

**TMEA Region 3**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, August 9, 2025 - 10:00am**

Meeting called to order at 10:01am by Liz Shine (Vice-President, substitute for Ryan Forkner, President)

LOCAL BUSINESS:

- Approval of the last meeting's minutes
  - A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded, and passed by acclamation.
- Set next meeting details
  - A conversation was started regarding the time and date of the spring region meeting.
    - May 16th was proposed for the meeting, seconded and passed by acclamation
    - Sachse HS was nominated to host the meeting, seconded, and approved by acclamation
    - 10:00am was proposed for the meeting, seconded and passed by acclamation
  - The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th, 2026 at 10:00am.
  - The meeting location is Sachse High School.
- Nominations for State Offices
  - The membership will submit nominations from Region 3, but four regions must nominate the same person in order for them to appear on the ballot.
  - President-Elect
    - Cody Newman nominated Dr. Carter Biggers
      - Cody spoke on Carter's behalf, pointing out his qualifications as a college professor and band director, public school band director, and leadership qualities as current TMEA College Division VP. Cody spoke to Dr. Biggers' dedication to music education, his strong character, and his commitment to TMEA and the students and teachers in the state.
    - Michael Stringer nominated Josh Maguire
      - Mr. Stringer spoke on Josh's behalf as a former TMEA President. He spoke to Mr. Maguire's time as TMEA Vocal Division VP and his advocacy and commitment to elementary education, his service to all divisions of TMEA, and his perspective from his many leadership roles as a director and servant leader.
    - The membership voted for Josh Maguire to be our region's nominee for TMEA President-Elect by a vote of (123-72)
  - State College Chair
    - Joel Ramirez nominated Dr. Crystal Gerrard-Ramirez
    - There were no other nominations, so the nomination was seconded, and approved by acclamation.

- Region 3 will nominate Dr. Crystal Gerrard-Ramirez for TMEA State College Chair

Announcements from the TMEA State Office:

- TMEA MEMBERSHIP
  - New teachers were encouraged to learn the benefits of TMEA membership.
  - Membership renewal information is available at TMEA.org. Remember, you can use a credit card to renew online or utilize the option to write a check and mail, along with a completed membership form.
  - Active Membership dues are \$65, and the liability insurance remains the same at \$30. Our policy includes up to \$1,500 for attorney consultation if you have a problem, without regard to final judgment. The comfort of that coverage alone is worth \$30. Do not enter the classroom without it.
- MEMBER SERVICES
  - Can be found on the website
    - Health insurance
    - Liability insurance
      - Highly encouraged to purchase this insurance. You are safer in the classroom with this protection
- 2026 CONVENTION
  - Encourage your membership to attend the 2026 convention next February 11- 14, in San Antonio in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.
  - Convention Registration fees are as follows: \$70 Pre-registration for convention \$95 On-site registration for convention \$20 Online access to clinic audio files
- MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION HOUSING
  - Housing through the TMEA website will open Tuesday, September 30, at 6:00 AM.
  - Please read all housing information carefully before you reserve your room, especially regarding deposits and cancellation policies.
  - We are working to increase the number of rooms in the hotel block, in most cases with only minimal rate increases.
  - We are also creating a housing block outside of downtown with much lower room rates that you may book and drive in, park at the Alamodome at a low rate, and walk or ride the shuttle to the Convention Center.
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from Joe Muñoz
  - The 89th Legislative Session ended on June 2. TMEA and the TAEC advocated for the protection of fine arts programs and pathways for students' sequential participation in the arts.

- As you enter the 2025–2026 school year, please consider the following legislation that was passed related to fine arts.
  - SB 12 is the DEI bill. Your local school districts will create local policies in accordance with the specific requirements of the law. Please note that this legislation contains cause of action language, and your local Board of Trustees must create local policies for infractions up to termination. Please consider having liability insurance in place to support you in the event you need support navigating through the current educational environment.
  - SB 25 is a health and nutrition law. TMEA and the TAEC were instrumental in removing a requirement for six semesters of physical education/activity for junior high/middle school students. The four-semester physical education requirement contained in the legislation protects sequential study in the arts for our junior high/middle school students.
  - TEA has been working to create the Instructional Materials Review and Approval Fine Arts K-12 Quality Rubric. This rubric will be presented to the State Board of Education at its September meeting for approval. You can find a draft of the fine arts rubric on the TEA website. TMEA will work to protect access to supplemental instructional materials and continue to advocate for flexibility of IMRA funds to support instruction in your classrooms.
  - TMEA and the TAEC are working to develop priorities for the 90th Legislative Session. We welcome your input on what legislative items could benefit programs across the state.
- ONLINE LEARNING
  - TMEA has developed an Online Learning resource accessible through our website. This program offers current members the opportunity to earn professional development credit through 30–45 minute asynchronous video courses. Additional content was added in April, and TMEA will continue to add more content throughout the year.
  - We encourage you to submit a course for inclusion in the Online Learning catalog. You can find information on the TMEA website.
  - Since its inception last October, TMEA members have earned 493 hours of CPE credit.
- TMEA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
  - The TMEA scholarship program continues to help both undergraduate and graduate students attend college. Last year \$254,500 was awarded to deserving students. Remind your members to have their students apply for these scholarships if they plan to major in music education. See the TMEA website for more details.
  - Members are encouraged to make tax-deductible contributions to the scholarship fund to benefit future music educators.

