

1 **Florida Orchestra Association Inc.**  
2 **Executive Board Meeting**  
3 **May 17, 2024 – 8:00 am – Renaissance Sea World Resort**  
4

5  
6 The meeting was called to order at 8:01 am on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May by President Sleeper  
7

8 The Mission Statement was read by Mindy Curtis  
9

10 Executive Committee motion to approve Joshua Miller as the stand-in voter for D 12  
11 Motion Passed  
12

13 Appointed Brian Hellhake, the committee rep, to vote for committees.  
14

15 Motion to adopt the agenda with flexibility

16 Motion Felber

16 Second Batchelor

16 Motion Passed  
17  
18

19 Guests and Board Members in attendance were:  
20

21 District 1 – Maeanna Callahan

District 2/3 – Chris Miller

22 District 6 – Shawna Batchelor

District 7 – Tian Sanchez

23 District 8 – Kayla Morris

District 9 – Abbey Duncan

24 District 10 – Sam Felber

District 11 – Norm Vagn

25 District 12 – Joshua Miller

District 13 – Richard Ballinger

26 District 14 – ab

District 15- ab

27 Distinct 16 – Matthew Sheary

District 17 – Courtney Chrestensen

28 District 18 – Joseph Bigler

District 19 – Mindy Curtis

29 7/8 Honors Coor. – Jennifer Erickson

9/10 AS Coor. – ab

30 11/12 AS Coor. – Lauren Pardee

7/8 AS Coor. – ab

31 Adj Chair – Ranie Hollingsworth

Mentoring Chair – Marcey Sperr

32 9-12 Honors Coor. Jarrod Koskoski

AS Chair – Brian Hellhake

33 Past President – Laurie Bitters

Conf Chair – Valerie Terry

34 President – Cheri Sleeper

President-elect – Andrea Szarowicz

35 ED - Donald Langland  
36

37 Guests in attendance at the meeting were:

38 Victoria Senko – D6 Chair-elect

39 Alli Howard – D7 Chair-elect

40 Lisa Coyne – D8 Chair-elect

41 Andrew Beckner – D12 Chair-elect  
42

43  
44 Special Guests that came in and out during the meeting were:  
45 Jason Locker – FMEA President  
46 Skip Pardee – FMEA President-elect interim  
47 Kathy Sanz – FMEA Exec. Director  
48 Josh Bula – Director of IT  
49 Valeria Anderson – Director of Operations  
50

51 Motion to approve minutes from the January Board meeting with corrections to line 36  
52  
53 Motion – Koskoski Second – Ballinger Motion Passed  
54

55  
56 **Financial Reports** as of May 1, 2024, were given  
57

58 Motion to approve Financial reports  
59

60 Motion – Hellhake Second – Koskoski Motion Passed  
61

62 **Executive Director’s report** with next year’s calendar dates and recommendations  
63

64  
65 **Presidents Report**

- 66 • FMEA new award, “Champion of Music”
- 67 • All hotel rooms will be booked online this year
- 68 • College night will be Thursday night instead of Friday
- 69 • The conference program will not be printed this year, will only be digital
- 70 • Fall Conference program is now available

71  
72  
73 **President-Elect Report**

- 74 • FSMA leadership training coming up
- 75 • Valerie Terry is serving as interim president until July 1
- 76 • Seal of Fine Arts was approved and signed into law

77  
78  
79 **Past Presidents Report**

- 80 • Handbook committee will meet this July
- 81 • The Executive Director search committee structure was reviewed with an  
82 announcement coming from the committee under new business

83  
84 Committee Report

85 MPA – State S&E site Strawberry Crest HS  
86 State Concert MPA site Titusville HS  
87 A restroom/check-out break was called by President Sleeper at 8:45 am  
88

