

Music Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 6:00pm(CT) – Zoom meeting

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Brooks Bowman at 6:02pm.

Committee members present were:

Ben Koch Jessica Perkins Phil Carlson Ann Deckert Colby Shuck Kent Knudson

SDHSAA Executive Director, Dr. Daniel Swartos was also in attendance.

2. Public Forum

Terry Gullickson – Brandon Valley – Terry discussed the option. #1 is too restrictive. Asked about a separate concert for chorus and orchestra. #2 – add to mask requirements “when not maintaining a 6-foot social distance. Concerned about check-in times. #3 – worried that directors won’t enforce policies. With SF mask mandates, there may be no option for schools but to wear masks.

Rachelle Stevens – Burke – discussed how state athletic events have happened. She feels that if sporting events are happening, then all-state music events should happen as well. Schools have option to not attend if they choose not to participate. Suggested limiting numbers to 1 quartet per school. Likes option #3.

3. Review results from All-State Chorus and Orchestra Survey

The committee reviewed the results from the survey sent out to member schools. After much discussion over the results, the committee moved to agenda item #4.

4. Discuss options for All-State Chorus & Orchestra and make a final recommendation for the event.

Ann Deckert motioned to remove options 1 & 3 from the discussion.

Phil Carlson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Colby Shuck motioned that option #2 be sent to the Task Force and SDHSAA Board for consideration.

Phil Carlson seconded the motion .

Colby – y

Phil – y

Ben – n

Jessica – n

Ann – n

Kent – n

The motion failed 4-2.

Ben Koch motioned to send options 4 and 5 to the Task Force and SDHSAA Board for consideration.

Ben Koch amended his motion to include option 6.

Ann Deckert seconded the motion.

Jessica Perkins feels that the committee should send one option to the task force.

Ben – y

Phil – n

Colby – n

Ann – y

Jessica – n

Kent- n

The motion failed 4-2.

Ben Koch motioned to send option #5 to the Task Force and SDHSAA Board for consideration.

Jessica Perkins seconded the motion.

Ben – y

Phil – y

Ann – n

Kent – y

Colby – n

Jessica - y

The motion failed due to a tied vote.

*After reviewing the minutes and the video of the meeting, this motion passed 4-2. This motion is the official recommendation from the committee.

~~Ben Koch motioned to send option #4 to the Task Force and SDHSAA Board for consideration.~~

~~Jessica Perkins seconded the motion.~~

~~Ben – y~~

~~Phil – y~~

~~Ann – n~~

~~Kent – y~~

~~Colby – n~~

~~Jessica – y~~

~~The motion passed 4-2.~~

5. Adjourn

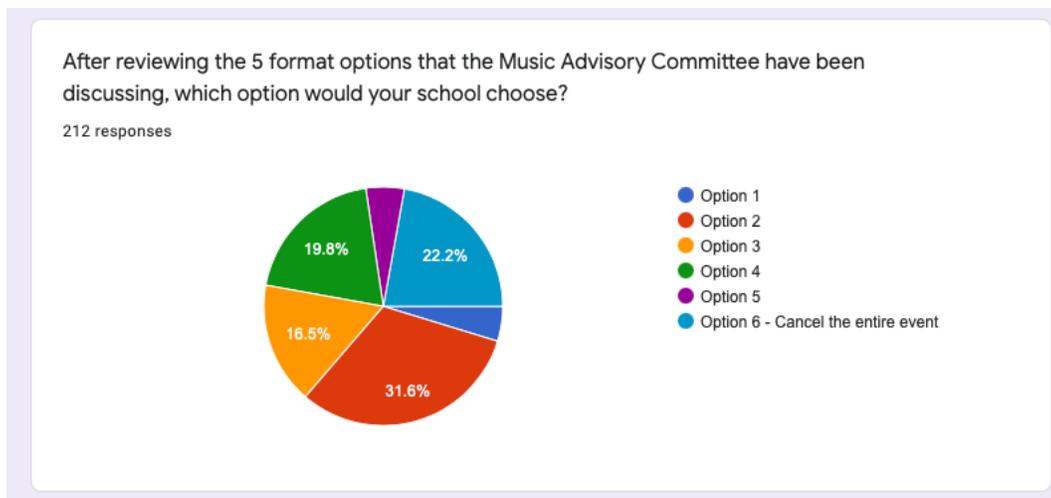
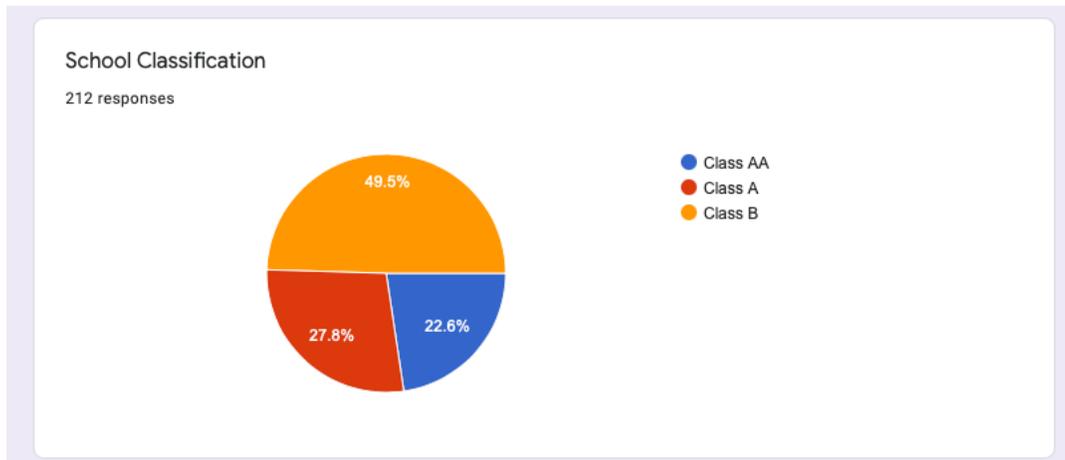
The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Brooks Bowman

