

TO: Region Representatives to the TMEA/UIIL Music Advisory Committee

FROM: Dr. Bradley N. Kent, State Director of Music
University Interscholastic League

DATE April 16, 2018

SUBJECT: MAC Agenda Items and Summer Meeting Date

Below you will find proposals that have been submitted to the Music Advisory Committee for deliberation. To do so effectively it is important that each proposal be reviewed and considered at your spring region meeting so that you will know how to vote on these issues at the MAC meeting this summer.

Also, during your region meeting please feel free to open the floor for discussion of any topic that might seem of importance to your colleagues. **You may then forward to me any new proposals that emerge and we will include them on the agenda for discussion at our summer meeting.** Note that **three years must elapse** before any prior item that did not pass into rule may receive new consideration.

- **Discussion Items** have been submitted since the prior year's spring meetings. A Discussion Item will be considered for vote at the summer meeting only after that item is presented and voted upon at the spring region meetings. A Discussion Item that receives a favorable vote at the summer meeting will become an Action Item the following year and receive a vote at the spring region meetings and the summer MAC meeting.
- **Action Items** originated as Discussion Items in the previous year and received a favorable vote by the MAC for further consideration. Action Items that receive a favorable vote at the summer MAC meeting will go before the UIL Standing Committee on Music and Technical Advisory Committee to receive further consideration.

PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING DATE AND TIME! At the request of the MAC the summer meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 25th from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM, which is the evening prior to the start of the TBA, TCDA and TODA Conventions. More information will be included in our June memo and will also appear in the TBA/TODA/TCDA programs. **Please plan to attend this meeting so your region is represented in the discussions and voting.**

NOTE: Any proposal from last year's MAC agenda that does not appear below is likely due to one of the following: 1) The item received a favorable vote from the MAC process and was advanced to UIL for consideration. (Any proposal that was advanced to UIL for consideration either went into rule or was not adopted by UIL); or 2) The item did not receive a favorable vote from the MAC at the summer meeting. We receive a high volume of communication in the state office; therefore, if it appears that any agenda item has been omitted please contact us.

ALL DIVISIONS

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by Region 23 Band Division.

UIL consider creating regional locations for the state solo and ensemble contest.

RATIONALE: Reduced travel expenses, smaller contest.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by TMAA.

The Texas Music Adjudicators' Association has been discussing possible changes to the current UIL Sight Reading process for band, orchestra and choir for the past two years. A committee was formed consisting of the TMAA Executive Board, as well as one middle school and one high school representative from all three divisions. The committee members include Greg Countryman – President, Mark McGahey – Past President, Jeff Turner – President Elect, James Drew – Concert Band Vice President, Steve Wessels – Marching Band Vice President, Craig Needham – Orchestra Vice President, Cheryl Wilson – Vocal Vice President, Brad Kent – UIL Music Director, Jerry Babbitt – UIL Executive Secretary Liason, Amy Allison – MS Band, Gloria Ramirez – HS Band, Joanna DeVoto – MS Orchestra, David DeVoto – HS Orchestra, Bo Shirah – MS Vocal, Christopher Rhodes – HS Vocal, Mark Rohwer – Vocal, Bob Vetter – Band, Jay Dunnahoo – TMAA Executive Secretary.

Our goal is to amend the explanation period to have as few rules as possible; and, to make the procedure for this evaluation more like the process you would use in your classroom when learning a new piece of music. Over the past year, the committee members have been practicing various procedures with their own ensembles from varsity to sub non-varsity groups. The committee met at the 2017 TMEA Convention, discussed their experiences while using various procedures with their ensembles, and developed a tentative procedure we would like to share for discussion. We feel the new process will assess the students' musical knowledge, as well as their individual and ensemble skills; however, unlike the concert evaluation, there would be minimal rehearsal time prior to the performance.

Some key aspects of the procedure under consideration are:

1. The new procedure would not be true "sight reading", so the name could be changed from UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation to UIL Performance & Music Literacy Evaluation. We feel this name more clearly reflects what would be "judged" and the new terminology could also make it more likely for this evaluation to eventually be exempt from the "No Pass, No Play" law.
2. The current instruction/explanation period(s) would be replaced with one Rehearsal Period that could be structured at the director's discretion and include any combination of student-led and/or director-led instruction. The students and director would be able to reproduce the music in any manner they wish. The only exception is that the music could not be recorded and no recording of the music could be played. Acceptable techniques could include singing, playing, clapping/counting rhythms, as well as small group or full ensemble rehearsal.

