

NJMAA October General Membership Meeting
October 4, 2013
A CONTINUATION OF ASSESSMENT IN MUSIC EDUCATION/ROUND TABLE
SHARING

The meeting opened with a welcome from our President, Peter Griffin. Tom further went on to explain the procedure for the morning asking everyone to limit their comments to 2-3 minutes to insure that all members had a chance to speak. Questions, if any, would be addressed at the end.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 6: Assessment in the “Cloud!” – Linda King

February 2: A panel of evaluators for various models. Danielson, Marzano, Stromm, Teachscape

April 4: Higher Ed Update-focus on teacher evaluation. What college graduates need to “know.” We would be inviting Higher Education Coordinators from Rutgers, Rowan, Montclair, and William Paterson. (This topic was originally scheduled for December the the executive board thought it wise to switch the dates)

June 6

Hot off the press – Wrap up and round up! - Facilitating Peter Griffin

With about 25 members in attendance the meeting got underway with introductions around the room. It was noted that it was good to see so many “new” faces!”

TomWeber: Treasurer report:

Peggy Valenti: Secretary report

Ron Dolce (NJMEA Liaison): November 1st date for article. Tempo express came out with a lot of important dates. Please get in touch with Tom Mosier if you have not received.

Joe Akinskas (NJMEA) – Reported that the 6th summer workshop had upwards of 90 people registered. He stated that it was held in the visual arts building and it was a wonderfully successful day. He stated that the people who attend this conference frequently find themselves teaching in areas that they are not experts in and they come out to this workshop to get a feeling for these new areas. Thinking about this last spring, the organizers of this summer conference, thought it would be a good idea to tap the

membership to see if people would be willing to share their expertise with these people who find themselves in this predicament. Joe asked the membership to bring this information back to their district. "If you have people in your district that have experienced a situation like this please ask them to come out and present to share their experiences. If they want to present, they will present in their own music room in their own districts. On order to make it happen, I would need to have at least 15 people who would be interested in the session."

Linda King: "What if it's a teacher that is right out of college who took a position out of their area just to have a job. If they were very successful in their endeavor would this be someone you would like to see."

Joe: "Absolutely!"

Peter: "Has there been any feedback yet?" (To this new idea)

Joe: "Just a few at this point. There is no restriction on it. When it happens it happens."

Bob Frampton (NJMEA): "There are a number of things going on. I believe that there are close to 1000 attendees for the National conference. They are creating a workbook (focusing on the Danielson evaluation model) for teachers to take to administrators (those who don't have supervisors). This will be a 2 day pre-conference workshop. The National honors groups will be performing on Wednesday. Performers are being selected from all the states members. This is a better representation. The Eastern Division is extremely well represented in this performing group. The strength is coming from the Eastern Division in these honor groups."

"In Tempo express there was a mention of the new National standards that are in reviewencompassing resources from all over the country. New Jersey does not use the National Standards but I am wondering if next time around NJ will start to use them as this is the way everyone is going."

"The one thing that runs under the radar that you should be aware of is the April 2014 conference in Saint Louis....based on research that has been done by various people. There are a lot of interesting topics. This conference is not publicized a lot. Not a lot of vendors like in other conferences." Joe felt that this conference was definitely worth attending.

Joe Akinkas is presenting in Nashville.

Peter: "Will the Danielson workbook be available for purchase?"

Bob: "I do not know if it will be available in Nashville. It is really a work in progress. I am sure that it will be available at some point."

There will be speakers from all over the country talking about various types of evaluations models.

Linda: Spoke about flip-flopping two workshops. “What I would like to do is have a teacher from each one of your districts who is tech savvy come to the December meeting. All the tools that we will be giving you are all free tools. If we need to move the venue we will move it to a place where we can all fit. Predominately an elementary focus but can be used in middle school.”

Linda: “We are going to ask you to bring an interactive device so you can all participate.”

Dennis Mullins (Advocacy): “I do have briefly something interesting.... We did a thing up in Paramus for two days regarding SGO’s. 2 days ago, very wisely, we had Paul Palek come to our district. He presented for all the administration would recommend getting him. Google his name and it will take you to New Jersey spotlight.”

Dennis spoke about the many hours of administration training that it going into the new evaluation models. He also spoke to the supervisor evaluation form that is not really in place yet. He stated that one of the problems with a supervisors evaluation form is the intense variation of our jobs throughout the state.

CCSS.....So many administrators are killing us people in the arts.

“Paul’s message was “do not reinvent the wheel. It has to be rubric based.”

Bob (Edison)....”We have submitted workshops session at the state conference but I’d rather give you all the details in December. Most will be on the collegiate day.