89 The meeting called back to order at 9:04 am  
90

91 **Consent Agenda - Committee, District, and All-state Reports**

- 92 • Are attached as an addendum under the consent agenda  
93

94 Motion to accept Callahan Second Sanchez Motion Passed

95 **Unfinished Business**

96 All-State absences

- 97 • Roll-call vote for 3 absences from All-State in January  
98 ○ Absence 1 American Heritage Broward – unexcused  
99 ○ Absence 2 All Saints Academy Polk – unexcused  
100 ○ Absence 3 Coleman MS Hillsborough - excused

101 Motion from the floor to suspend Roberts Rules

102 Motion Sanchez Second Felber Motion Passed  
103

104 During this time, the FMEA Board came into the room and thanked everyone for their  
105 service to the Association.  
106

107 Motion to reinstate Roberts Rules

108 Motion Koskoski Second Batchelor Motion Passed  
109  
110

111 **New Business**

112  
113 Motions to the Board from Committees (*only need a 2<sup>nd</sup> to be voted upon*)  
114

115 **Executive/Finance Committee motions**

- 116  
117 1. Motion to adopt the FOA Calendar for the 2024 - 2025 school year

118 Motion Passed  
119

- 120 2. Motion to increase mileage rate paid for travel from .655 to .675 per IRS  
121

121 Motion Passed

122 Two recommendations were made by the Executive Director  
123

- 124 • Handbook rule clarification Section VII K. 1  
125 General Information  
126 1. Each Director will prepare three (3) separate envelopes (one for each judge) containing one score,  
127 bound in booklet form, for each selection to be performed on stage with all measures numbered; at  
128 State Concert MPA, four (4) separate envelopes. Acceptable forms of bound scores are spiral, comb,  
129 stapled (*in booklet form*), or score sheets in sheet protectors secured in a 3-ring/prong binder/folder.  
130 Failure to provide scores in one of the specified formats will result in a rules infraction, which will  
131 lower the orchestra's overall rating by one level.

132 Motion Sanchez Second Duncan

133 Motion to move to Handbook Committee

134 Motion Ballinger Second Felber Motion Passed

- 135  
136 • Handbook word addition Section VII B.1  
137 Music Selection

- 138 1. Each orchestra must prepare three (3) compositions **by three (3) different composers** ~~to be performed~~  
139 **and must be** (varying in key, style, period, and tempo)

140 Motion to move to Handbook Committee

141 Motion Ballinger Second Curtis Motion Passed

142  
143 President Sleeper excused herself and turned the meeting over to Laurie Bitters, the past  
144 president and chairman of the search committee, to present their recommendations to the  
145 Board for the Executive Director's position starting September 1, 2024

146  
147 The committee makes the following recommendations: first, split the Executive Directors'  
148 jobs into two positions: the Executive Director position and the financial staff position.

149  
150 Motion to appoint Cheri Sleeper as the new Executive Director

151 Motion Passed

152  
153 Dr. Thomas Silliman will fill the finance staff position (no vote is needed since this is an  
154 appointed position).

155  
156 Recess was called for 10 minutes

157  
158 A motion from the floor to suspend Roberts Rules to review District motions

159 Motion Bigler Second Sheary Motion Passed

160  
161 During this time, Districts that had motions explained to the Board their rationale for each  
162 of their motions being presented.

163  
164 A motion from the floor to reinstate Roberts Rules

165 Motion Pardee Second Erickson Motion Passed

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**District Motions:**

*District motions require a 2<sup>nd</sup> to be voted upon*

District 6

- **Motion that District Chairpersons be given digital access to the All-State Audition and Sight-Reading Materials on the day of the auditions. This proposal would make it possible for a District to make additional materials available in case something happens to the originals sent by the Executive Board.**

Motion withdrawn

District 8

- **Motion to add language to the handbook stating that schools, directors, and students shall not be held responsible, penalized, or denied participation in state level events for which paperwork was submitted properly and on time by the school director due to errors made by the district chair or state level FOA board member.**

