

MINUTES OF THE  
TMEA/UIIL MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 24, 2023  
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER  
200 E Market St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

The 2024 meeting of the TMEA/UIIL Music Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 PM by Jesse Cannon, President of the Texas Music Educators Association. Representatives were present as follows:

| Region | Band                                | Vocal                                     | Orchestra                   |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1      | Eric Rath                           | Andrea Cruz                               |                             |
| 2      | Alicia DeSoto                       |   | Meredith Riddle             |
| 3      | Holly Taylor                        | Anna Clarkson                             | Christopher Bell            |
| 4      |                                     |   | Sherry Paetznick<br>Wilkins |
| 5      | Lucy Pascasio                       |   | Kathy Borrego<br>Patterson  |
| 6      |                                     | Wendy Weeks                               | Todd Berridge               |
| 7      | Rodney Bennett<br>Michael Childs    |   |                             |
| 8      |                                     | Tonya Lovorn                              | Joshua Kroft                |
| 9      | Jim Shaw                            | Jason Michaelis                           | Aaron Michaelson            |
| 10     | Martin Trammel                      | Kathryn Mckeehan (Proxy)<br>Erin Scalisi  |                             |
| 11     | David Solis                         | Stanley Moody                             |                             |
| 12     |                                     | Gavin Magee                               | Gabriel Balderrama          |
| 13     | Jason Finnels (Proxy) Ryan<br>Clift | Linda Holkup                              | Matthew Madonia             |
| 14     |                                     |   |                             |
| 15     |                                     | Naida Ramsey                              |                             |
| 16     | Scott Carter                        |   |                             |
| 17     |                                     | Gary Navy                                 | Bryan Buffaloe              |
| 18     | John Rauschuber                     |   | Ricky Pringle               |
| 19     | Meredith Bishop                     | Michael Kessler (Proxy)<br>Deb Silverberg | Christina Bires             |
| 20     |                                     | Lauren Davis                              |                             |
| 21     | Tom Mensch                          | Luke Dean (Proxy)<br>Branson Blanton      | Sherry Paetznick<br>Wilkins |
| 22     |                                     |   |                             |
| 23     |                                     |   | Kyle Davis                  |
| 24     | Michael Beavers                     | Hailey Adams                              |                             |
| 25     |                                     |   |                             |
| 26     |                                     |   | Kimberly Zielnicki          |
| 27     | David Holland                       | Gregory Moore (Proxy)<br>Gyasi Blanton    | Elizabeth Ledford           |
| 28     | Michael Garcia                      |   |                             |
| 29     |                                     |   |                             |
| 30     | Jollette Wine                       |   |                             |
| 31     |                                     | Pauline Sexton                            |                             |
| 32     |                                     |   | Josue Martinez              |
| 33     | Eric Rath                           | Erin Huston                               |                             |

Items for all divisions were presented by TMEA President Chase Giddings. Items specific to the band, choir, and orchestra divisions were present by Shane Goforth (band), Joshua McGuire (vocal) and Jennifer Martin (orchestra), the following action was taken and recommendations made:

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY ALL DIVISIONS**

**DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 and Region 6 General Membership.**

*PROPOSAL:* UIL create protected dates for music events for all divisions.

*RATIONALE:* Organizations that share students/directors are often presented with conflicts as regions are selecting dates for the various UIL adjudicated contests. Separating events into exclusive dates will all but eliminate those potential conflicts. UIL Music Concert and Sightreading events have been reclassified to evaluations that are closely tied to the TEKS. Unlike contests, music evaluations do not lead to advancement or additional rounds of competition. However, under current UIL policy, events that do lead to advancement are provided scheduling priority over UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluations. To address this discrepancy, UIL music evaluations should have the same scheduling privileges as UIL academic events, including statewide protected dates, which would allow dedicated time for UIL leaders, event hosts, and participants, to include securing venues and finding adjudicators.

**Action Taken:**

- This Discussion Item failed.

*DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 General Membership.*

*PROPOSAL:* UIL extend the window for region solo and ensemble contests to later in the spring.

*RATIONALE:* Many students are preparing Solo & Ensemble material while also preparing for Area round auditions in the All-State process. Extending this window would allow the strongest players in our ensembles to focus on each of these major competitions with minimal overlap in preparation.

**Action Taken:**

- This Discussion Item failed.

*DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 General Membership.*

*PROPOSAL:* UIL regions have calendars set by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding academic year.

*RATIONALE:* The release of UIL dates in April will allow districts to better prepare their event calendars for the upcoming school year.

