

# Advocacy Newsletter

## Winter 2023

Lots of opportunities for feedback this season! Please let me know how MMEA can support you, your students & families, and your school community this school year. [ahairston.mcea@gmail.com](mailto:ahairston.mcea@gmail.com)



*Amy Hairston, Advocacy Chair*

## Highlights

### **NAFME Elections**

Did you receive an email from NAFME and **YesElections**? That's your ballot for the NAFME president-elect election! Take a look at the candidates and cast your vote.

[NAFME Candidates 2023](#)

Leadership elections are a significant way to be engaged in music advocacy. We can and should make our voices heard! Supporting arts organization leaders with our votes will strengthen their ability to advocate for the robust and sustained music programs that we support.

[MMEA Elections](#) will run January 13–February 13!

### **Local Spotlight**

As a point of personal privilege, I'd like to shout out **Howard County** once again for running an incredible Secondary Solo and Ensemble Festival this past weekend (January 28)! It was a great experience for my music student, and a great demonstration of the school-based and county-based support networks that Howard County has developed for music education activities.

**Does your school or county have some amazing parent/caregiver partnerships? We'd love to hear about what works in your community!**

### **Advocacy Leadership Force**

In December, the Advocacy Leadership Force (ALF) met with the NAFME Music In Our Schools Month → team. The ideas and offerings for this year are looking great.

In January, the ALF team discussed [Federal legislative updates](#), the Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI), and how to advocate for programs that get affected by district budget cuts.

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**Do you know of a higher ed program in MD that is excelling at bringing in and supporting new music education students? We'd like to know about their innovative practices!**

### **Music In Our Schools Month- March**

Are you up for trying something new at school for MIOSM? Here are some ideas from NAFME and our MD colleagues:

- ★ [Lesson Plans](#)
- ★ [Concert Program Insert](#)
- ★ Performing at local government events
- ★ Social media posts with MIOSM [hashtags](#), graphics
- ★ Start a campaign in support of resolving an issue in your music community (letter writing, petition, meeting presentations)

[Full NAFME Page for MIOSM](#)