



Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
August 10, 2022 | 7:30 am – 9:30 am

AGENDA

- Review and approve minutes from 6/1/2022 meeting
- President's report
- Development report
- Finance report
- Membership report
 - Member evaluation and needs assessment results
- Program report
 - STEM Conference – August 3 at Benilde-St. Margaret's
 - School Leadership Conference – September 26-28 at Ruttger's
- Strategic Planning
- Additional business

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Josh Killian, Joel Landskroener, Michael Lamb, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen

Staff present: Michele Skare

Meeting began at 7:32 AM

A motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Joel Landskroener, seconded by Teri McCloughan

President's Report

Working with our external accounting firm is going smoothly now that the transition and decoupling of accounts from Debbie (former accountant) is complete. We are working with them to simplify some processes but are retaining the same checks and balances that were in place previously.

We are tracking 40+ leadership changes in member and nonmember schools. It's our goal to contact and get out to see the new leaders once they are settled into the school year and into their new roles.

A reminder that in addition to school members we also have Associate members – individuals with ties to dioceses, governing bodies, and partner organizations. Dues are \$275 per year, and they are able to attend any member events.

Megan Junius/Eight Moon who worked with us on our name change and new branding is doing a case study using us as an example.

EANS 2 Funding: the original round emphasized schools with only low income students, so that only 44 of 460 schools in the entire state qualified, and of those 44 only 28 applied. We worked with our partner organizations to ensure that the remainder of the funds would be redeployed to nonpublic schools, and that every school will be eligible for the next round of funding. There will be 5-6 spending areas, including professional development, mental health/counseling and teacher development. We are still unsure of the timing for this next



round – we are hopeful that it will be in August. We asked MDE for a webinar on these funds, and they are open to our input and information. Chas Anderson, MinnIndependent Lobbyist, will provide an update at an upcoming board meeting. Obviously the elections will have an impact on issues we will be working on in the next session.

We are in the process of updating House/Senate District information for all schools in our database, as we do every 10 years when redistricting takes place.

The annual audit was performed in early August, we should have results in time for the fall board meeting.

Question – Have we or any of our member schools applied for the Employee Retention Credit? This is a credit based on benefits and payroll, and can be up to \$27,000 per employee. We may do an informational webinar on this topic. There is concern from some schools about this being viewed as accepting federal assistance (which some independent schools do not want to do.) Technically, it is not accepting assistance since this is just taking a tax credit, not a grant.

Development Report

The Development Report has been posted to the website.

Schott Foundation awarded a \$100,000.00 grant, an increase of \$50,000 over prior year grant. The increased amount is for 2022/2023 only and is designated to the overarching STEM Program and to expand new initiatives to advance STEM teaching and learning

Xcel Energy awarded \$25,000 to support the STEM Program. Funds have not been received yet. 3M awarded \$50,000 to support Science from Scientist program at underserved metro member schools. Grant funds received 7/11/2022.

Overall sponsorships have been soft this year as compared to previous years, however, School Leadership Conference sponsorships are already trending well.

On the Development Fund Report: The CRM Data Conversion grant is a one-time grant from the Hardenbergh Foundation which will be used for the Raisers Edge to NXT Conversion.

Costs covered are the migration itself as well as Michele's hours spent on the project.

We will soon be entering grant season, including writing grants to Hardenbergh, WEM Foundation, Xcel Energy.

Question: Any new funding prospects? Answer: HB Fuller, Katherine B. Andersen Fund (had gotten this previously working through the grant officer at the St. Paul Foundation.)

Financial Report

We are trending above budget in revenues, and keeping costs well under control; this has been a good financial year for the organization. Membership revenue is good, and program revenues are coming back as we get back into our regular routines/in-person conferences. This is particularly true of the STEM Education Conference, and this year many non-member schools have registered; a good revenue generator as they pay more than member schools to attend.

The Balance Sheet looks good coming toward the end of the year. Our PPP loan was forgiven and came off the liabilities line, and we continue to put \$3K/month into reserves.

Audit: Once the audit is complete, we will have an exit meeting with the staff from Redpath. The plan is to present the final audit to the full Board at the September meeting.

Membership Report

Membership renewal invoices were sent the first week in July and to date we have received



renewal payments from approximately 56% of our schools. Only one school has told us that they will not be renewing. We are tracking leadership changes for both member and nonmember schools; more this year than any past year, we over 40 so far.

In June we sent a membership evaluation survey to member schools. Tim presented the results of the survey. Overall, approximately 90% of those surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with their membership. All the survey information is [available on the website](#).

Question: would we ever do a "welcome to teaching 101" survey? Answer: No, because schools, dioceses and districts like the LCMS have their own orientation programs.

Program Report

STEM Education Conference was held at Benilde on August 3. We arrived at the school to discover that a storm had knocked out the power, air conditioning and internet service. What happened next reaffirmed the resilience of teachers, as every attendee shrugged and said, "Okay! No problem!" when told what was happening. We had a great STEM conference, despite not having access to any technology!

Up next, we plan to focus on what this conference looks like going forward. Perhaps not solely a "STEM" conference, but one that could focus on all areas of curriculum; more like an "innovation" conference.

The School Leadership Conference will be held in person at Ruttger's Resort at the end of September. We are currently working on an agenda and sponsorships.

Strategic Planning

A quick update: there is a small group working through the summer, discussing the organization's vision and mission. A bi-weekly meeting has been established to continue this work, and ideas will be presented to the full board soon.

Adjournment

There being no further business brought forth, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Wyayn Rasmussen. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wyayn Rasmussen".

August 29, 2022