



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

December 14, 2022 | 7:30 am – 9:30 am

AGENDA

- Approval of meeting agenda
- Approval of minutes from 9/14/2022 meeting
- 2023 Legislative/Advocacy outlook
 - Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist
- President's Report
 - Federal funds update
- Finance report
 - Reserve account
- Membership report
- Development report
- Governance update
 - Resignation of Brian Sullivan
 - Approval of Heidi Gallus as member (bio provided)
 - Prospective candidate discussion
- Program report
 - School Leadership Conference (September 26-28)
 - STEM grant program
 - Private and Independent Education Awards – April 30, Mendakota Country Club
- Strategic planning
- Other business

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Tim Berner, Michael Brennan, Jennifer Cassidy, Shana Duininck, Jim Hansen, Josh Killian, Michael Lamb, Joel Landskroener, Anna Lima, Brian Lynch, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen, Kelly Regan

Meeting began at 7:32 AM

Michael Lamb, Chair, called for approval of agenda as written. So moved by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Kelly Regan, motion passed.

Chair called for approval of minutes from the 9/14/22 meeting as written. So moved by Jim Hansen, seconded by Jennifer Cassidy, motion passed.

Legislative Update – Chas Anderson

After the election, the state House remained status quo: 70 Democrats/64 Republicans. The Senate flipped, and is now 34 Democrats/33 Republicans.

The budget forecast for this session shows a \$17.6 billion dollar surplus. \$6.6 billion is structural/permanent spending, and \$12 billion is "one-time" money. Much of the session will be focused on how to spend this.



The leadership and chairs of committees have changed. Education Finance chair is Youakim, Education Policy chair is Pryor. Senate Education Finance chair is Kunesh, Education Policy chair is Cwodzinski. Our first priority is to meet with these committee chairs and members.

Our legislative agenda includes: school counseling, safe schools revenue (aid program instead of levies) and mandates (making sure our schools are not included. Ex: excluded from last year's data privacy act.)

Safe Schools – aid is approximately \$44/student, similar to the way nonpublic pupil aids are handled.

We will also be watching the free school lunches issue.

President's Report

Federal funds update - the third round of EANS funding is approximately \$20 million. 197 schools applied. MDE added combatting learning loss as an area on which funds may be spent. The funds are rolling out slowly due to issues with ClassWallet.

The accounting transition continues to go well.

Our name change/990 issues have been resolved.

The WEM Foundation will be sunseting their funding through 2023. Jim Hield from the foundation met with us. We received a \$100K grant this year - \$25K will be used for normal gen ops, \$25K for our strategic plan consultant, will need to have further discussions about the remainder of the funds. We can expect a similar grant from them next year.

Tim asks that board members review the 990 form that was sent, and then it will be submitted.

Finance Report

The finance report has been posted to the website. The balance sheet shows a strong cash position with few liabilities. Our income statement is well-aligned with our budget. The cashflow shows an increase in our cash position early in the year due to receipt of membership payments.

In 2019 we established an operating reserve fund of \$3K per month. The account is now over \$200K,. At our February board meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss options for this account – continuing adding to it, establishing a second account, other options, etc. and then bring recommendations to the full board.

General discussion: adding diversity/neuro-diversity as topics in the strategic plan discussions.

Membership Report

The final numbers for 2023 renewals are in – total schools is 162, a 94.2% retention rate. The student enrollment count will change, as we update those numbers when MDE releases the fall report results – usually in February or March.



Tim visited schools in Northwest Minnesota as well as the Prinsburg area. Visits are especially enjoyable, after not being able to connect with schools in person during the pandemic.

Our 10 Associate Members provide us with very important connections to their communities.

Development Report

The Development reports are posted on the website. Grants have been received from the WEM and Hardenbergh Foundations. We received approval to submit a grant to the Schulze Family Foundation. Year-end appeals are ongoing; while our fiscal year ends on 6/30, many of our donors give generously at the end of the calendar year.

Governance Report

Our organization's bylaws state that there be school members on our board of directors. In the last year, we have lost 2 school members, one to retirement and one due to job change/new responsibilities. Heidi Gallus, principal of St. Michael's Catholic School in St. Michael, has agreed to join our board effective January 1. We are still reaching out to some leaders of ACSI/CSI schools, and hope to have a decision from one soon.

Chair called for a motion to approve Heidi Gallus as the newest MINNDEPENDENT board member. So moved by Joel Landskroener, seconded by Teri McCloughan. Motion passed unanimously. The board welcomes Heidi Gallus into membership.

Program Report

The School Leadership Conference was held at the end of September. Attendance was back to pre-pandemic levels, and 1/3 of the attendees were first-timers. Attendees, sponsors and vendors alike all agree that the level of camaraderie and networking opportunities at this conference is unique and appreciated.

The STEM Grant program will roll out soon, with LOIs being accepted in January, grants approved by the committee in March and presented at the Awards event in April. Last year we awarded \$32K in STEM grants.

The Private and Independent Education Awards event will be held on April 30. Nominations will be accepted after January 1, 2023.

Strategic Planning

There is a small group meeting bi-weekly to continue the strategic planning work, but they ultimately decided to hire a consultant to conduct a day-long workshop (scheduled for January 19th) to drive this work to a meaningful conclusion and then present ideas to the full board in March.

Brandi Olson worked with us on our 2017 strategic plan which focused on the membership journey and retention. She knows our membership model, our staff, many of our board members; in short – she knows “how we work” and will guide us through our next strategic plan.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business brought forth, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Kelly Regan and seconded by Wyayn Rasmussen. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 AM.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Wyayn Rasmussen'.

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