Second Sanchez

Motion from the floor to move to the Handbook Committee

Motion Ballinger Second Batchelor Motion Passed

District 10

- **Motion to require orchestras to perform at least one piece from either the Baroque, Classical or Romantic period at our Concert Music Performance Assessment. (District and State).**

Second none Motion Failed

- **Motion that FOA State Concert MPA be held at two sites each year, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast.**

Second Duncan

Motion from the floor to move to the MPA Committee for further consideration

Motion Sanchez Second Bigler Motion Passed

- **Motion to consider removing the clinic session at State Concert MPA and schedule the MPA by “performance blocks” much like FVA and FBA.**

Second Koskoski

Motion from the floor to move to the MPA Committee for further consideration

Motion Sanchez Second Pardee Motion Passed

- 205 • **Motion that all handbook changes must be approved by one affirmative vote by the executive board**  
206 **and one affirmative vote by the general membership. All Bylaws changes must be approved by 2**  
207 **affirmative votes by the executive board and 1 affirmative vote by the general membership.**  
208

209 Second none Motion Failed

- 210  
211 • **Motion that FOA contracts Barefoot Accounting to serve as the accounting firm for FOA districts**  
212 **modeled after the arrangement used by FVA and FBA.**  
213

Motion withdrawn

214 District 11

- 215 • **Motion to clarify in the handbook rules for MPA (Page 9, Section IV, A, 3) that ensembles with fewer**  
216 **than 12 students may still *register* for MPA. The current wording implies that you must register with 12**  
217 **or more students, though you may still play (for comments only) with fewer. Additionally, I would**  
218 **request that the minimum number of students be reduced to 8.**

- 219  
220 • **Motion to clarify in the handbook rules for MPA (Page 12, Section VII, C & G) for how schools**  
221 **should handle non-traditional instrumentation and/or substitutions. For example, in a category BF**  
222 **work, if an ensemble substitutes saxophone and electric guitar for parts scored for french horn and**  
223 **oboe, how should that be notated on the score sheet for the judge and would there be an issue with**  
224 **copyright for any transcribed sheet music?**

- 225  
226  
227 • **Motion that ensembles be allowed to perform music from solo concerto, Broadway show tunes, pop**  
228 **tunes, movie/television/video game themes for comments only (at a minimum) without being first**  
229 **disqualified (Page 12, Section VII, B, 4) at MPA. Preferably, they should be allowed to program them**  
230 **and still receive a rating at the district-level MPA just like in Solo & Ensemble. Why allow music on the**  
231 **approved lists that mimic these genres but not the originals? A few examples from the list (but there**  
232 **are many)**

- 233  
234 • **Motion to allow ensembles to register for an MPA performance for comments only without choosing**  
235 **music from the approved lists.**

236 All motions were withdrawn since the District did not officially vote on them  
237  
238

239 District 19

- 240 ▪ **Motion to move the district financials to a qualified accountant familiar with FSMA nonprofit**  
241 **accounting.**  
242

Motion withdrawn

243

244 **Good of the Association**

- 245 • It was suggested that the Board avoid suspending Roberts Rules for transparency's  
246 sake  
247 • Cheri has 1 year left before retirement

248  
249

### **Appointment of Officers**

- 251 • The Executive Committee recommends the following State officer changes  
252 according to the By-Laws of the Association
- 253  
254 ○ **Motions that starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Laurie Bitter be appointed to the President's position**  
255 **to fill the one-year vacancy left by appointing Cheri Sleeper, Executive Director, and Matthew**  
256 **Davis as Past-President to fill the vacancy left by moving Laurie Bitters to the Presidents**  
257 **position pending a membership vote in October.**

258 Motion Passed

259  
260 In accordance with the By-Laws Article V Section 2 C.  
261  
262 Cheri Sleeper appointed Allison (Alli) Howard as the new interim District Chair  
263 for District 7

264  
265 The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

266  
267 Next Board Meeting will be at the Orlando Hilton on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

268  
269 Respectfully Submitted  
270 Donald Langland, Executive Director