Assistant Executive Director

SDHSAA

Survey Results



Written responses to final survey question:

If you have anything you would like to propose to the advisory committee regarding his year's ASC&O event, please state it here.

The logistics of Option 1 will be challenging and not provide adequate experience. We believe that Option 3 would be difficult to monitor and that mask wearing should be universal if goal is to provide an opportunity.

Any of the other options will provide an experience that is not worth having. Cut our losses and let schools focus on their spring concerts and musicals instead of having to try and sell an All-State experience that will not be representative of what All-State is.

If not #2 - Then go with #4, 5 or 6

I do not see why we have to cancel the all state orchestra when there are a fewer number of students to work with at the Premier Center than the approximately 1000 students in the all state chorus. I think all state chorus it too big of an event to hold under these circumstances. The combination of getting together with other students from other schools, directors' meetings, and making music in a large venue is the experience of ASC. To micromanage students and directors' whereabouts, how they will enter/exit, where they will drink/eat, and how long this will all take just zaps the fun out of the ASC experience. Let's have a great ASC in Oct 2021, and just skip this April event due to Covid-19 like everything else. I say take the ASC out of the weekend and let ASO still happen.

Thanks to everyone involved for all of their time and effort!

Thank you all for making these challenging decisions.

Diligence in making this event happen safely should be ultimate priority. I have seen other events be cancelled simply because of a desire not to do the extra work and plan around precautions; allowing this event to happen for students should be the utmost goal. While other tournaments, state meets, etc. are happening in other activities, I feel it's important for the students for this event to occur. My students would rather attend this event with hoops to jump through rather than be stripped away of another special opportunity. I'm also guessing that those who'd vote for #2 would vote for #5 consequently if ASC was cancelled.

I appreciate the time and effort you have all put in to developing possible scenarios in which ASCO could occur. It is my feeling that, while guidelines would be followed for certain options, the experience and concert itself would be so vastly different from the norm that it would not be worth the time and effort by all of the involved parties. All State is a time when musicians come together to collaborate, make music, network and make friends. Due to the global pandemic, that is just not possible this year.

I am actually fine with option 3 as well.

I wish we could have an answer about All-State prior to March 3. I don't see the sense in teaching my students another set of music, just in case the event is a go. Why do we need to wait an entire month before a decision can be made? I also think that the fact that both directors have cancelled should give us our answer. It's not a good idea to proceed, plain and simple. How can we in good conscience gather 1,000 students together to sing during a pandemic? I would be very sad for my students if the event was cancelled, but I know that is what needs to happen.

Thanks for you work on this!

I agree with masks during rehearsals, but could we have school's choice during the live concert if we are social distanced?

If considering cancelling, could we consider a chorus regional event? I know it leads to some logistics for Dr. Holdhusen, but it would be less students total, and an event that happens for them. (A chorus concert per region)

I am between #2 and #3.

-I think masks need to be worn WHEN NOT MAINTAINING 6 FT

-#2 check-in is too detailed, and will still lead to large groups at the door

-#3 Relying on individual "school policy" is a bad idea.

-Current SF mask mandate may be extended through A-S dates. (schools will not have a mask choice)

Regarding distancing (check-in/reh/breaks)-- ALL directors need to help steer and herd kids.

