

ATSSB Region 8 Meeting Minutes

Winter 2022 Meeting

Saturday, January 15, 2022 - online via Google Meet

Submitted by Eric Senzig, ATSSB Region 8 Secretary

Link to the meeting agenda:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/Region-8/2022-Winter-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Link to the previous meeting's minutes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-te1ZB4hGVNumqp25CgUV6PO3wBt0bvWo3ThVueeOXY/edit>

The meeting was called to order by Marc at 8:05.

Marc Nicholson (Region 8 Coordinator) posted links in the chat to the minutes and agenda for today's meeting.

Secretary's report (Eric Senzig):

Minutes from the previous meeting in August were approved with a motion from Matt Nelson and a second from Mike Wilson. Marc added that minutes from each meeting not only contain information from ATSSB meetings, but from any and all TMEA and UIL meetings that take place alongside ATSSB meetings, as much of that information is highly pertinent to our business.

Treasurer's report (Stephanie Schmidt):

Marc posted a link in the chat to Stephanie's Treasurer report. The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Crystal Senzig and numerous seconds.

Vice Coordinator's report (Jon Schriver):

No report other than to ask for suggestions for clinicians for 2023.

Middle school reports (Brian Boecker, Mark Dorsey):

Audition music will advance to year B for 2022-2023. If any changes or adjustments for the Groesbeck Zone set of music are necessary in your opinion, bring it to Brian; the music was composed "in house" so it will be easy to change if anyone desires. We have been through the 3 year cycle of music twice.

Marc advised to use updated scale sheets because he has fixed some errors in the Robinson zone in the past. He also knows of some schools that didn't get some high school bassoon music updates during the summer, and had the wrong music in December; be aware that any edits can be made up thru the fall (August) meeting. Jon

spoke for the real desire for many schools to have a teachable set of music for in class practice, and acknowledged the possible need to revisit any of the music to best serve that need. Some possible adjustments for Robinson Zone scales (e.g. dropping the Bb scale) were mentioned.

Region 8 Coordinator's report (Marc Nichelson):

2022-2023 music will be year B. It's totally OK to pass out music now - but make sure you check for updates (see above about incorrect bassoon music at tryouts). For comparable dates - the January 2023 calendar is odd because Christmas and New Years are both on Sundays, which makes things look a week early, but they are not. We are voting on dates right now, not sites; both Groesbeck and Jarrell want to host the 2023 region clinic and concert, and we will vote on this in the spring. The comparable dates for auditions and the clinic and concert were approved with a motion from Lindsey Pfaff and a second from Rebecca Kroll.

Action item: Region 8's nomination for ATSSB 4A state representative. Previously our region nominated Jerry Whorton, but since his school is going 5A, our region needs a new nominee. Josh Kidd (Graham HS) and Chris Thompson (New Manor Tech HS) are the only remaining nominees statewide. Josh Nowlin and Krystal Michal spoke in favor nominating Marc Nichelson if he was interested. Marc says that he would accept since Jerry will no longer be in ATSSB. Victor Garza nominated Jose Sanchez (with a second from Lindsay Pfaff), who accepted on the basis that Marc has plenty on his plate already. We confirmed that you do not have to be a 4A director to nominate for the office of 4A state representative, though only 4A directors may vote for the office at the state meeting. Nominations closed with a motion from Jose Sanchez and a second from Lindsay Pfaff. With 36 directors voting the vote was split evenly 18-18, so Marc and Jose will discuss/decide later after the meeting who will accept, and the membership says they are fine with this approach.

The next region meeting will be Saturday May 7 at Temple College.

In the fall region meeting we talked about Eric Gray being nominated for TMEA Band Division President. The Band Division meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 10th at the TMEA convention, at 5:15 in the Stars at Night Ballroom. This meeting is our opportunity to vote for Eric Gray. You must be present in the room to vote at the meeting.

Mark briefly spoke about why the 2022 All Region clinic and concert was cancelled. Organizers and officers met via Google meet on Wednesday the 12th and decided to cancel rather than postpone. As Jarrell ISD was considering closing, Marc advised Scott Lanham (director at Jarrell, where the clinic and concert was to be held) to do what was in the best interest of his school and kids, and not fight to keep the clinic and concert on behalf of ATSSB. Rescheduling was not an option due to February being taken up with solo and ensemble contests each weekend, March being taken up with concert/sightreading contests and spring breaks, and April being taken up with state

testing and spring youth sports. If we tried to seat bands in April (as some regions are attempting), the makeup of the bands would not be the same as what was achieved at the audition. In other words, the integrity of the ensembles needed to be maintained. With the host school Jarrell shutting down the weekend of the clinic and concert, and no realistic way to reschedule, all parties were in agreement that the best option was to cancel this year's clinic and concert.

Marc shared a document with a timeline / framework for region band organizers to help them prepare for the clinic and concert. In the spring we will vote on adding this to the region rules. Marc stated that in the future, the region will establish seating and part assignments, not the clinician, thus streamlining/standardizing the process. Clinicians will also have firm deadlines for steps in their process written into their contract. (e.g. if this song can't be in your possession by this date, we'll either ask around the region to see if someone has it, or it won't be on the concert at all). Mike Wilson (one of the organizers) suggested that Collin Anderson make available a list of songs in our library that have been used at clinics and concerts.

Marc's term as region coordinator is up for reelection. He doesn't mind doing it, but he is open to other nominations. Marc was renominated with a motion from Grant Shane and a second from Matt Nelson. Nominations were closed with a motion from Rachel Berg and numerous seconds. Marc was reelected Region 8 Coordinator by acclamation and will serve another two year term.

If you want your local contest or clinic advertised on our website, let Rachel Berg know, and she will get it on the website. Marc opened the floor for clinic and contest announcements.

Josh Nowlin (Whitney HS) - there will be a small school color guard contest on April 9.

Tim Grace (McGregor HS) - there will be concert/sightreading festivals on February 16 for high schools and March 16/March 23 for middle schools.

Crystal Senzig (Riesel HS) - there will be Solo and Ensemble contests on February 25 and May 6.

Marc asked for any further issues for discussion for the May meeting:

Josh Nowlin thinks we should discuss the viability of a Combined Band next year if COVID is still an issue. Marc clarified and stated that of those 100+ holes in ensembles for the potential clinic and concert this weekend, 95% of them were from school districts closing and disallowing participation in extracurricular events during the closure, not from actual COVID cases.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 with a motion from Mark Dorsey and a second from Matt Nelson.

Unofficial discussion continued after the meeting on the topic of COVID cases potentially impacting the quality of the all region middle school Combined Band. Grant

Shane observed that in the Robinson Zone trombone panel, 23 students auditioned and 18 students qualified, and the ones that qualified for Combined Zone did not belong in a region band. Rebecca Kroll made the same observation. Chris Moix spoke as someone who has been a “bottom band” clinician before, and said that sometimes amazing things will happen with that type of band with the right clinician. Marc observed that COVID has caused # of entries to drop from previous years; this year we auditioned 1000 kids and seated 500. Rebecca observed that we should ride it out and see where we stand a little further into the pandemic. Chris Moix suggested pull out sectionals as a part of the clinic. This was actually done with multiple clinicians about 5 years ago. The only hitch with this approach according to Marc is that not all clinicians do a good job identifying what needs to be worked on during that sectional. Marc advised that data about kids auditioning during COVID years probably shouldn't be trusted as valid, and, more to the point, it's very difficult to assess audition numbers in normal years when some directors enter 30 kids one day before the hard deadline.