**Action Taken:**

- This Discussion Item passed to become an Action Item for 2025.
- No further action until UIL receives clarification from region 10. Action item will be amended after UIL receives clarification from region 10.

## **VOCAL DIVISION**

No Proposals

## **ORCHESTRA DIVISION**

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 16 Orchestra Division.

### **UIL Rule Change Proposal Regarding Sub NV Concert and SR Levels.**

Rationale: Sub-NV orchestras are mentioned only once in the C&CR, and there are currently no criteria for Sub-NV Orchestras that have been implicitly or explicitly stated, with the lone exception being the addition of an extra minute in Sightreading. Currently, the accepted expectation is for Sub-NV groups to play with the same stage provisions and Sightreading selection as NV groups. The recommendation is being made that Stage and Sightreading performance criteria for Sub-NV ensembles be included in the C&CR.

Recommendations:

Stage: Currently, Sub-NV orchestras are expected to prepare and perform the same stage criteria as NV groups. However, these students are often the most in need of extra support to build and refine skill development. With the current performance requirements for Sub-NV ensembles, directors are afforded no opportunity to differentiate their instruction to accommodate learning gaps that are present. Therefore, we recommend that the stage performance requirements for Sub-NV ensembles be adjusted so that Sub-NV ensembles perform music that is one level lower than NV ensembles. If there is no availability to perform one level lower, as would be the case for MS Sub-NV, we would propose a further modification in the requirements: Grade 1, Choice, Choice.

Sightreading: Currently, Sub-NV Sightreading requirements do offer differentiation by including an additional minute for the instruction period. NV ensembles currently read two levels below the Varsity level on stage, with the same requirement for Sub-NV. Therefore, we recommend that the Sightreading requirements for Sub-NV ensembles be adjusted so that Sub-NV ensembles continue to include the extra minute of preparation, but to also perform music that is one level lower than that of NV ensembles. If there is no availability to perform one level lower, as would be the case for MS Sub-NV, we would propose a further modification in the requirements to include an extra two minutes of instruction time above NV (from 8 minutes to 9 minutes.)

#### **Action Taken:**

- This Action Item passed and will receive further consideration by UIL

## **BAND DIVISION**

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Texas Association of Jazz Educators, Alex Parker, President.

*PROPOSAL:* UIL create region and state jazz festivals similar to that of the UIL mariachi process, resulting in ratings at both levels, no rankings.

*RATIONALE:* Like mariachi music and education, jazz and jazz education has a long and strong tradition in Texas. There are many jazz programs that should be showcased and

allowed the opportunity to hear bands from around the state, get feedback from experienced adjudicators, and to be able to use the festival as a motivating experience for their students. As an educator, I have seen so many students improve because of the opportunities that the UIL provides, and we believe that the UIL will do the same thing for our jazz students. I would be happy to make this proposal in person or online at any time as well.

**Action Taken:**

- This Action Item passed and will receive further consideration by UIL

**ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 28 Band Division.**

*PROPOSAL:* At each Area Marching Contest we would like UIL to consider awarding trophies and medals to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> placed groups in finals competition.

*RATIONALE:* Currently, all Area groups receive a participant plaque and all finalist groups receive a finalist plaque. There is nothing to recognize the 1<sup>st</sup> place group as the Area champions or the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed groups as runner-ups. The awarding of trophies and medals will help crown an Area champion in each classification annually and will help further recognize band students across the state. The awarding of trophies and medals will also mirror what is done at the State Marching Band Championships and will help further promote the activity and recognize the best groups in each Area.

**Action Taken:**

- This Action Item passed and will receive further consideration by UIL

**DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 7 Band Division.**

*PROPOSAL:* UIL create a “Festival” Concert Track in conjunction with the annual UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation to better serve the educational needs of increasingly diverse band programs across the state.

- PML performance requirements would not be utilized. Directors may choose pieces at their discretion to best showcase the ensemble.
- Instrument substitution/supplementation would be at director discretion. As such, C&CR regulations regarding instrument substitution/reinforcement would not apply.
- Concert component only, no sight-reading.
- Director may choose festival track or traditional track.