Removing the winds and brass into sectionals to reduce full ensemble aerosol exposure.

While it would be sad to cancel this year's event, and as detailed as the logistics were in options 1&2, we don't think having the event safely is physically possible. It will be very difficult (if not impossible) to get schools to be on time (not early, not late) for a two minute check in window and it will be very difficult to keep students separated during break times (even separated within in each school's quartets which is our district's policy). We also don't think this provides an educational opportunity that is even close to comparable to previous years. Therefore, it is not only extremely difficult, dangerous, and taxing for all but also not beneficial to our kids' learning.

If the ASC&O policies do not mirror our District policies for chorus, I will not authorized them to attend. Our policies were created with the assistance of a medical team. The practicality of the logistics of options 1 and 2 do not seem feasible. We do not have an orchestra, so it is my opinion that orchestra should be determined separately. Option 4 does however meet our District's policies for instrumental ensembles, and the logistics of option 4 seem more feasible/practical to achieve.

Option 1 is also acceptable but prefer option 2

It is concerning to me that a final decision will not be made until early March. That leaves everyone in limbo for another month, making it difficult for planning. Especially for the Orchestra, if chorus cancels, but orchestra chooses to proceed, it leaves them little time to fully prepare for the event.

(If the final decision can't be made before March, I would then think it in the best interest to cancel the entire event for this year).

This is a very difficult choice, but thus far we have followed the NFHS and CDC recommendations. Option 1 seems safe, but not sure how functional and meaningful that experience would be for all. The added cost to the schools with extra hotel rooms/ busses is too much. Additionally, I don't trust the kids to follow the rules for the event. It will not be a good musical experience and potentially dangerous.

How about a level between 4 and 5 where the rehearsals are longer rather than 30 minutes. I am not aware of any schools doing that time restriction in their day. With a 6 foot distance and covers there is little aerosol. Strings do not produce aerosol. The chorus seems undoable unless regions want to host their own smaller event.

Another option let the strings rehearse together and the winds in another room doing their 30 minute thing. Bring them together on the last day.

All State Orchestra is a manageable event with the number of students. These students have rehearsed the music since May and can still perform a successful concert with the limited rehearsal time. Choosing not to follow national guidelines or allowing schools to choose their own accommodations is putting everyone at risk for All State Choir. We have learned to accept missing events and losing opportunities in the last year. If All State Choir can't happen this year, the students and directors will move on. Hopefully, next school year it will be safe to host the event. Health and safety need to be the number one priorities, and there is nothing safe about one thousand singers in one space.

Please see my previous input. Thanks for your work on this, Brooks, I know you've put a lot into making everyone's voice is heard and I appreciate what you've done. Thanks.

We believe the Option 1 (which adheres to NFHS Aerosol study recommendations) will not provide a worthwhile music-making experience for the singers.

Our district does follow the NFHS guidelines, so Option 2 and 3 do not work for us.

There is no reason for the orchestral side of the event to be canceled. The choir can be problematic. Has the advisory committee thought about less musical material being performed at the All-State concert this spring. This can alleviate the strain on Students & Directors & Guest Directors under the circumstances of Covid-19

How will a positive test be handled during the event itself?

If we have it I feel option 2 is the best option, but have concerns about the experience for our kids. It's just not the same for them not being able to interact with each other.

I have many concerns about allowing individual schools follow their own mask/distancing requirements knowing so many schools across the state have varying levels of requirements and enforcement. It will be increasingly difficult to monitor who should be wearing a mask and who should not. Not to mention, we are gathering students from all across the state who could potentially expose each other. Statistically, more than one student will have COVID when we gather in April unless numbers drop drastically. My personal opinion is to cancel, however if the event is held, I think NFHS guidelines must be followed.

I would propose the wording of the first bullet point read as follows for Option 4:

Masks must be worn by all students and directors. Wind instruments with bells must use bell cover. Students are to provide their own masks, bell covers, as well as puppy pads (or an equivalent material) to catch water from water keys of wind instruments.

All of the protocols must align with our Districts Covid Protocols for us to attend.

1 question: If the final decision would be to NOT have ASC. Would it be a potential option to have a smaller choral event per region (i.e. Northeast SD, South Central, West, etc.)? This would provide for a smaller group setting, but still allow for an opportunity for students to have the event & prep the music. Obviously, this would mean directors working together & having their own conductor.

