

Music Contingency Group Notes: December 15, 2020

The Music Contingency group began with a review of the Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart provided by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Governor's Office. The major change in guidance from past contingency group meetings was the discussion about a "warning week" and a "movement week" distributed on December 3. The group discussed that there is a lack of clarity from OHA or the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) regarding the restrictions required for afterschool performing arts groups. This would include meeting and/or following the Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) model. The OSAA's interpretation would be that if performing arts groups are meeting in the LIPI model after school, and in an Extreme Risk County, they would only be able to meet outdoors as indoors is not allowed with the new restrictions. However, the question posed to OHA and ODE is whether the co-curricular nature of performing arts programs allows for them to meet inside in the LIPI format. As soon as clarification is received, the OSAA will send out the information to schools. At this time, being more restrictive and having groups meet outdoors is recommended.

The OSAA reviewed the new Activities Calendar for Culminating Week Events. By pushing Band, Orchestra and Choir back a couple of weeks (May 24-30, 2021), the goal was to give those activities a slightly longer runway to get students into a building in some fashion. Any qualification dates, or other dates will need to be assessed during a future meeting.

Some updates from affiliate organizations and schools are as follows:

- The Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) conferences are happening in January virtually. OMEA decided to do Solo and Ensemble virtually. Directors shared that they have presented to the school board along with administrators in our building about bringing kids back. They have included the information from the NFHS aerosol study and the return to music documentation. Directors are looking to bring back non-wind instruments possibly like drumline in a breezeway area to allow students rehearse. Some schools are still working under the LIPI guidelines. Some schools are meeting with kids one time per week in consistent cohorts and they seem to be working well. The students really enjoy the ability to see their peers. The challenges were really during the post rehearsal practices and transitions as students congregated. The committee members were impressed with families and kids who communicated ahead of time about not feeling well to not put others in danger others. Administrators shared that they are hopeful that in February students will be back.

The majority of the discussion regarded a festival format and a rating system instead of competing against one another. The discrepancy amongst the ability to rehearse for Band, Choir and Orchestra is the challenge. Put the decisions of what literature in the director's hands instead of from OMEA. The focus needs to be on students playing or singing vs. competing. The request was to use the rating systems moving forward for consideration.

The OSAA Solo Music State Championship/Event was brought forward by OSAA staff as the final piece of conversation for the group. The committee felt strongly that a virtual culminating event should still take place under the OSAA umbrella as it may be the only musical event able to proceed under state guidance this year. The committee members wanted a quality experience for these students as they

missed out on the opportunity in Spring 2020. With the recent changes in the calendar, no decisions on any sport or activity culminating weeks have been made but are the next line of business for the OSAA Executive Board to tackle. The current date for the OSAA Solo Music Culminating Week is April 26-May 2, 2021.

The committee discussed the timelines for the event and how a decision will need to be made sooner rather than later as students are selecting pieces to perform now. The committee felt strongly that the event needed to be on a rating system and no outright winner should be awarded this year. The differences in technology, the virtual applications etc. differ so much between students that creating an equitable experience would be impossible. The plan would be to return to crowning champions in 2022.