*RATIONALE:*

- Programs across the state have become increasingly diverse even when compared within a given classification. The current system employs a “one size” approach and places educators and students at an advantage/disadvantage based upon their location.
  - Staffing
  - Funding
  - Socioeconomic differences

- A number of programs are set up for failure simply due to classification performance requirements not aligning to their unique structural limitations (instrumentation, location, socioeconomic situation, access to instruction).
- The addition of a new “festival track” provides the opportunity for exploration, innovation, and program development with the support of the UIL.
- While rebuilding programs may currently enter as a non-varsity, they still may not be ready to progress to the full PML requirements for a given classification once they have received division one ratings at the non-varsity level.
- An evaluative process is important and paramount in a data-driven educational landscape. It is an expectation of most districts that programs attend a UIL Evaluation. Creating avenues for success promotes growth and development.
- Educator shortages and burnout continue to be a leading topic across the field of education. Potential educators are choosing to pursue other avenues due to time demands, stress, and compensation.
- As leaders, educators demonstrate and assign value through the promotion of a subject or devotion of time to a concept or cause. Our students learn through that process what is important to us.
- The goal of every music educator should be the creation of individuals who value, create, consume, and promote music as a meaningful human activity.

**Action Taken:**

- This Discussion Item failed.

**DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 21 Band Division.**

**PROPOSAL:** Add flexible instrumentations to the sight-reading selections for middle school bands.

**RATIONALE:** Meet the instrumentation needs of a band that does not have a traditional instrumentation. Recently, several works have been added to the Prescribed Music List that have flexible instrumentation and have been used for concert literature in order to deal with instrumentation issues. In order to provide consistency, sight reading music should reflect the instrumentation of the literature that is available for the concert portion of UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. Band programs across the state are dealing with instrumentation issues due to:

1. Block scheduling (students may lose Fine Arts classes, especially in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade because of the requirement to take College and Career Readiness)
2. Required tutorial classes at low performing schools
3. Other scheduling issues.

**DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.**

**PROPOSAL:** Non-varsity and sub non-varsity bands be allowed to perform flex band versions of pieces already on the PML.

**RATIONALE:** With the development of new rules that allow academically ineligible students to perform at UIL concert and sight-reading evaluation more schools are sending a higher number of ensembles from their schools. Oftentimes non-varsity and sub non-varsity bands have instrumentation issues due to various factors, including inconsistent

feeder patterns from junior highs and attrition. Yet, they are required to play music off a list with strict instrumentations. This causes students to be alone on parts at times or cut off of parts to help balance. Yet, a great deal of the Grade 1-3 music on the list now has a flex band version available. Since this music already exists and since most of the music is on the list already, this would allow more students to see success at UIL and to experience a higher level of literature. A band with 3 trumpets and 10 clarinets could play a high-quality piece of literature and directors could allow more people to participate. Judges would still be able to evaluate if a director was staying true to the intent of the piece as they evaluate an ensemble.

**Action Taken:**

- UIL staff clarified that this is already allowed and that a statement indicating such will be added to the PML.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.

*PROPOSAL:* The 1st selection PML requirement for 5A and 6A sub non-varsity bands be lowered one grade.

| <b>Conference</b> | <b>1st Selection Source</b> | <b>2nd Selection Source</b> | <b>March</b>      |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 6A-SNV            | Gr. II, III, IV, or V       | Gr. II, III, IV, or V       | Director's choice |
| 5A-SNV            | Gr. I, II, III, IV, or V    | Gr. I, II, III, IV, or V    | Director's choice |

*RATIONALE:* Every student deserves to be evaluated at a corresponding level of ability relative to the other ensemble classifications. A sub non-varsity ensemble in name and in ability is not on the same level as a non-varsity ensemble and, therefore, should not be required to perform literature at the same level of difficulty.

Discussion: So would there be a .5 for JH Distinction between third and 6<sup>th</sup> band

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.

*PROPOSAL:* 5A and 6A sub non-varsity bands be assigned the same sight-reading level as the non-varsity requirement one conference lower. For example, a 6A sub non-varsity band will be assigned to sight-read Level III, equivalent to a 5A non-varsity band.

| <b>Level</b> | <b>Conference</b> | <b>Non-Varsity &amp; Sub Non-Varsity</b>          |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| I            | 1C                | All MS NV/Sub NV & 1A/2A/3A NV/Sub NV & 4A Sub NV |
| II           | 2C/1A/2A          | 4A NV/5A Sub NV                                   |
| III          | 3C/3A             | 5A NV/6A Sub NV                                   |
| IV           | 4A                | 6A NV   |
| V            | 5A                |   |
| VI           | 6A                |   |

*RATIONALE:* Every student deserves to be evaluated at a corresponding level of ability relative to the other ensemble classifications. A sub non-varsity ensemble in name and in ability is not on the same level as a non-varsity ensemble and, therefore, should not be required to sight-read at the same level of difficulty.

MARCHING BAND RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT: Marching band directors are encouraged to review the most current MB RAC information on the [UIL website](#) and share any input with the members of that committee.