

# MINUTES

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MISF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 4, 2020

7:30 AM-9:30 AM

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL HIGH SCHOOL, ST. PAUL

## AGENDA

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- Review and approve minutes from 9/14/19 meeting

- President's report

- \*Updates

- \* Development report
    - \* Membership report
    - \* Advocacy update
    - \* Program report
      - \* Education Awards
      - \* STEM Grants

- \* Governance Update

- Finance report: balance sheet, income statement, restricted funds tracking, cash flow, dashboard

- Strategic plan update

- \* New priorities
  - \* Schedule

- Other business

## MINUTES

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Those present in person: Tim Benz, Teri McCloughan, Joel Landskroener, Josh Killian . Present by phone: Brian Lynch, Wyayn Rasmussen

Staff Present: Michele Skare

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 AM.

Motion to approve the minutes as written made by Joel Landskroener, seconded by Wyayn Rasmussen; motion passed

## **President's Report:**

The legislature is back in session. Tim will be testifying on the counseling expansion bill at the Senate hearing today. This bill expands counseling to grades K-6 in nonpublic schools. Joining him is a counselor from the Rochester Public Schools who works in the nonpublic schools and knows Senator Carla Nelson as well. We are also bringing a letter of support from the MN School Counselors Association, so we are hopeful. There is no hearing scheduled at the House of Representatives yet; there is still an incorrect perception there that this bill would take money away from the public schools. This is not the case; it is not an unfunded mandate. Darin Korte, the Assistant Commissioner, is providing Tim with documentation showing this.

The nonpublic education conference at MDE was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The conference included a combination of nonpublic education council members and district personnel, and covered topics such as nonpublic pupil aids, transportation, special education and title funds. 170 people registered, with 150 actual attendees. Most of the feedback received was very positive, and a conference like this helps dispel the perception that the MDE isn't approachable. This conference probably won't be repeated every year; perhaps every 2-3 years.

Preliminary work on the Education Awards continues. The slate of nominees was sent to the awards committee yesterday. Good progress has been made on sponsorships with 5-7 secured so far. Announcing the winners will generate more sponsorships and program ads.

Some operational items:

There has been discussion around moving our accounts away from Bremer Bank. With no sponsorships or support forthcoming, there is no need or reason to keep them there. Tim has met with Premier Banks about moving our business there. Premier has been supporting us for decades in unrestricted donations and award sponsorships; and board member Kelly Regan (VP of Marketing, Director) is aware of these discussions. Tim's discussions with Premier were good - the overall costs and fees are not substantially different than those we are paying now. This is a move that makes both fiscal and philanthropic sense. Board Chair Teri McCloughan entertains the motion to move MISF's banking operations from Bremer Bank to Premier Bank. So moved by Brian Lynch, seconded by Josh Killian. Motion approved.

Our Town Square office lease is up in September. Tim has been in preliminary discussions with broker Kate Gillette of Avison-Young (also a sponsor at the School Leadership Conference.) We will begin looking at the logistics, costs and fees associated with an office move.

Our IT support services provider has told us (and we have seen) that we are overdue for an IT investment: both a new server and new laptops for all employees. We will work with them to get cost estimates prior to the June board meeting.

There is a new ombudsperson at MDE, with Debra Landvik Lentendre's retirement. Alicia Waeffler was the former North St. Paul school district supervisor, and our north metro schools speak very highly of her; she has said "All our kids are ALL our kids." She and Tim have begun quarterly meetings. We will invite her to speak at the fall School Leadership Conference.

## **Development Report**

Hard copies of the Development Report were distributed. Highlights include:

– Meeting with Jackie Berry at 3M to provide annual STEM program update. Jackie seemed very pleased with the progress we have made to serve underserved schools with the 3M grant. Last year we were invited to apply for a \$50,000 grant and were awarded \$40,000. We will receive a grant invitation at the end of March, with an increase to apply for \$60,000 this year. Also, she is open to supporting a broader STEM grant request as long as the program deliverables continue to serve underserved schools.

- MISF submitted an EcoSystem grant request to the Bush Foundation under the category - Leadership: Inspire, Equip and Connect leaders. Applications will be reviewed in Feb./Mar. to select applicants to move forward in the process in April.

Honor Fund - We received a gift of \$27,000 from a generous, committed donor

### **Membership Report**

The current membership list and member dashboard were distributed. Membership renewal begins on July 1.

### **Legislative Update**

The Fredrikson and Byron Legislative Update from Shep Harris, MISF Lobbyist was distributed. Areas highlighted include: MISF agenda items:

- Nonpublic pupil funding for security expenses (physical improvements, audits, training, etc.)
- Nonpublic pupil funding for mental health counseling in elementary grades

Call for action - names of members of the House Education Policy Committee and the House Education Finance Committee

### **Program Report**

Education Awards - Lisa will begin working with Dan Flaherty, videographer, on this year's award winner videos. He will also get some B-roll footage, and we will produce a new "About Us" video.

STEM Advisory Council met on Monday. We have \$100K in grant funding budgeted. They are finalizing some minor details now, and will announce grant awardees soon.

### **Governance Update**

Veena Lakkundi, Board Vice Chair, has been given a promotion at 3M, making an already busy schedule even tighter. She wishes to remain engaged here, but making all the meetings is sometimes an impossibility. It was proposed that she will step down as Vice Chair, and instead become the board's Strategic Planning point person. In June she will host/direct a meeting with a focus on funding/diversification in conjunction with Tim and staff. This is a great way for her to stay engaged in MISF, but will take away some of the attendance stress.

### **Finance Report**

The finance report was distributed; nothing remarkable or of note. Our cashflow looks good through year end, and we have not had to dip into our reserves.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

Tim presented an update on our strategic plan - what we have accomplished and what we do next. Hard copies of the presentation were presented. He will present this at the June board meeting to start the framework of where we are headed in our next round of strategic planning. One addition: make sure to note our accomplishments/defeats in the area of legislative advocacy.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business brought forth, the move to adjourn was made by Josh Killian, seconded by Joel Landskroener. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM



Wyayn Rasmussen – Secretary  
6/2/2020