

Region Meeting Minutes
ATSSB Region 8
Saturday, May 6, 2023

Web links for the meeting:

TMEA meeting agenda:

<https://www.midwayisd.org/cms/lib/TX01000662/Centricity/Domain/1856/Region%208%20Spring%20Agenda%202023.docx.pdf>

TMEA Region 8 website:

<https://www.midwayisd.org/Page/155>

ATSSB Region 8 website:

<https://www.atssb.org/region-8/>

ATSSB meeting agenda:

[Spring Meeting 2023](#)

Region 8 TMEA/ATSSB/UIL calendar:

<https://www.midwayisd.org/Page/20741>

Form to update or add directory information:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSsgMPXGYI88qF0FKXw12OKuElh9u8xnyRRlCA3bjUuNIN7g/viewform>

Darrell Umhoeffer, TMEA Region 8 President:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

The Treasurer's report from Deb Barick is online at this link: [Region Financial Report](#)

The Treasurer's minutes and report were approved.

Please help keep your business office informed that Midway ISD has 8 separate TMEA vendor codes! Make sure your checks go to the right department.

TMEA announcements from Darrell:

Please check the TMEA website for some updates.

TMEA Membership fees will go up to \$65 from \$50. The last fee increase was 21 years ago.

Convention rates will stay the same - \$60 for pre-registration.

If you're not using TMEA liability insurance, use it!

The TMEA Clinic and Convention will be Feb. 7-10, 2023. The date for housing reservations to open has not been set yet.

The fall Region Meeting will be Saturday, August 5 at Temple College.

Legislative update: HB 100 will hopefully be adding state funding for fine arts. Please check out the TAEC (Texas Arts Education Campaign) - be aware that your district may want you to sign up for this with your personal email if you choose to join.

Nominations for TMEA state officers will take place at the fall region meeting.

Tony Clines, UIL Region 8 Executive Secretary:

Region 8 had 510 groups participate in UIL music events this year, which is an increase of 27 over last year. Region 8 had the most groups attend UIL contest of any region in the state, and had 2 more entries than Region 5. Of those groups, our region entered 67 marching bands (40 of which earned 1st Division ratings) and 443 concert groups, 249 of which earned sweepstakes awards. China Spring, Gatesville and Valley Mills High Schools were recognized for advancing to the UIL State Marching Contest.

In UIL Solo & Ensemble contests, 2341 students entered solos, and 1203 entries earned 1's. 264 ensembles were entered. The total number of entries went up by about 300 entries, and the total is almost back up to pre COVID numbers.

Bryan HS and University HS entered the UIL Region Mariachi contest and Bryan HS was recognized for advancing to the state contest.

Contest hosts for all UIL events from the past year were recognized.

Tony sincerely apologized for the difficulties with trophies this year. We had the 3rd new company for trophies in 4 years to deal with, the new company not knowing what they were getting into, and more trophies being earned than ever before, all at once. We normally spend \$13-14K on trophies and this year the region spent more than \$20K.

Tony says that event scheduling is becoming more and more challenging. He and the calendar team appreciate your trust in trying to create something that works best for as many people as possible. There may still be changes as late as next January so be ready to be flexible.

Band and orchestra entry fees went up this year due to hiring a compliance official for sightreading contests. There shouldn't be any big jumps in entry fees this coming year.

Region 8 Band Division Meeting, Tony Clines continuing:

These are next year's comparable contest dates from the calendar committee:

Twirling - Sept. 21, Fairfield HS

Region Marching, 1A - these schools will either attend the 2A or 3A marching contest, depending on how numbers of entries work out (see below).

Region Marching, 2A - Oct. 18, La Vega HS.

Region Marching, 3A - Oct. 18, Troy HS (see below).

Region Marching, 4A-6A - Oct. 14, Midway HS

Area Marching, 2A/4A/6A - Oct. 21, location TBD

Area Marching, 1A/3A/5A - Oct. 28, location TBD

Solo & Ensemble: Groesbeck Zone (Groesbeck HS) Feb. 3, South Zone (A&M Consolidated HS) Feb. 17, North Zone (University HS) Feb. 17, Central Zone (Temple College) Feb. 24, West Zone (Ellison HS) Feb. 24.