- The deadline to submit is November 1.
- TEXAS FUTURE MUSIC EDUCATORS
  - Establishing more TFME chapters is a goal of the TMEA Executive Board.
  - TFME sponsors may request up to \$300 in grant money for chapter events. This year there will be additional grant monies offered to off-set TFME students traveling to the Annual Clinic/Convention.
  - Please visit the TFME Webpage for more information and assistance. Never has it been more important for us to encourage our students to consider teaching music as a career.
- MUSIC SCHOLARS
  - This past year TMEA awarded a patch and certificate to 3,471 high school students in recognition of their musicianship, academic standing, and citizenship. It is hoped that this recognition will encourage these students to become future music teachers. Encourage your best students to work towards becoming a TMEA Music Scholar.
  - There is more information on the TMEA website. The deadline to submit names is May 1st .
- DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR AWARD
  - Members are encouraged to go to the website and familiarize themselves with this program to recognize upper-level school administrators (e.g., superintendents, deputy superintendents, principals, board members) across the state who have been instrumental in preserving quality music education programs on their campuses and in their districts.
  - Through this recognition program, TMEA has the opportunity at the state level to thank these individuals for their dedication and support.
  - At the local level, this offers you another opportunity to share your success story with the community.
  - There is no cap on the number of awards given statewide, and the nomination process is quick and easy.
- MENTORING NETWORK
  - The Executive Board is continuing an aggressive effort to elevate the effectiveness of our mentoring program. You will receive more information on our focus on identifying and assisting our new teachers in the Divisional Meetings.

#### Special Announcements and Recognitions from Ms. Shine

- Ms. Shine opened the floor to announcements and recognitions, but none were presented

#### New Business

- Ms. Shine opened the floor to new business

- Marty Filip made a motion which reads:
  - An All-State student may be excused from one (1) All-State rehearsal in order to perform with a TMEA Invited Ensemble, Demonstration Group, or Music Showcase Ensemble. This excused time shall be coordinated to minimize disruption to All-State rehearsals and shall not be considered a violation of attendance requirements.
  - Rationale: This motion is designed to protect and support our most talented students, ensuring they can fully participate in all of the prestigious opportunities they have earned. The recent situation involving Barbers Hill High School demonstrated that, without clear guidance, students can be placed in an unfair position where they must choose between two TMEA-sanctioned honors. By formalizing an allowance of one excused All-State rehearsal, we prevent retaliation or punitive consequences for students who wish to represent both their All-State ensemble and their school's invited performance group. This policy ensures that a student's dedication, talent, and hard work are celebrated, not penalized, and that TMEA maintains its commitment to fostering opportunities for student growth across multiple stages.
- Mr. Stringer suggested to the membership that the word "motion" be removed from the proposal and replaced with "resolution" to be submitted to the TMEA Executive Board.
- A motion was made to approve the resolution, seconded, and passed by acclamation. The resolution will be passed on to the TMEA Executive Board from Region 3.

The elementary division was dismissed to the choir ensemble room for their division meeting.

UIL BUSINESS – Bonnie Bartlett, UIL Region 3 Executive Secretary

- Bonnie recognized all of the new members in the region and welcomed them to Region 3.
- Bonnie gave the membership reminders about the following things:
  - [www.uilregion3music.org](http://www.uilregion3music.org) is the Region 3 website and has updates that are ongoing.
  - Bonnie requested that everyone in the region fill out the information update form that is at the bottom of the website homepage.
  - The blue handout that was given out at the meeting is the 25-26 UIL calendar.
  - Bonnie told the membership that MS Choir Zone 2 will no longer be hosted at Naaman Forest HS - that location is currently TBD.
  - A copy of the current UIL calendar can be found on the website, including fees, contest sites, contest hosts, entry deadlines, etc.
  - Judges for solo & ensemble contests are currently being contacted and are responding. The number of judges being contacted is based on the number of entries from last year. Please contact Bonnie if your school will have significantly more or less entries for this year so she can adjust judge numbers accordingly.
  - Zones for middle school band and middle school and high school choir divisions are currently on the website and are based on numbers more than geography.

- Middle schools must verify their conference based on the numbers of 7th and 8th grade students on campus. The date for verification is a local decision. Bonnie must have that information by January 1. All divisions must compete under the same classification. Many large districts have their Fine Arts directors submit the classification information.
- Be sure to review the rules and requirements for copyright on the State UIL website. This applies to solo & ensemble music as well as marching and concert contests.
- Texas Music Forms will reset on August 11, so rating sheets from TSSEC will be removed on that date. Bonnie reminded directors to download/archive those results prior to August 11.
- The UIL PML will go live on September 1, 2025. It is the only official source for the PML.
- Bonnie asked directors whose districts are on a 4-day week to please email her and let her know.
- If you are new to region 3 or have changed schools, Bonnie has to set you up in Texas Music Forms. She needs an email with name, school, division, position, and personal email. She will set up the account and will send you an email after you are set up in the system. A personal email is required since many districts are blocking emails from CutTime. If your district needs to add CutTime as a vendor, directors must request that themselves.
- Bonnie recognized the directors who are hosting contests for the region this year and expressed her appreciation for their service.
- Bonnie expressed her willingness to help the directors of Region 3 and encouraged them to contact her with any questions or needs.

Ms. Shine asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

- A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and passed.
- Divisions adjourned to their divisional meetings.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Becker*

TMEA Region III Secretary

Hudson Middle School Band Director