioned this year. Jon and Marc haven't crunched the numbers yet but they feel it would be nice to have that "bridge" band. Jon asked, when would we do auditions for this freshman band? Rustin's solution is to create a separate "freshman track" that students declare for, just like TMEA vs ATSSB or 5A vs 6A, and have "freshmen track" students

audition before everyone else on each panel. Tim Grace observed that some other regions have a freshman band and asked if we can form a committee to work out details and bring them to the spring meeting. Rustin is willing to head up the committee. Krystal Michal observed there are freshmen already making the Area cut and that the Robinson Zone audition already helps bridge that gap (between middle school and high school auditions) by having non-unified audition music on each instrument. Stephanie recommended against doing a separate freshman band audition due to time involved on the day of auditions. Chris Moix concurred and said that in Region 4 freshmen auditioned on a second night.

Stephanie Schmidt motioned to create a committee with a second from Matt Nelson. Jon and Marc will team up with Rustin to create a committee and develop a proposal.

The spring region meeting will be on May 6 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at 9:00 AM. If anyone has rule changes to propose, or "after action review" items about the clinic and concert, please pass them along to Marc.

Marc's position as Region Coordinator is up for reelection. Marc was nominated by Krystal Michal with a second from Stephanie Schmidt, and there were no other nominations. Chris Moix moved to reelect Marc by acclamation and Marc was reelected to be Region Coordinator.

Contest announcements:

Riesel HS has Solo and Ensemble contests on February 24 and May 5; Crystal Senzig passed out flyers to interested directors.

McGregor HS has spring pre-UIL Concert and Sightreading contests on February 15 and March 22. Both contests will use the new UIL Sightreading procedures.

Collin announced for this year's FCA Band, which will take place on June 2-3.

Cameron Yoe HS will host a Pre-UIL festival on February 22.

Old business:

With Brian Boecker retiring, the Groesbeck Zone Middle School coordinator position needs to be filled. Crystal Senzig nominated Kristi Flusche, with a second from Sara English. With no other nominations, Kristi's nomination was accepted by acclamation.

New business:

Rebecca Kroll would like to start a discussion about discontinuing the Middle School Combined Zone band. The proposal originated from Wylie Gore and the idea was discussed during Robinson Zone auditions. Wylie feels that the initial goal of getting more students to audition by adding an additional middle school band has not happened. Tim Grace felt that many judges at the Robinson Zone auditions felt that there was a definite dropoff in talent between students qualifying for the Robinson Zone band and students qualifying for the Combined Zone band. Sara English pointed out that years ago, before the Combined Zone was added, the East/West zone band instrumentation was expanded. She suggested that if there's a perceived talent drop off, why not reduce the size of all 3 bands (East, West, and Combined Zone bands) to their previous instrumentation from that time period? Krystal Michal suggested that we set a specific threshold # of students auditioning that triggers the viability of a Combined Zone band in any

particular year. Wylie and others stated that eliminating the Combined Zone band and adding a freshman band should be discussed as a package, partly because Groesbeck can't host more than 5 bands for All Region clinics. Jon said there's a wide spectrum of opinions on this issue and we don't need to solve it today. Eliu Santos motioned to form a committee to study this issue, with a second from Crystal Senzig; the motion was approved. Jon will appoint a committee chair to begin exploring the disbanding of the Combined Zone Middle School all region band.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 with a motion from Matt Dorsey and a second from Stephanie Schmidt.