UIL Band Concert & Sightreading:

HS 1A-4A East Zone (Groesbeck HS) Feb. 28-29

HS 1A-4A West Zone (Cameron HS) Feb. 28-29

MS West Zone (Chapparral HS) March 6

MS Central Zone (Lake Belton HS) March 7

MS North Zone (Midway MS) March 26-27

MS South Zone (Rudder HS) March 28

MS Groesbeck Zone (Groesbeck HS) April 17

ATSSB Division Meeting, Tony Clines continuing:

La Vega will host the 2A marching contest on October 18th. 1A schools need to attend either the 2A or 3A contest depending on which makes the number of entries more even for both contests.

Discussion began on potential hosts for the 3A marching contest, between Whitney, Troy or Groesbeck; potential dates were either Saturday Oct. 14th or Wednesday Oct. 18th. Rustin Honeycutt (Troy HS) says they have parking and flow issues worked out at his school. Michael Wilson says they are able to start later in the day to account for travel time, and they can have the same meal deals for students that they have for their invitational contest. Collin Anderson (Groesbeck) said that they can only host on Saturday, October 14th, not Wednesday the 18th. Eric Whorton suggested that directors should vote on the date first, Saturday 14th or Wednesday the 18th, and most of the directors voted for Wednesday October 18th. Directors then voted 7-6 in favor of having the 3A UIL Marching contest at Troy HS over Whitney HS. Marc Nichelson and Tony Clines both spoke about options for dates for Concert and Sightreading contests. According to a survey that Marc sent to all directors, about 75% of directors were in favor of an early contest (March) rather than a later contest (late April). Several factors affected the final decision. Any of our contest events need to be two day events, which pretty much does away with the possibility of an April contest at least for now. Collin Anderson suggested that we move one HS contest from Feb 28-29 to March 6-7. Tony said that, as of right now, we need to keep both zones on Feb 28-29, but we will continue to evaluate the possibility of moving one zone to March 6-7. The problem is that some schools such as Gatesville are also taking middle school bands to contest the week of March 6-7. One other possible scenario is allowing up to 8 bands to choose to go to the South Zone contest on April 11. However, those schools would be taking a risk that their state testing schedules do not align with that date.

Marc Nichelson, Region 8 Coordinator:

The ATSSB portion of the Region 8 meeting began at 11:02. Agendas for the meeting were previously emailed to all directors and a web link is at the beginning of these minutes.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved with a motion from Mark Dorsey and a second from Crystal Senzig.

Webmaster's report (Rachel Berg): if you have any festivals that you want to announce, get the information to her and she will put it on the Region 8 web page.

Treasurer report (Stephanie Schmidt): Stephanie is still recovering from back surgery. Her report is: all bills are currently paid, the current account balance is \$15580, and it will drop to \$13650 after reconciling some outstanding checks. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Eric Whorton and a second from Chris Moix.

Vice Coordinator's report (Jon Schriver): Next year's all state jazz music is year C, and it can be bought from Mattei Music Services. One clarification was made: students are not required to improvise for their Region audition. Students only have to improvise at the Area jazz audition if they qualify.

Groesbeck Zone Middle School (Brian Boecker) and Robinson Zone Middle School (Mark Dorsey) reports: All audition music is ready for next year and is posted on the Region 8 website. Marc offered to have someone look at the Groesbeck Zone French horn audition etudes, which have range issues and wide leaps to stay unified with other instruments. Eric Whorton suggested that French horns read the trumpet music instead. Marc will seek out a committee of French horn playing directors to look at this.

Marc Nichelson, Region 8 coordinator:

Next year's high school audition music is year C. Check your etudes, errata and scale sheets! All of the dates agreed upon at the winter meeting are in our agenda email. Clinicians are listed there as well.

Marc states that all discussion to come related to changing the clinic and concert experience (agenda item IX) is not to declare or imply that any existing plans are "bad", but is rather an attempt to answer the question, how can we make the experience better.

Blake Vajgert spoke on his proposal for the Middle School Combined Zone band. Everyone on the committee agreed that with 1000+ middle school entries each year, it makes no sense to get rid of the band as some had earlier proposed. The committee's proposal is to make this the "top" band with top selected students from each zone, instead of the "bottom" band as it currently exists. His proposal would slightly decrease numbers for the Combined Zone "Honor Band" and slightly increase the Groesbeck/Robinson Zone bands, while keeping the overall number of participating students the same across the three bands. . Seating for the Honor Band would still alternate between zones. There was much positive discussion for this proposal. Blake Vajgert moved to adopt the committee's proposal to make the Combined Zone band the top middle school all region band, and Chris Moix seconded the motion; the motion was approved by the vast majority of directors.

