



Minutes

ARMTA PROVINCIAL BOARD MEETING

Saturday Feb. 28th, 2026 via Zoom

The Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association unites professional music teachers in their aim to:

- promote the love of music
- promote the knowledge of music by providing superior music instruction
- advocate for the availability of quality music instruction
- provide cultural events and continuing education events
- provide performance opportunities and scholarships for the students

1. Call to Order

Annette called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

In-attendance, Sandra Joy Friesen (Calgary), Tamara Bowie (Administrator), Annette Bradley (President), Barbara Roberts (Calgary), Christine Rogers (Lethbridge), Beth Peters (Grande Prairie), Rose He (Vice President), Susan Henley (Edmonton), Estelle Carpenter (Red Deer),
Joined later: Rosemarie Horne (Past President) at 12:30 p.m., Wendy Nieuwenhuis (Edmonton) at 1:00 p.m.

Departed early: Barbara Roberts at 2:20 p.m.

Regrets: Sheryl Schnare (Medicine Hat), Ida Edwards (Member at large)

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda for February 28th, 2026, board meeting
Amended agenda as presented
- b. [Minutes of September 20th, 2025 board meeting](#)
- c. Business completed by email -none
- d. [Executive Reports](#)
- e. [Convenor Reports](#)
- f. [Branch Reports](#)

Motion: To accept the Consent Agenda as amended

Moved by: Susan Henley **Seconded by:** Barb Robertson

All in favour

CARRIED

26-B01-M01

4. Business

a. Old Business

i. Tempo Magazine

Joel Windor (Tempo Layout and Design Editor) joined the meeting from 9:35 a.m.-10:02 a.m.

Key points: What takes time is more content submitted, advertising submitted in the correct dimensions, branding, and editing. It was commented that the last edition of Tempo magazine was the best one yet.

Joel presented advertising guidelines for the Tempo magazine. He will work with Rosemarie to finalize that document to share with sponsors. Barb and Sandra Joy will send their existing advertising documentation from Calgary Branch to Rosemarie (sponsorship convenor) and Tamara (administrator) to help with the process.

Joel discussed the need for consistent standards in article editing. Rose He will directly email whoever has submitted articles to clarify citations and editing.

The suggested length of the magazine would be 28 pages or less or 36 or more to make the best use of postage costs.

QR Codes: optional; usage appears low (1 of 9 attendees reported using them)

Joel will continue to design for a print copy unless instructed otherwise

Motion: To raise the Tempo Layout and Design Editor honorarium to \$1000

Moved by: Sandra Joy Friesen, **Seconded by:** Susan Henley

All in favour **CARRIED** **26-B01-M02**

Rose He exited at 10:06 a.m. and re-entered at 10:09 a.m.

Motion: To raise the Tempo Content Editor honorarium to \$200

Moved: Estelle Carpenter, **Seconded by:** Sandra Joy Friesen

All in favour **CARRIED** **26-B01-M03**

b. New Business

i. ARMTA Service Award Nominations

Christine Rogers exited from 9:15-9:30a.m. and 10:10 – 10:16 a.m.

Motion: That Rosemarie Horne be the recipient of the 2026 Service Award

Moved by: Sandra Joy Friesen, **Seconded by:** Barbary Robertson

All in favour **CARRIED** **26-B01-M04**

Additional notes:

Suggested to create a President's Award every two years following completion of service.

Discussion on a second service award was tabled to the next meeting.

ii. Publicity

(Susan Henley)

1. Recommendation to include a survey in membership applications
2. Add annual review of survey content every membership year, to publicity convenors job description
3. Add responsibility of consolidation of acquired survey date into a management report to ARMTA Administrator job description

Motion: to accept Susan's recommendations as recorded.

Moved by: Sandra Joy Friesen, **Seconded by:** Barbara Robertson
6 in favour, 1 abstention **CARRIED** **26-B01-M05**

iii. Social Media recommendations

Branches submitting photos must ensure consent forms are completed before forwarding images for social media use.

iv. Leave of Absence Requests 2026-2027

1. Denisha Vanier, extension (maternity)
2. Michael Parr, extension (not currently teaching)

Motion: To approve the LOA for Denisha and Michael

Moved by: Barbara Robertson, **Seconded by:** Christine Rogers
All in favour **CARRIED** **26-B01-M06**

c. Strategic Planning

i. New members: attraction and retention

Discussion highlights:

Calgary Branch recently waived the first-year fees for new members. Retention remains a challenge. Lethbridge had first year free previously but felt like it wasn't a drawing card.

The survey that publicity is doing will be valuable to help understand both new and returning members.

Insurance attracts members; community engagement retains them.

Policy: Branches may request printed Benefits of membership brochures from the Administrator. Let Branches know they can request copies printed from Tamara. Ten copies will be mailed to each branch president.

ii. Recruiting Volunteers: increasing engagement

Many volunteer organizations have the same problems of engagement. We must respect peoples time and their priorities.

Need to attract younger members to this organization.

iii. Convenorships and Programs

Consolidate Piano, Voice, Strings, into Multidiscipline, with subheadings. (voice, piano, strings)

Broader questions raised about ARMTA's identity, mandate, and alignment with the Charter.

