PMEA District 7 Orchestra Scoring Proposal

At the PMEA District 7 Orchestra Festival, a committee was formed to investigate the potential issues or concerns for moving to a scoring scale for the solo to match the District Band Solo components on a seven point scale. This would increase the total score for string players to 120 points with the following breakdown:

	PROPOSED	OLD SCORING	% value change
3 Scales	30 points (25% of total)	30 points (30% of total)	-5%
Sight-reading	20 points (17% of total)	20 points (20% of total)	-3%
Solo Excerpt #1	35 points (29% of total)	25 points (25% of total)	+4%
Solo Except #2	35 points (29% of total)	25 points (25% of total)	+4%
TOTAL	120 points	100 points	

Discussion regarding the pros and cons is listed:

1. The increased weight in solo points recognizes the length is more proportionate to the amount of time spent on preparing the solo (May – December)
2. Students are still required to sight read and demonstrate the ability to be a strong in reading music which is an important factor when working or prepare high level concert music in a shortened time frame which varies based on the order of festivals (1 – 6 weeks)
3. The percentage change in the weighting of each component is not enough to negate the value of any component of the audition.
4. The increase range in possible scores for the solo (7 instead of 5) will allow judges more flexibility to discern playing ability according to the rubric which should reduce tie, the need to use tie-breaking rules, and broaden the middle range of score (ie cut off point) so students are not necessarily making or missing the cut-off for acceptance by tenths of a point.
5. The increased range of numbers should provide clearer feedback to students for future improvement.
6. The current scoring system with computers will accommodate the transition to a total score of 100 points to 120 points.
7. No major issues were raised during the question/comment period to reject the proposal. All directors present at this year's District 7 Orchestra Festival were polled and interviewed on the matter.

Therefore as chair of the committee to investigate the potential to change the scoreing system, I recommend this be voted upon electronically by the current District 7 Orchestra teachers for implementation beginning at the December 2014 Auditions.

Respectfully,

Dalinda Bohr