Rustin Honeycutt spoke about the proposal to create a 9th grade All Region track. His committee received survey responses that only about 48 students would be interested in auditioning for a 9th grade band, and he recommends that the proposal be surveyed and studied further.

Jose Sanchez spoke about the proposal to expand the all region clinic and concert to two days. This proposal originated from directors from Region 8 who were invited to clinic ATSSB all region bands in other regions that had two day clinics. For example, Region 16 had 9 region bands with a two day clinic and Region 14 had 8 bands with a two day clinic. These directors observed that some regions start clinics at 9:00 or 1:00 on Friday, and many regions set up their clinics and concerts in different ways. If we added a 2nd day to our clinic and concert we would have to increase entry fees and we would have to secure a new facility. Jose also suggested charging at the door to attend the clinic and concert, as they have seen other regions do this as well. Marc is researching having the Waco Convention Center house our region clinic and concert weekend, and Stephanie has researched caterers as well. Currently our all region bands have about 6 hours of rehearsal time; adding a 2nd day of rehearsal would increase this to 10 hours. We are not voting on anything today. Lauren Gwin spoke and said that many administrators do not like kids missing school time for so many extra activities; band is the "extra" extra curricular and admins are more likely to allow athletics to miss more school time than music. Many directors agreed. Marc said that he understands quite well since he's taught at all school sizes, but he expects that there will be very different opinions on Lauren's

statement. Rebecca Kroll stated that if we have to make these students (remembering that the whole all region experience is for these students) choose between an all region concert and a basketball game, it will not go well for us. Krystal Michal replied that this would be just one game to be missed out of a whole basketball season; Crystal Senzig replied that some smaller schools can barely field a basketball team, and some students who play basketball and qualify for All Region won't even be able to make that choice. After much discussion, Marc said he will put out a survey with questions including: 1) are you in favor of expanding the all region clinic and concert to two days, 2) are you OK with raising entry fees to \$15 to support this, 3) would you consider adding the jazz band to the All Region clinic weekend, and 4) how will this affect your participation in CENTEX Honor Band if your band participates in those auditions. The schedule Marc envisions for a two day clinic and concert is to rehearse from 9 AM to 3 PM on Friday, go home for the evening (eliminating the need for hotel stays), and a shorter Saturday morning rehearsal with an earlier concert start time on Saturday.

Band organizers are listed on the agenda.

Please keep Marc informed of any directors coming or going from the region!

Marc is up for reelection as Region 8 Coordinator. He mentioned that some regions don't even bother with elections (!) and he feels it is very important to vote on this every two years. Marc was nominated for reelection by Chris Moix with a second from Wes Canady, and was approved by acclamation.

State officer nominations for ATSSB are this fall; be thinking about who to nominate. Offices up for election are 2C, 2A, and 4A state representatives.

There was no new business.

Contest announcements:

Crystal Senzig announced contests for Riesel HS. They will host two solo & ensemble contests in February and May 2024, and a 1A/2A marching contest on October 7, 2023.

Tim Grace announced that McGregor will be hosting their usual spring pre-UIL concert and sightreading events but no marching events next year. These festivals will be in mid February and mid or late March 2024.

Mike Wilson announced for the Whitney Marching Festival on October 14.

Cory Hiles announced that Teague's marching contest will be October 7. "Early bird" registration will be due on July 1 \$250, \$300 after then. Navarro College and Tarleton's marching bands will be performing in exhibition.

The Midway Marching Preview will be on September 30.

Rustin Honeycutt announced that the Troy marching contest will be on October 4. The contest will be "UIL style" with a rating and mini clinic afterwards. Judges will be Brent Colwell, Scott Dudley, Mike Lewis, Bob Vetter, and Keith Zuehlke.

The FCA Band will be the first week in June. There will be two directors this year, Chris Moix and Rory Davis, with Damon Vela doing the drumline.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 with a motion from Matt Nelson and a second from Mark Dorsey.