Jason. Paul Palek told to attendees at a recent workshop that there will be no SGO police coming around this year

Rubistar.4teachers.org – Barbara from Chatham shared this website concerning rubrics.

ROUND TABLE

Tom (Egg Harbor): “We are giving assessments that are common . Every single student is being assessed. Every assessment must include level 3 and 4 questions and must be 2 teared (high middle and low) general assessments. ALL students are being included in the SGO’s. We are not doing samples of students. Supervisors have to collate the scores. Teachers will develop their SGO’s in their October in-service.”

**NJMAA General Membership Meeting
Minutes**

Friday, December 7, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.
Rutgers Club, New Brunswick

I. Reports:

President – Peter Griffin

- Welcome and Introductions

Treasurer/Membership – Tom Weber

- Account Balance - \$ 2,220.78 Total Paid Members = 24

Secretary – Peggy Cioce (Standing in taking minutes – Linda King)

NJMEA Liason – Ron Dolce

- Tempo January article is in; getting ready for the March issue
- All State Concerts are cancelled for this year due to storm.

NJMEA News/Update – Joe Akinskas, Bob Pispecky

- We have great workshops in line for our Conference in February
- Bob Pispecky – Transitioning from student to teacher – anyone interested in being on the panel, please send names and info to Bob Pispecky in Edison

Advocacy – Denis Mullins - absent

II. Old Business:

Feb. Conference Sessions – Transitioning From Student to Teacher; Nail Down that Job!

Eastern Division Conference – April 4-7, 2012 Hartford, CT

- We have good representation at the Eastern Conference
 - Transitioning from Teacher to Supervisor
 - How to “Nail Down That Job”
 - Teacher Evaluation in the Arts

III. New Business

The Visual and Performing Arts Model Curriculum Project – Tom Weber
Phase 1 – units are now on line –

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/vpa/m/>

Phase 2 – assessments (will be started soon)

IV. Main Topic – Joe Akinkas

- **Current Status of Music Teacher Evaluation”**

V. Roundtable

Next General Meeting – Friday, February 1, 2013 – “Smart Music as a Tool for Assessment”

Next Executive Board Meeting – Friday, January 4, 2013 – Omega Diner, North Brunswick

NJMAA February 1, 2013 General Membership Meeting

Tom: Total paid members \$1935.96 32 paid members plus 4

Ron: Every one should have gotten the TEMPO magazine by now. Also submitted NJMEA all the dates for next year which will be in the May TEMPO.

Joe: We are well represented at the February conference. The collegiate academy has a lot of sessions going on that day. They tend to be interactive scenarios more than a presentation. Please join us for the round tables and breakfast.

Peter: The NAFME president has been asked to join us at 8:30 for the breakfast at the conference. Bob and Joe and Peter are running sessions at the conference.

The Eastern Division Peter is presenting on Friday the 5th at 8AM. Bob’s session is Saturday at 4PM.

Bob Frampton said there will be plenty of collegiate students at Peter’s workshop however, against Peters workshop is a workshop on teacher evaluation.

NAFME is trying to come up with useful information from the various teacher evaluation models that can help in our area.

Dennis: Will be going Monday to an **NJAEP meeting**. Teacher assessment will be the hot topic and even more so the “Arts assessment” He will pass forward any news and insights. The meeting will be held in Princeton at the Young Audiences of New Jersey office. Hopefully there will be a little bit more clarity.

Ron: If there is pertinent information about the evaluation process could we have that information sent out to the general membership.

Peter asked Tom about the curriculum project. Tom has not heard from Dale at all. Creating assessments to go along with the SLO’s.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe: A cookie for your thoughts. “As Peggy stated we were excited about our topic for this year...assessments. When we met as an exec board last month we tried to figure out how we could collect important information for the state.”

- Joe wants to get feedback from everyone around the table. Anything you would like to have the people on the state level to know. Sometimes when you have a specific agenda you don't hear from the other side of the table. Joe passed around some index cards for the general membership to jot down general comments, questions or concerns. Exit card.

Lisa Swanick – Band director of West Orange Presenter

What is Smart Music?

- Allows teachers to individualize instruction and document the progress for every student.
- Assessment tool for data collection for music instruction.
- Students can see in real time how they are doing. It is an intonation tool. Students can practice with an accompaniment.
- Teachers do not have to spend so much time on the basics if students can go home and learn their rhythms.
- Teachers have more class time to make music.

Click on an individual note the student can see a fingering chart.

“This is like guitar hero for band. I played it right its green, I played it wrong is red. Kids can play it over and over until they get it right. Kids are practicing over and over again and are competitive.”