As a governing board, we need to know who we are as ARMTA. Do we focus on programs for a demographic that we teach, philanthropy, or other things? Are we possibly doing many things but not well, or that is the danger?

The strings competition's idea of junior competition is a big gift to ARMTA. If you look at the statistics, even though the community is so small, they have triple the entries of anything else.

Discussion on whether provincial programming aligns with current member needs.

Consideration of shifting priorities as many teachers now rely on teaching as primary income.

What ARMTA offers at the provincial level may not be what is needed and wanted anymore. Previously, ARMTA members may have been a supplemental income and now they may be the primary provider. What do they need? Is benefits and other things that CFMTA can lobby for of more interest to members now? We need to understand the changes as a board so we can be sustainable into the future.

iv. Conference Attendance

Marlaine Osgood joined at 12:30 p.m.; discussion began at 12:50 p.m.

The group discussed challenges with the recent conference. They agreed that while the conference costs around \$800-1200 annually, it's important to maintain participation for visibility and networking purposes within the larger music education community. The discussion highlighted a need for more diverse workshop offerings beyond traditional masterclasses, with particular interest in technology-focused sessions that would appeal to a broader range of members across instruments.

Another suggestion was a plenary session or roundtable discussion to bring together members from different music disciplines. Marlaine confirmed that presenters receive a contract with travel per diem and accommodation if necessary. The board acknowledged the challenges of organizing a one-day conference with a concert.

d. Policy & Procedures

- i. High School Student Network
- ii. Collegiate Chapters

Marlaine Osgood and Rose He will prepare updated wording and policies and submit it for the fall board meeting.

The recommendation made that anyone who is entering the student competition and is not studying with an ARMTA member be accepted only for adjudication.

5. Finance

a. **Information only:**

- i. Westland Insurance has allowed branches to apply for Directors and Officers Insurance as an add on to our policy for additional \$200/year.
- ii. Marsh Insurance is lowering their rate per member from \$60 to \$55 in 2026.

- b. **Multidiscipline competition** in early 2027. Strings competition will have the Junior competition in fall 2027.

Motion: Each Branch individually decide and can pay the \$200 for directors' and officer's insurance if they choose.

Moved by: Sandra Joy Friesen, **Seconded by:** Barbara Robertson

5 in favour, 2 abstentions

CARRIED

26-B01-M07

c. **GIC maturation and/or renewals**

Motion: To have the GIC that matures on Feb. 27th, 2026, return to the operating account.

Moved by: Beth Peters, **Seconded by:** Estelle Carpenter,

All in favour

CARRIED

26-B01-M08

Motion: to reinvest the two GIC's that mature in May. The amounts be divided so they mature at 4 different times.

Moved by: Barbara Robertson, **Seconded by:** Sandra Joy Friesen

DEFEATED -all opposed

Motion: Move the remaining two GIC's in their current amounts but make one of them an annual renewal.

Moved by: Susan Henley, **Seconded by:** Estelle Carpenter,

All in favour

CARRIED

26-B01-M09

d. **Membership Fees**

- i. Proposed fee increase
- ii. New members discount

Discussion: New members should pay full fees until September 30 as they benefit from advertising in Find a Teacher Directory.

12:07 p.m. -12:33 p.m. BREAK FOR LUNCH

Motion: ARMTA will collect full fees for new members until Sept. 30th of the membership year and thereafter, charge half rate less a prorated monthly amount, down to a minimum of CFMTA fee.

Moved by: Susan Henley, **Seconded by:** Christine Rogers

All in favour

CARRIED

26-B01-M10

e. **ARMTA Budget Planning 2026-2027**

The board proposed a membership fee increase of \$24 to be presented at the AGM. Communication to member regarding the increase should be clear and early; Tamara will write something and send out. Board meal was removed from the budget and the Continuing Education was reduced to \$1000.

f. **ARMTA Recognition Fund Budget 2026-2027**

Lorrie Wittke joined at 1:50 p.m.

- i. Bursaries
- ii. ARMTA Recognition Fund policy
- iii. ARMTA Recognition Fund Budget

The group discussed the Recognition Fund's budget and its allocation to various initiatives. Lorrie presented updated budget figures and recommended reducing support for some projects to stay within budget, including the removal of Contemporary Showcase funding and maintaining CASA Scholarships at \$500.

Lorrie clarified that any future applications must go through her as the convener. The board was informed of the new online donation form for the recognition fund on the ARMTA website under the Donate tab. Tax receipts are issued with a minimum donation of \$20. Lorrie will monitor its progress and report back to the board every six months.

<https://armta.ca/armta-recognition-fund/>

Motion: To accept the budget as discussed.

Moved by: Sandra Joy Friesen, **Seconded by:** Susan Henley

All in favour

CARRIED

26-B01-M11

6. **Next Board Meeting October 3rd, 9:00am -3:00pm via zoom**
7. **Date of Annual General Meeting (October 24th, 2026, in Red Deer)**
8. **Meeting adjourned 2:42 p.m.**