



Central District NMMEA - Spring Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Los Lunas High School

Call to Order

President William Austell called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Member Introductions

Introductions began at 9:33 AM.

Ethics Statement

The NMMEA Ethics Statement was read aloud and displayed by President Austell at 9:36 AM.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report – 9:38 AM

Secretary Joshua Dumais reported that members may edit the district roster directly until the end of the week; thereafter, changes should be submitted via email. Meeting minutes are posted on the NMMEA website and are accessible at any time.

- **Motion: Daniel Sault moved to approve the Spring minutes.**
- **Second: Brad Dubbs**
- **Outcome: Motion passed at 9:39 AM.**

Treasurer's Report – 9:40 AM

Catherine Danner reported that her report changed significantly from what was emailed earlier in the week, as a \$10,000 check from RRPS had just been received for outstanding payments. Despite this, approximately \$700 remains in overdue payments; however, progress is being made. Band Solo & Ensemble participation increased by 300 entries this year, resulting in higher medal costs. Plaque costs decreased due to a new vendor. Overall, the budget remains in good standing.

- **Motion: Nathan Van Dam moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.**
- **Second: Ana Maria Dark**
- **Outcome: Motion passed at 9:47 AM.**

Section Meetings

Section meetings took place prior to the President's Report as a 45-minute calendar work session.

President's Report – 10:37 AM

President William Austell shared the following updates:

- "Summer Reminders" from Neil Swapp
- New NMMEA mailing address
- Reminder to ensure NafME account information is up to date
- State contest dates (also available in the agenda)
- Encouragement to submit recordings for Honor Ensemble consideration
- NMMEA award deadlines: nominations due June 1; applications due July 1

Vice President Reports

- **General Music – 10:41 AM:** Ana Maria reported a successful year and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming year. The festival was hosted in Los Lunas, and the section is in good financial standing.
- **Guitar – 10:41 AM:** Joseph Santiago shared a goal to host a District VI guitar event this year, possibly a Solo & Ensemble event. This would be the first such event in the district since before COVID, and possibly ever.
- **Orchestra – 10:44 AM:** Zachary Bush reported that all events were successful and financially stable and expressed appreciation for colleagues.
- **Choir – 10:44 AM:** Miguel Jaramillo reported that events ran smoothly. UIL sight-reading literature was used for the second year with positive feedback.
- **Band – 10:45 AM:** Samantha Rice reported high participation and successful events. Several changes are planned for next year to improve accessibility and

participation.

NMAA Representatives' Reports

Jadira Flamm (Choir):

- Updated verbiage in the guidelines document
- Clarified that accompanists are restricted to piano only

Daniel Holmes:

- 23 middle school groups participated in state this year
 - State Concert Band: April 15–17
 - State Marching Band: October 24
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Business

Old Business – 10:49 AM

- Recognition from Ana Maria regarding the Dr. Cleveland Concert in Rio Rancho

New Business – 10:50 AM

Calendar Approval

- Tentative calendar discussed and approved
 - Motion: Brad Dubbs
 - Second: Nathan Van Dam
 - Outcome: Passed at 11:02 AM
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Handbook Amendments

Refreshments Budget

A proposal was made to include a \$200 budget limit for meeting refreshments.

- Motion: Nathan Van Dam
- Second: Kurt Schmidt
- Outcome: Passed unanimously at 11:08 AM

Custodian Honorarium & S&E Updates

Updates included shifting from a daily rate to hourly custodian pay and clarifying “Best of Day” award language.

- **Motion: Joshua Dumais**
- **Second: Ana Maria**
- **Discussion included clarification of “category” definitions and event scale considerations.**
- **Outcome: Passed at 11:19 AM**

General Music Updates – 11:19 AM

- Food for clinicians tabled until August
- Increase in student participation limit from 10 to 20
- Motion: Rena Sedillo
- Second: Erika Wadsworth
- Outcome: Passed at 11:25 AM

Orchestra Updates

Multiple edits reviewed (detailed in agenda/handbook draft):

- **MPA Updates:**
 - **Motion: Ali Brasher**
 - **Second: Samantha Rice (with amendment changing “large instruments” to “non-string instruments”)**
 - **Outcome: Passed unanimously at 11:31 AM**
- **Solo & Ensemble: Passed at 11:32 AM**
- **Honor Orchestra: Passed at 11:42 AM (minor edits pending; copyright considerations to be researched)**

President Austell expressed appreciation for the orchestra committee’s work.

Break: 11:42–11:50 AM

Choir Amendments – 11:50 AM

- Updated terminology from “CDs” to “practice tracks”
- **Motion: Ana Maria**
- **Second: William Kramer**
- **Outcome: Passed at 11:53 AM**

Band Amendments – 11:54 AM

- Updates to Solo & Ensemble repertoire language

- **Motion: Joshua Dumais**
 - **Second: Brad Dubbs**
 - **Outcome: Passed at 11:56 AM**
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Additional Business

Donation

A \$1,000 donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of Catherine (Cathy) Estrada was approved.

- **Motion: Brad Dubbs**
 - **Second: Jonathan Robak**
 - **Outcome: Passed at 11:59 AM**
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NMMEA State Awards

- **Administrator of the Year: Susan Chavez, nominated by Mariko McWhorter**
 - **Educator of the Year: Stephenie Wilkerson, nominated by Miguel Jaramillo**
 - **Emeritus Teacher of the Year: William Austell, nominated by Jonathan Robak**
 - **John Batcheller Award: Catherine Danner, nominated by Ana Maria Dark**
 - **New and Emerging Teacher: Samantha Rice, nominated by Rena Sedillo**
 - **Hall of Fame: Jim Rivera, nominated by Joseph Santiago**
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Officer Elections

(All motions passed unanimously unless otherwise noted.)

- **President: Mariko McWhorter (accepted at 12:34 PM)**
- **Secretary: Damon Hess (12:35 PM)**
- **Treasurer: Catherine Danner (12:37 PM)**
- **General Music VP: Joshua Zirpel (12:37 PM)**
- **Band VP: Samantha Rice (12:38 PM)**
- **Choir VP: Stephenie Wilkerson (12:38 PM)**
- **Guitar VP: Joseph Santiago (12:39 PM)**
- **Orchestra VP: Zachary Bush (12:40 PM)**

NMAA State Contest Advisory Board Elections

- **Miguel Jaramillo (approved at 12:42 PM)**
 - **Daniel Holmes (approved at 12:42 PM)**
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Solo & Ensemble Adjudicator Stipends

A proposal to increase stipends to \$40/hour was discussed. The motion was amended to be contingent on financial feasibility to be reviewed in the fall.

- **Outcome: Amended motion passed at 12:53 PM**
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Payment Methods Proposal

A proposal to add Venmo and/or PayPal as payment options was discussed. The motion was amended to include further exploration of eliminating honor concert fees.

- **Outcome: Amended motion passed at 12:59 PM**
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8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM. Section meetings followed after a short break.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Dumais, Secretary