3. The amount of time for the Rehearsal Period for different divisions (band, orchestra and choir) is still under discussion. We are considering making the Rehearsal Period equal to the total instruction time in the current system for the first year, and then all times would be reduced by one minute starting with the second year of the new evaluation system (reduced two minutes for ensembles with a current 10-minute explanation/instruction period).
4. There would no longer be a score study period.
5. Only one director would be allowed to instruct/conduct the ensemble.
6. Consideration has been given to the judges not being in the room during the Rehearsal Period, since even under the current system the judges are supposed to evaluate only the performance of the sight-reading piece. To ensure all procedures are followed, one of the judges, or possibly a person designated by the Region Executive Secretary, might remain in the room during the Rehearsal Period.

The committee is still in the developmental stage, so our final recommendations could be different from what has been described. We encourage you to experiment with the process and provide the committee with feedback and suggestions. This information will also be posted on the TMAA website (www.txtmaa.org) for your review. Please take a few minutes in today's region meeting to discuss what has been presented; however, we are not asking for a vote or consensus at this time. Any formal proposals would have to be approved by the TMAA Executive Committee, the Music Advisory Committee and the various regions throughout the state before any changes would be implemented. Thank you for your time today and please feel free to contact any committee member with your input.

Greg Countryman, President
Texas Music Adjudicators Association

VOCAL DIVISION

No proposals

ORCHESTRA DIVISION

No proposals

BAND DIVISION

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by ATSSB Region 14.

UIL consider expanding and restructuring the Band Sight-Reading Committee to have a representative from each conference (C-CCC and A-6A); therefore, creating a committee of 9 members (instead of the current 5). *RATIONALE:* On numerous occasions sight-reading pieces have been used that do not meet the guidelines set forth by UIL; specifically, at times violating the guideline that says, “Composers of Level I-II-III compositions are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the scoring practices that are common place in Grade I-II-III educational music.” This was evident in the 2016 Level 1 piece, as well as numerous other instances through the years. Having directors who teach in the lower classifications take part in the selection and editing of this music would hopefully help prevent these problems.

Timeline:

September: Composers finalized.

March: First draft due to UIL. UIL staff reviews.

May: Scores sent to committee for review.

June: Committee provides feedback to UIL.

July: Committee meets to make final recommendations.

August/September: Editor prepares scores and parts.

October: Scores and parts are checked for accuracy and pieces are proofed.

November: Final edits are made and pieces are sent to publisher.

January: Pieces are ready for distribution.

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by ATSSB Region 14.

UIL consider expanding and restructuring the Band PML Committee to have a representative from each classification (C-CCC and A-6A); therefore, creating a committee of 9 members (instead of the current 7). *RATIONALE:* Currently, there are a disproportionate number of selections on the Grade 4 and 5 lists compared to the Grade 1 and 2 lists. And, there are currently no committee representatives from schools that are likely to perform the lowest grade levels of music. The lack of selections on the lower grade level lists is likely due to a lack of specialization in that level of music. It is difficult enough to be familiar with the music on one grade level, let alone all five grade levels; therefore, it would be advantageous to have representation from the small schools to help bring their knowledge and expertise to the committee to compliment that of the large schools.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote – survey input requested): Submitted by TMAA

TMAA has formed an Ad-Hoc committee to study the UIL marching band adjudication sheets. When the study is complete the recommendations will be submitted to UIL for consideration. As part of this process the committee is requesting feedback from band directors by June 1 through a survey which can be found at: <https://goo.gl/forms/XBajciuuBmoaDIRm2>. The committee will then consider the survey data at their next meeting in July 2018. Committee members are listed on the TMAA website. The survey link is available on the TMAA website and the UIL website. RATIONALE: The intent of the committee is to create an evaluation tool that recognizes the evolution of the marching arts in Texas, while continuing to acknowledge the diversity of marching styles across the state.

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 3 Band Division.

UIL consider holding the Area Marching Band Championships every year. State Marching Band Championships continue to be held in alternating years. For conferences on non-state years the Area Championships would be held on the Saturday immediately preceding the State Championships.

Example calendar from 2017:

Saturday Oct. 28th

Area Championships for conferences advancing to State – 1A, 2A, 3A, 5A

Saturday Nov. 4th

Area Championships for non-advancing conferences – 4A, 6A

Mon. – Wed. Nov 6-8

State Marching Band Championships – 1A, 2A, 3A, 5A

RATIONALE: This event would create an exciting annual platform for our marching band students and the UIL brand would do nothing but validate its significance. We believe it would resonate with our communities and provide an annual event for our campus and district leadership to anticipate. The contest would culminate with a full band retreat, announcement of placements, championship trophies or medals, etc. Many, if not most, bands are going to year-end contests already, why not give these bands the opportunity to compete through UIL?

This proposal is important because of the merit so many place in UIL-sanctioned events. Without an annual post-region level of competition we are concerned that UIL marching band events could become secondary in importance to other contests. **The high standard of musical excellence in the state of Texas has been established through the guidance of the UIL Music. However, the most accessible and consistent performance outlet will guide the decisions made in the band halls throughout the state.** Without an annual end-of-season evaluation that allows for more in-depth feedback and celebration

of our students' efforts, non-UIL events will gain more influence in the decisions that directly affect our students. The more opportunities all students have to showcase the incredible depth, diversity, and level of performance here in Texas, the more support we will all enjoy. The UIL should be the platform for this showcase.

