



Oregon Music  
Teachers Association  
PORTLAND DISTRICT  
Est. 1915

**Oregon Music Teachers Association  
West Portland District Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
Held on Zoom**

**10:00 a.m. – Program:  
“How *Do* Children Learn?”  
Sarah Ball, President of OMTA**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Elizabeth Caswell called the business meeting of the OMTA West Portland District to order at 10:01a.m. There were approximately 30 members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Debra Sostrin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2021 OMTA West Portland Meeting. Susan Todd seconded the motion. All voted yea, 26 participants. The motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer Report:** The account balance is \$25,732.36 as of today. Prior to this meeting, an email containing festival reports, syllabus reports, and the proposed annual budget was sent to members. The budget for 2021-22 was presented to the board in June and is based on the 2019-20 budget. Expenses in 2020-21 were lower due to virtual events and lower participation. Debra Sostrin made a motion to approve the 2021-22 Annual Budget, Cindy Peterson-Peart seconded the motion. No discussion. 29 yea votes, the motion passed.

**Membership Report:** Celia Bartel is our new membership chair. There are currently 194 members in the West Portland District, down from 197 members in June.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**West-Side OMTA (Hillsboro):** Susan Todd made a motion that West Portland District approve the division of Hillsboro Area District (name to be determined) from West Portland District. The motion was seconded by Selina Manson.

Discussion about the motion: Members who live in the Hillsboro area and adjoining towns would like to create a separate district from West Portland. A committee is being formed to organize the creation of a separate district in June of 2022. There is agreement among the members of West Portland that it is a positive move to separate such a large district. It is easier to be responsive to the needs of teachers in a smaller association.

In order to participate in an OMTA district event, the teacher must be a member of that district. Teachers can join more than one district. If someone lives in Hillsboro, they would be able to join West Portland, and vice versa. Teachers can only have students participate in one district in a competitive event.

When the Portland district split into East and West Portland, funds were distributed based on the number of members in each district. The same process would occur for the Hillsboro split. It is estimated the Hillsboro district would be a group of 20 teachers.

To be decided - where would the division of the new district occur geographically? Who would be involved in deciding those boundaries? When the district is created, members of the new district will have to manually select the new district when renewing their MTNA/OMTA fees.

Holly Counts would like to move her membership to the Hillsboro district. We will need to find a West Portland member to replace Holly as president-elect.

Discussion is closed. Vote to approve the motion - 31 yea votes, no nay votes. The motion passed.

**Ensemble Festival:** Fen-Fang Tsao, chair. The ensemble festival has been moved online. Deadline for turning in the video is October 16<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Peterson-Peart announced that the state ensemble festival has been canceled for this fall.

**Classical Festival:** Marla Hansen and Natalya Klimov, co-chairs. The Classical Festival will take place November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> at Portland Piano Company. If the festival must be moved online, teachers will be notified on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the Classical festival is open now and will close on October 8<sup>th</sup>. On Leggiero, the festival can be found under the "Portland" district. Festivals are still held jointly with the East Portland district. Please write "East" or "West" in the memo on your check to streamline the division of funds. Detailed festival instructions can be found on the West Portland website.

**Fall Syllabus:** Registration for Syllabus is coming up soon. Be sure to register on time, late submissions will not be accepted. Register students in your district. Special permission is needed to register students outside of your district. Please read hybrid procedures, sent out by email on September 17<sup>th</sup> from Heidi Evans. Important - indicate in the "Special Circumstances" area if you are signing up for in-person or online exams.

**OMTA website:** The website has been updated. Members will need to create individual passwords to access member materials. An email with your personal invitation code was sent out on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please use that link to set up your password. For members that do not have an email address, please contact the State Office for assistance.

**October Meeting:** The next West Portland meeting will be held on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m. The presenter will be Ashlee Young - "A Seat at the Piano." The format will most likely be hybrid. COVID-19 policies per the OMTA State update of 9/3/21 will be followed.

President Elizabeth Caswell adjourned the meeting at 10:49a.m.

The presentation "How *Do* Children Learn?" by Sarah Ball, President of OMTA will now begin, followed by a discussion about Syllabus lead by Cindy Peterson-Peart.

These minutes were prepared by Secretary Marla Hansen.

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**Next Meeting:  
Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m.  
"A Seat at the Piano"  
Ashlee Young**

**Tentatively a hybrid presentation.**

Christ United Methodist Church, 12755 NW Dogwood St., Portland, OR 97229  
Facebook/Zoom