

February 28, 2009 Junior Clinic - Karns Middle School
Minutes

The Jr. Clinic 2009 meeting of TSSBDA was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by new president Chris Metcalfe. Present were members Metcalfe, Jim Hix, Dawn Patelke, Craig Valentine, William Hunley, Andrew Bernard, Ashley Glenn, David Westrich, Tim Michaels, Lisa Michaels, Becky Terry, Bryant Adler, Kim White, Kathy Sotelo, Brandon Tilley, Joel Tillman and Dana Smith-Sherrill.

Chris went on to thank everyone for the success of this jr. clinic, with compliments to both clinicians Shannon Pirtle and Holly Wight. Dawn presented minutes of the meeting from Senior Clinic 2009 and Financial Reports from 2008-2009, a financial report from Sr. Clinic 2009, and a comparative of net totals from association events from the past several years. After the membership had a chance to read the minutes, it was moved that the minutes be accepted by Kim White and seconded by Lisa Michaels. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Dawn wanted to discuss how to make our events come closer to breaking even. Although the association is in fine shape financially, and can absorb shortages at present, we obviously cannot continue not breaking even each year and remain viable indefinitely. Often in the past, senior clinic has lost money, junior clinic has made money and concert festival has done either, depending on the number of bands participating, with more than 16-17 usually needed for viability. Regarding clinics, we discussed items that we can control, such as the variable costs and choices with the student lunches and expenses. Dawn felt that it's important to keep looking at the overall picture on this, so that on a long-term basis we remain viable. After a bit more discussion, Craig Valentine moved to accept the treasurer's report, Ashley Glenn seconded. The report was accepted.

Members felt that 2009 Senior Clinic had been a great success with guest composer David Holsinger as blue band clinician. Tim Michaels brought up considering having a clinician for junior clinic who was a regionally accepted specialist in middle school bands, rather than just always inviting one of our local band directors. The membership was favorable to this idea, as we want to continue to make clinics even more meaningful for our students. Chris shared remarks from Shannon Pirtle, blue band clinician, about wishing to join TSSBDA even though he teaches in Middle Tennessee because of the ideals that we try to embrace in our philosophies on band and music education. He felt that our organization is unique in this.

A recap was given on the updating of the website. We now have applied for our domain name as an organization - it had been owned previously by an individual no longer associated with us, and had expired. TSSBDA had been fearful that the name would fall out of our control. Dawn had emailed Mike Carter to see if he would reapply for the name, which he did. Dawn commented about how helpful he had been in accomplishing this for us, and we are happy now to have control of the domain name. Comment was made that we needed to apply for the domain names of .org, .net and .com so that there wouldn't be confusion later.

In new business, it was discussed about how better to manage especially the schedule for junior clinic so that there isn't so much down-time for middle-schoolers that is unsupervised, mainly during lunches and the break before the concert. Also, William Hunley commented that it would be more middle school friendly to shorten lunch to either an hour or 45 minutes, and shorten the length of the day. Other things, such as continuing to tighten auditions so that they move quickly and efficiently were discussed toward this goal. It was suggested that the host let directors know before the clinic

what instruments they'll be judging so that auditions can start more promptly, and consider assigning individuals small duties that will help the host to keep things moving. Joel Tillman commented that things that would really help the clinic would be to have an individual or 2 to prepare and proof-read the program, to help set up and tear down the concert area, to assign percussion parts, especially on the middle-school level, and to give out lunch tickets, etc. He also asked that everyone be available to help break down the chairs and move stands and equipment back to the bandrooms. We talked about having a band chairman for each band. To address that, this motion was made: **The president shall appoint a band chairman for each band at junior and senior clinic to help coordinate needed activities.** Ashley Glenn made the motion, and Kathy Sotelo seconded. Dawn called for the question. The motion passed.

The membership also decided to adopt the following schedule for clinic bands. After discussion, we felt that we could use the same schedule for both Junior and Senior clinic, so there would be less confusion of directors and parents from one clinic to another. Clinic hosts certainly may tweak the schedule within the parameters of the day, but should try to stay to the overall framework which is as follows:

Friday

9:00 a.m - Start auditions (directors/students should be ready to audition at 9:00)

45 minute lunch, with staggered lunch suggested

4:30 p.m - Dismiss rehearsal

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - Start rehearsals

45 minute lunch, with staggered lunch suggested

4:00 Rehearsal ends, students dress for concert

5:00 Concert

Kathy Sotelo asked for feedback on the success of the sight-reading music that she and Brandon Tilley created. Compliments to Brandon and Kathy for creating same, and the membership felt it had been advantageous to use.

There was discussion on the choice of literature for junior clinic being age-appropriate and yet challenging. Clinicians should be advised on previous programming so such issues can be addressed. Kevin Ross pointed out that many directors had been helping students during rehearsals, and Craig Valentine commented that this was reminiscent of the atmosphere of TSSBDA in the past.

Andrew Bernard brought up the question of how to involve more bands in our organization. We discussed that although all directors have demands on our time, TSSBDA can fill an important niche to all bands, not just small bands. Craig remarked that at one time there were more Knox County bands involved than possibly are now. A mail-out was discussed to publicize the organization, but it was generally felt that personal contact was the most important way, by simply telling other directors that we are in contact with.

After some parting remarks from Chris Metcalfe, Craig Valentine moved to adjourn the meeting and Jim Hix seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Patelke, Executive Secretary-Treasurer