- The program becomes an internal motivation.
- Students today are digital native.
- Students are motivated by instant feedback.

In the beginning of the program it was centered to band however, Smart Music is expanding to different music areas. Music Theory, Piano Lab, Recorder.

The big thing is creating individualized instruction which is really differentiated instruction.

Teacher can track the status of assignment.

Calculate grade based on your own grading criteria.

Track, document and build a portfolio of each student's progress.

As a tool for assessment

- Data collection
- Assign homework/practice
- Examinations
- Benchmark assessment
- Account ability
- Teacher valuation

Smart Music Assessments

- Are formative
- Summative
- Assessment Tool vs. and Instructional Tool
- Documentation
- Quality of Teacher feedback – one is able to see the teacher feedback
- Flexibility The flexibility is key as not everyone does everything the same way. There is a lot of application across the board.

Grade book

- Provide teacher with immediate feedback
- Teacher can generate progress reports
- Can be imported into other grading programs
- Great for parent teacher conferences

Smart Music Inbox

Available on I phone and I Pad

New sight reading exercises

You have the ability to take anything you want and put in into Smart Music you can Rip the track you can also use Finale.

Finale Note Pad

A free download, a watered down version of Finale.

Applications to other subjects

- ESL
- LAL
- Early intervention
- Foreign Language
- Special Education
- Any subject requiring listening, learning, interactivity and feedback.

Every band student at West Orange has a Smart Music Account

Students can start and stop their takes with a foot pedal.

The microphone is directional and can be used in small group instruction.

For large ensemble all can be working on rhythms through the larger screen or Smart Board

The learning curve is not that steep.

This is NOT a primary tool for instruction. It is a crayon in the box

There are many method books already in Smart Music

Photoscore always you to get a score into Smart Music

If you slow the tempo down it does not change the pitch.

Students tend to follow the curser.

Microphone place can be checked with the application.

Stand alone metronome built in to application

Built in keyboard

There are backgrounds for choir accompaniments

Assignments are very specific

You can send e mail notifications to your students regarding assignment

Is the application bilingual?

Christmas or a Hanukah gift as smart music.

Bob Frampton -Smart music does not encourage you to go out and buy a more expensive microphone as they do not work as well.

New Updates

Cloud based subscription vs., machine based

Practice version of I Pad in the spring

Full version with grade features coming in the fall

Integrated rubric creation tools.

Peter addressed the membership after the presentation and reminded them to please fill out the exit cards.

Meeting adjourned.

**NJMAA General Meeting
April 12, 2013**

President's Welcome – Peter Griffin

It was reported that there were 1300 plus in attendance at the Eastern Division conference.

Dennis Mullins: Advocacy – No new business. Dennis stated that “advocacy begins at home”. He informed the membership that the SGO book from the State came out and it describes what Student Growth Objectives are. Dennis further stated that “We cannot have an SGO without a pre-assessment... As we know new documentation keeps on coming out.”

Peter Griffin: “The state is still coming out with new regulations. There are schools that have not even touched what is going on.”

Linda King: stated that she plans to address all the “exit” card questions at the June meeting. She feels that Westfield is ahead of the curve and she is willing to share what Westfield has learned with the membership.

June 7th – breakfast at 9

June 7th – AANJ meeting that will be held at NJPSA

Report from Kim Defibaugh AANJ President.

Lincoln Center Institute Presentation

Joe Akinsas gave the membership a background of his experience with the Institute – He stated that he had had connection to the Institute since 1997. He introduced the clinicians from the Lincoln Center Institute and the topic for the morning which was very brief introduction to work that the Institute does on *Imaginative Learning through Aesthetic Education across the Curriculum*. How do we objectively see how students are affected by the subject?

Aesthetic education is based in particular philosophies such a John Dewey. The workshop began with a group body warm up – stretching.

Inquiry – what does it mean for you?

Investigating
Asking, Watching, and Observing
Finding out
Discovering

Statements below were various statements made throughout the workshop:

Experiential learning

Students experiment with the ideas

Art making – “Aesthetic education focused on a work of art.”

Questioning – “How do I get you where I need you to go. How do you ask the question in a way that doesn’t shut things down?”

Reflection – “It is not enough to have the experience you have but you have to know how you had the experience. We are always reflecting – to reflect means to bend.”

Contextual information in your view. - Asking why – what’s the story behind this? I want know more. Somehow engage students in the world out of which something evolves. The “world” about a specific piece of “art”

What art really means is to put together...making it personally relevant to the student.

There is choreography involved so that people are not always just sitting

Make something, create something

Describe what you see

Interpret what you see

What do you notice? Instead of “Notice this”