We need to be brave enough & strong enough to require masks to be worn at this event. Considering the potential risks of having 1000 vocalists all singing at the same time - this must be the only option. I firmly believe that we can hold this event safely for our students so that they may all get to have their All-State Chorus experience, but we all need to remember to be respectful of the diversity of the schools & cities that all of our singers represent. Our differences make us unique but our quest to perform a beautiful concert together can only safely be facilitated during this unusual time by having all participants protect themselves and others by wearing a mask. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

ms. o'hara-benson

Try to make this as normal for the students as it can be. They are struggling, as so many opportunities have already been taken from them. They deserve to have these wonderful experiences and enjoy creating music with other people.

I appreciate the option to refer to a school's policy on mask-wearing. One suggestion would be, if we are still able to hold the event for both choir and orchestra, to allow a school to not send students to the event if they do not feel comfortable. Basically, so that they may exempt themselves from participating. Based on my survey results, you can see that I am in favor of having the event. However, I would appreciate the option to still have the event for those who want to bring their students (and feel comfortable doing so) even if there are others who do not feel comfortable bringing their students.

Thank you for your work on this!

I am comfortable with Option 3 but if it's have the event or don't have the event, option 2 would be my second vote.

I am very disappointed that you are not allowing any audience this year. I think the Fine Arts Programs are the ones taking the biggest hit during Covid. There are students playing basketball, wrestling, volleyball, football, soccer and allowing spectators and not emptying out to purify the air. As a parent, I have no issue with my girls continuing to participate in their sports. As a parent and a teacher, I am super disappointed in how fine arts is being handled. You are going to kill programs - music, drama, oral interp. Why such different approaches? And saying that singing and playing instruments affects air flow differently isn't good enough - when you wrestle, you are exchanging spit, sweat and air. When you play man to man defense in basketball, you are doing the same. And although there have been some minor outbreaks, the state has not shut down athletic programs and activities. Why the double standard?

I really hope that you hold this event - if you cancel it, you are sending the message that sports is more important to SD than Fine Arts.

If ASC&O is held, I'm guessing some schools will choose not to participate in all-state chorus. If the committee feels like the number of participants is too low, offer to participating schools the option to bring extra quartets. Each director can be the judge on whether their next quartet would be all-state worthy. I sincerely hope the event can happen. I would hope everyone attending understands there's a certain amount of risk to coming and accept it. The no audience aspect is going to be tough for a lot of parents to accept, especially when other state events appear to not have restrictions on attendance. Please reconsider that aspect.

I'm a chorus director and I don't feel it's my decision about the orchestra so I voted for them to still perform. The orchestra directors should make that decision.

If schools dont want to participate give them the option not to but I think it should be held for those that do.

Have the event with minor modifications and people/schools can come if they choose. If we can wrestling we can have a concert!

I think it is going to be too difficult to safely navigate the large number all state choir will bring.

Students and families could choose if they want to send students. Some schools may choose to opt out entirely. This would allow the event to still take place, but it would likely have less members.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this event in all areas.

In my opinion, options 3 through 5 should not even be considered. In a group this size, masking or not masking should not even be a question--if we want to have the event, masks must be required. End of story. Options 4 and 5 will create a lot of hard feelings if one of the groups is able to hold their performance and the other group is not. If there were an option to separate the two groups, I would have no issue with that at all, but I cannot support having one and not the other. Thank you for considering my input.

Thank you for your work during these challenging times. We hope to have SATB groups ready to audition and participate in All State music activities next fall.

I felt this survey should also include if you are a director of choir or orchestra so that one or the other isn't making a decision that affects the whole. Thank you for your difficult work this year.

I think having the masks and social distancing is a responsible, yet practical option. I would truly hate to see this event cancelled, especially when sports can proceed practically as normal. I do not want to see our state set up that double standard as music programs have been struggling for years, but I also understand the necessary safety precautions if the committee decides to cancel the event or go with option 1.

In Option 4 I would like to see all orchestra members wear face masks and wind instrumentalists use bell covers, not just if their school policy dictates.

If you went with option #2, could you allow directors and students to talk to each other if they are already masked?

We will NOT attend all state chorus either way.

If the options that allow each individual school to abide by their own mask policy (thereby likely resulting in many unmasked singers) is chosen, our school will likely not attend. The masking is effective only if everyone is wearing one.

Our seniors say, "Please, please don't cancel!"

I want to thank you for considering different options. It is disappointing but, we must be hopeful that this time will come to an end.

I feel that we will have had several state tournaments (over multiple days) by the time ASC&O come along so why not have the event with a live audience. In reading what I have been able to get my hands on regarding the state tournaments, they are not stopping every 30 minutes and clearing the arenas for air re-circulation. They are not keeping people confined to the event centers and fed boxed meals. If there are so many schools worried about contact, they do have the choice not to attend. (That should also help our numbers) Another option for ASC would be to limit all schools attending to 1 quartet. That would also drop the number of individuals. I realize that whatever decision is made there will be criticisms, so thank you for allowing us to voice our opinions.

