



## OMEA Board Report: Advocacy

Winter Board Meeting  
January 14, 2024 February 17, 2024  
Laura Arthur, Advocacy Chair

Report #9

### 1. Proposal for Co-Chair role: Proposal to include Advocacy Co-Chair as part of the Past President's Job Responsibilities

- The Advocacy Chair job is way too much for one person our current format of our organization
- A Past President will have 4 years of Executive Board experience and will bring up Advocacy issues directly to the Exec Board in a way the Advocacy Chair cannot.
- An appointed Advocacy Chair position can provide continuity and onboarding to Past Presidents who cycle in
- Current Past President Duties (from [OMEA Policies & Procedures](#)):
  - Board meetings and the conference, coordinator for the exhibits at the state conference or may designate a coordinator to assume this responsibility, advisor to state conference chair and board of control, election of new officers, OMEA awards, assume the office of President if needed to complete the term, journal article

*I don't have strong opinions about voting on this today, but I wanted to bring this to the board for discussion.*

### 2. Website: YAY!!!!

- Tagline: "Dedicated to the music education for all Oregonians" - grammer
  - What are we actually dedicated to? This implies we do more than support just K-12 students and educators...
- Working with JJ, curious about hierarchy

### 3. Music In Our Schools Month (conference presentation). Many states have a SEPARATE chair for this event. Thank you for including it on social media, eBlasts, etc – it means a ton

### 4. Strategic Planning – what is the role of the Advocacy chair as part of this process?

- Here is the [arts ed strategic planning](#) model we used to write the [PPS Master Arts Education Plan](#).
- It is so hard to advocate when it is *unclear what we stand for as an organization*
- Need a revised job description. Is there a feedback loop?

### 5. Social Emotional Learning advocacy point! Reminder: [selarts.org](#) exists

### 6. Divisive Concepts

- Divisive Concepts Laws (DCL) are legislative and executive orders that seek to restrict teaching, professional learning, and student learning in K–12 schools and higher education regarding race, gender, sexuality, and U.S. history.
- [NAfME Divisive Concepts and Music Education Report](#) from NAFME
- [Divisive Concepts Laws Report Overview](#)
- These are coming to a district near you – prepare yourself.

### 7. Proficiency Based Grading – Be ready! Know your standards!

- FYI - The National Core Arts Standards [National Arts Standards](#)

### 8. FEDERAL UPDATES: Federal Government sets **priorities**. Lots going on here...

- National Teacher Shortage, specifically music teaching
- [TeachMusic.org](#) – resources for Students, Parents, Counselors, and Teachers to help bolster the profession
  - Eventual goal – TeachMusicOregon.org (several years away)

### 9. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES: States set guidelines around access. Determining funding, Collecting and disseminating data, Establishing programs, Supporting professional development, Determining requirements

- New law: SB3:** Requires students to complete one half-credit of higher education and career path skills and one half-credit of personal financial education as requirements for high school diploma.
  - Check to see how this will impact scheduling, 'cause it will!
- Example from [Washington DOE](#)
  - Guidance issued based on district size
  - Addresses sequence & frequency of instruction
  - Lists the arts as a core subject
  - Addresses qualifications for educators
  - Arts specific instruction and integration
  - Identifies arts educators as the experts

**10. LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Localities are responsible for implementation**

- a. Staffing, resource allocation, schedules and program offerings, standards, attendance, discipline
  - b. District-level advocacy, grassroots, etc
- 11. The kernel size of OMEA influence** (Federal, State, Local). Where do we focus our work? Is it just the Advocacy Chair’s job to push? How can we on the board provide scaffolds and remove barriers for our membership to engage when we are *all at capacity with our own programs*?

**12. NAFME Music Program Leaders Forum/NAMM - Anaheim January 2024**

- a. [AI & Music Education](#) - Fascinating and scary stuff!
- b. [James Weaver - NFHS Resources for States](#)
- c. [Amanda Karhuse & Scott Sheehan \(NAfME President\) - NAfME initiatives and resources](#)
- d. [Health and Welfare of Music Educators](#)
- e. [Anne Fennell \(California MEA President-Elect\) , Personalized Learning](#)

**13. CMA Foundation** Teachers of Excellence - Application due March 1st! \$5000!

**14. Notes from Most Recent Advocacy Leadership Force Meeting:**

- Government is still running on a Continuing Resolution (CR) until early March. Most House proposals will decimate federal education funding.
- Differences Between ALF (Advocacy Leadership Force) and Advocacy Leadership INITIATIVE
  - Advocacy Leadership Initiative -- fostering growth around supporting Title I teachers, rural programs, through Advocacy (requires a plan in place to show fidelity)
    - Grant funded
    - Hope that at least one person per state will join the Initiative
    - Can send someone as a proxy to DC
    - "There is separate content for the ALI and NASS on June 11, so some states are sending a proxy if their typical ALF member is also on the NAFME board, state president, etc." - Amanda K
- DID YOU KNOW: some states have lobbyists. Florida's is paid for by collective monies from MEA, AEA, EdTA. Florida's lobbyists work for Florida cultural alliance and non-profit hospitals. NC uses sales tax?? California, TN
  - Unclearity around how this impacts 501(c)3 status
- Links/Resources:
  - NCMEA’s most recent advocacy legislative agenda [Advocacy Legislative Agenda - April 2023](#)
  - Federal Funds Survey: How are arts funded across the country: [The Impact of Federal Funds on Music & Arts Education: Results from 2023 Survey \(NAfME\)](#)
  - Samples of Advocacy Legislation: [Sample Legislation \(from NAFME\)](#)

**Advocacy Chair**

Laura Arthur  
~~K-12 Music Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), Portland Public Schools~~  
~~[larthur@pps.net](mailto:larthur@pps.net)~~ → [learthur@gmail.com](mailto:learthur@gmail.com)  
541-513-7414

**Advocacy Website**

[oregonmea.org/resources/advocacy/](https://oregonmea.org/resources/advocacy/)