Travel:

This proposal would cost much less than having state every year.

With the recent changes in football alignment that limits schools to playing within their division, some schools will be travelling greater distances. For example, in UIL Class 5A Div. 1 Football, District 7, schools will travel from Sherman, to the metroplex, to Texarkana, and to Tyler. The expense incurred by these districts to bus an entire band, drill team, cheer team, football team, trainers and staff to these events will increase astronomically.

This seems to be one of the scenarios where UIL saw the need to equalize the playing field between teams during the regular season. We are asking that UIL equalize the playing field for band students by having a championship event annually. The cost incurred by districts will be well worth the UIL experience.

Pressure to Attend:

There are currently groups who do not attend the area marching contest despite qualifying for that event. Each program should continue to do what is best for its students and community.

Judges:

Three experienced UIL region secretaries who have insight into the hiring and availability of judges have indicated that finding qualified judges should not be an issue.

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote)

Submitted by:

Jarrett Lipman, Band Director, Claudia Taylor Johnson High School

Joni Viertel Perez, Band Director, The Woodlands High School

Kim Shuttlesworth, Band Director, Tom Glenn High School

Keith Lancaster, Retired Band Director, Dripping Springs ISD

Tony Ruiz, Band Director, Winston Churchill High School

Evan Berry, Band Director, Douglas MacArthur High School

Ricardo Rios, Band Director, Del Rio High School

Amend the 15-minute marching band schedule structure to allow each band 13 minutes of setup and performance and 2 minutes to vacate the field. RATIONALE:

Currently, bands have 5 minutes to set-up and warm-up, 8 minutes to perform, and 2 minutes to exit. The proposed rule would combine the warm-up and set-up time with the performance time, while still maintaining the 2-minute exit. This would be similar to the 30 or 45-minute window bands have to perform at Concert Contest, which includes setup, warm-up, performance, and stage exit. There would still be a minimum requirement of 5 minutes performance time. The opening announcement would occur as the band enters the field. There would be no interruption of performance.

Benefits:

- Allows student performers to present their entire field show, unaltered, for contest. Currently, some groups produce longer competitive shows and have to shorten or adjust to fit within the 8-minute UIL show limit. Changing or restructuring the show places undue stress on the students.
- Allows ample setup time to test electronics and take the field in a way that does not place stress on performers or directors.
- Preserves warm-up time or any other pre show ritual while still allowing judging to begin once when the drum major starts the show.
- Groups that would like to have a “traditional announcement” can request to have it made at a specific time mark or when the director gives the starter an “ok thumbs up” sign. This can be communicated before the band takes the field.

Other Factor

- Pre-recorded music/voice in show - Currently, pre-shows permit pre-recorded voice or music because they are not judged. Would need to evaluate the rule permitting pre-recorded voice or music, and whether or not to permit use of this during the course of the thirteen minutes..

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote)

Submitted by:

Jarrett Lipman, Band Director, Claudia Taylor Johnson High School

Joni Viertel Perez, Band Director, The Woodlands High School

Kim Shuttlesworth, Band Director, Tom Glenn High School

Keith Lancaster, Retired Band Director, Dripping Springs ISD

Evan Berry, Band Director, Douglas MacArthur High School

Ricardo Rios, Band Director, Del Rio High School

Change the 8-hour “calendar week” limit on marching band practice to the 8-hour “school week” practice limit that all other extracurricular activities follow.

RATIONALE: Currently, marching bands have different practice restrictions than all other extracurricular activities. Marching band is limited to 8 hours of practice per “calendar week”, which includes Friday Evening/Saturday/Sunday. All other extracurricular activities, including athletics, are limited to 8 hours of practice per “school week”, which only includes Monday morning through Friday at the end of the school day, placing no state restrictions on Friday night/Saturday/Sunday. This rule change would enable marching band to fall under the same restrictions as every other extracurricular activity.

Benefits

- Eliminates discriminatory rule against marching band. Places marching band under the same practice limitation as every other extracurricular activity.
- Restores local control back to campuses and school districts to make decisions in the best interest of their students.
- Does not require any additional rehearsal time. Just because the time is available does not mean bands must use it. Bands can continue to rehearse the same as they currently do, should they choose.
- Affords directors and communities flexibility to re-schedule rehearsals in the event of inclement weather.
- Allows for Saturday morning stadium rehearsals when facilities may not be available during the regular school week. Transporting students and equipment off campus requires more time and effort and having the option for a longer rehearsal without impacting the educational week makes this “worth the effort”.
- Allows for time on weekends for Directors or section leaders to “teach/reteach” an individual student a marching spot in the event a student is lost for eligibility or moves away.