Choose one piece and put together 1 virtual performance. Schools can send in video/audio of their quartet(s). If SD doesn't have an entity or individual to produce this, I have a MN/Twin Cities contact.

I think you guys are doing an amazing job at giving this opportunity to students! At the moment, I am down two kids due to all-state chorus being at the same time as an FCCLA event in Sioux Falls. I also don't think my kids will do well learning new music with such little time. I don't know if other schools are in the same position, but my kids would not be able to pass a spot check at this point.

Would it be possible to have quartets that are from the same area/region in South Dakota sit by each other. Several school already participate in sports together and that way students would be by the same students they have daily/weekly contacts.

I am equally in favor of option 3. My preference is actually an option 2a which would follow most of what is outlined in option 2 but allow for mask removal when in our quartet singing location (if district allows.) Thank you for your work!

Option #4 – Cancel All-State Chorus – Do not cancel All-State Orchestra. Follow NFHS recommendations.

Check-In process:

- Masks must be worn by students and directors if their school policy dictates they be worn. Wind instruments with bells must use bell covers if their school policy dictates they be used. Students are to provide their own masks, bell covers, as well as puppy pads (or an equivalent material) to catch water from water keys of wind instruments.
- Schools will check-in and be in their seats in time for rehearsals.
- All students will be socially distanced, as per the recommendations from the NFHS Aerosol Study.
- 3 Entrances will be used for the orchestra. Schools will be assigned specific check-in times and entrances.
- Upon check-in, students are to proceed directly to their assigned seats in the Ballroom.
- All students must bring their own water bottle. Water stations will not be provided and water fountains are limited in the facility.

Social Distancing:

- ~~Quartets will be socially distanced from other quartets. Social distancing must be maintained throughout all rehearsals and the performance.~~
- ~~Directors must remain seated near their quartets in order to monitor for proper mask wearing and social distancing amongst quartets.~~
- ~~During breaks, directors will be responsible for keeping their quartets socially distanced from other quartets.~~
- ~~Specific entrance and exit routes will be determined which will keep schools from mixing with other schools.~~
- ~~During breaks, all participants must clear out of the Premier Center. Schools will be assigned specific areas throughout the facility to go to during breaks.~~
- Orchestra members will be socially distanced during rehearsals and performance in accordance with the NFHS recommendations.

Schedule:

- Rehearsals will run for 30 minutes. Rehearsals will begin in the Ballroom. After a 30-minute rehearsal in the Ballroom, students will move to the Premier Center for a 30-minute rehearsal. After the rehearsal in the Premier Center, students will move back to the Ballroom for another 30-minute rehearsal, followed by a 30 minute break, and then another 30-minute rehearsal in the ballroom. The schedule will be set to allow for a 90-minute period of time for the Premier Center to be cleared out in order to allow a full air refresh cycle before students return to the space.
- See attachment for proposed ASCO Schedule #4
- All director meetings and award ceremonies will be suspended for this year.
- An audience will be permitted. Any audience restrictions set by the host facility will be followed.

Meals:

- Schools will have extended meal breaks and may leave the facility to get food.

Option #5 Rehearsal Schedule on next page.

Option #5
SOUTH DAKOTA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA
April 19 - 20, 2021, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls
ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsal Site: Denny Sanford Premier Center

Dr. Peter Folliard, Conductor

Sunday, April 18

7:00-9:00 p.m. – Registration by Directors Begins
Premier Center Lobby

Monday, April 19

7:00 a.m. Orchestra Check-In

8:00 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

9:30 ORCHESTRA BREAK

10:00 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

11:30 LUNCH

1:30 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

3:00 ORCHESTRA BREAK

3:30 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

5:00 BREAK FOR DINNER

7:30 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

9:00 Rehearsal Concludes

11:00 IN ROOMS AND LIGHTS OUT

Tuesday, April 20

7:30a.m. Orchestra Check-In

8:00 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

9:30 Orchestra Break

10:00 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

11:30 LUNCH

1:30 **Orchestra Rehearsal** – Premier Center

3:00 ORCHESTRA BREAK

3:30 **Final Rehearsal and Sound Check**

4:00 ***Break for Dinner and to Dress for the Concert***

6:15 Orchestra Reports to the Premier Center

6:45 All-State Picture

7:00 ALL-STATE CONCERT

(NOTE: All times listed are Central Times)

