



NYSSMA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Welcome & Introductions – Call to Order

NYSSMA President Kathy Perconti welcomed the members of the Executive Council and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Just over 30 members of council were present at the meeting.

Not in attendance: Julie M. Smith (Zone 8), Michael Mas-trangelo (GRC/Advocacy Committee Chair), Dr. Keith Koster (NAFME-NYSSMA Collegiate Advisor).

Officer Reports

President's Report: Kathy Perconti

With the addition of several new council members at the turn of the year, President Perconti asked each person on council to introduce themselves and explain their role(s) within the association.

Appointments

President Perconti indicated that Dr. Morgan Jolley resigned from her role as the incoming All-State Vocal Jazz Chairperson and that the role of All-State Assistant Vocal Jazz Chairperson also remained vacant, necessitating appointments for both positions. She also addressed an additional appointment within the Finance Committee, proposing the following individuals for these positions:

Vocal Jazz Chair: Robert Dumas

Vocal Jazz Asst. Chair: Laurie Faunce

Finance Committee Member at Large: Greg Verheyen

Motion: Kathy Perconti (President), seconded by Scott Cannan (2nd Vice President), “that the NYSSMA Executive Council approve the proposed appointments.” **Motion carried.**

President Perconti delivered a slide presentation about the goals for her 2026-2027 term. They were presented as follows:

- Strategic planning - To look at our mission statement; reaffirm why our association exists and what it envisions; engage stakeholders and get their input; create an Action Plan that details how to achieve our goals; and monitor, evaluate and track our progress.
- Broadening our scope - To restructure Vocal Jazz to become Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, reflecting the diverse musical interests of our students and aligning our programs with the contemporary music education trends.

- Enhancing organizational transparency and inclusivity - To move toward electronic elections, create greater transparency in voting, explore term limits for chair positions, and examine voting structure.
- Modernizing festivals - To transition to electronic festival evaluations, redesign Majors sheets to offer a more comprehensive assessment range, and explore electronic methods for sight-reading.
- Creating a Mentorship Committee - To build on collegiate connections and help young music teachers thrive in this ever-changing educational environment.
- Celebrating excellence - To further spotlight school achievement in *School Music News* throughout the year.
- Zone Rep Sheet - To create a “Zone Rep Corner” in *School Music News*, giving Zone Representatives an opportunity to feature schools and programs within their zones.

President-Elect's Report: Daryle Redmond

President-Elect Redmond offered a brief update on Winter Conference 2026, including some projected timelines and date information.

Executive Director's Report: Dr. David Brown

Dr. Brown addressed the following matters:

- Council meeting dates and locations for 2026.
- A consistent, statewide adjudicator travel meal allowance policy to be delivered to Zone Representatives shortly.
- Reminders about email changes/transfer of email ownership.
- Budget updates (fiscal year adjustments, projections, and grants).

Following brief discussions and an open floor for-good-of-the-order conversation, the meeting was brought to an end.

Adjournment

Motion: Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5), “that the January 2026 NYSSMA Executive Council Meeting be adjourned.” **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Bilawsky, Editor
Official Recorder