



## Minutes

### Executive Committee Meeting

November 9, 2022 | 7:30 am – 9:30 am

#### AGENDA

- Review and approve agenda
- Review and approve minutes from August 10 meeting
- President's report
- Strategic planning update and discussion
- Membership report
- Development report
- Finance report
- Program report
  - School Leadership Conference – attendee survey
  - Private & Independent Education Awards – Sunday, April 30, 2023, Mendakota Country Club
- Additional business

#### MINUTES

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Those present: Tim Benz, Kate Wollan, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen, Joel Landskroener

Staff present: Michele Skare

Meeting called to order at 7:35 AM Board Chair, Michael Lamb, is unable to attend this meeting. Vice Chair, Kate Wollan, will preside.

Vice Chair called for a motion to accept the agenda as written. Committee called for the addition of a board recruitment discussion. Motion made by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Wyayn Rasmussen.

Vice Chair called for a motion to accept the minutes from the 6/15/2022 meeting as written. So moved by Terri McCloughan, seconded by Joel Landskroener. Motion passed.

#### President's Report

The results of the mid-term elections may be viewed as a "worst-case scenario" for private school legislative opportunities, with both chambers of the Minnesota legislature controlled by Democrats. However, there was success in getting last year's counseling bill through the Democratic House (although it was not acted upon by the Senate) so possibilities could exist. Tim will meet with Chas Anderson (MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist) and Jason Adkins of the Minnesota Catholic Conference to discuss and coordinate issues and opportunities.

Accounting transition – continues to go well. Tim meets with All in One Accounting weekly. Name change – finished, and all collateral materials, website, branding is updated.

Form 990 – is in process. We have submitted all information to Redpath, and the goal is to be complete by the December board meeting.

Membership – Tim traveled to Thief River Falls, East Grand Forks, Crookston and Moorhead. Lots of positive feedback, including the comment that schools are so grateful to be



connected to us, because especially in far-flung areas, it can be easy to feel disconnected. They also commented that the information we provide to schools is very important. They know they can always come to us with questions or issues. One school's board asked about the expense of membership. The school leader replied that contacting a lawyer to answer their questions would cost FAR more than membership in MINNDEPENDENT!

### **Strategic Plan Update**

The planning committee made the decision to work with Brandi Olson, who helped us develop our last strategic plan. She will look at our discussions to date which will provide a good jumping-off platform for her. Our core values: name, branding, etc. have initially focused on what we are. Brandi will help us to build and execute our plan.

Question: What is the deliverable after 90 days? Answer: A defined pathway for resources.

Reshaping to meet the needs of membership. "What do we offer, and how we help members see the value add." Concrete elements to guide Tim and staff's work. Resource development: Do we have a good 5-minute elevator speech.

An increased operating grant from the WEM Foundation is making this possible.

### **Membership Report**

We are currently at 93% renewal. All of our Associate members have renewed, and we gained an additional Associate member for a total of 10.

### **Development Report**

The development report has been posted to the website. The WEM Foundation check arrived on Tuesday. The Hardenbergh grant should arrive in December. We submitted an LOI to the Schulze Family Foundation for request for full application approval for a \$45K grant. The Annual Report is in process. The fall appeal letter will be sent in late November.

### **Finance Report**

The report has been posted to the website. Everything looks good and nothing significant to report. We are about 60 days out from grant season, during which there will be more activity. The income statement shows \$203K year-to-date in membership dues. If schools choose not to renew, their dues are backed out. Cashflow looks good. Tim would like a board discussion regarding any overage from the WEM grant after we have paid for the strategic plan work (Brandi Olson.) The money could be added to the reserve account or left in regular checking account. Jim Hield/WEM hasn't indicated a preference.

### **Program Report**

Some observations about the School Leadership Conference: This year we are back to 2019 attendance levels, and about 1/3 of the attendees were first-timers. Those reduced fees are subsidized by the Schulze grant. The President's and Sponsor's reception continue to be very popular with attendees – a great opportunity to socialize and network. There were a couple of issues: staffing levels at Rutgers have been a problem and we have discussed those with their management. The facilities are being upgraded, but those are not complete. The Education Awards will be held on April 30, 2023 and nominations will be accepted after January 1.

### **Board Recruitment**

Brian Sullivan is resigning from the board, citing job commitments. Under the organization's

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bylaws, we are now down 2 school member representatives on the board. Discussion: what sectors need more representation? Elementary schools, Christian (ACSI/CSI) schools. Also needed is a 3M connection. 4-5 names were brought forth, and members will contact potential candidates to gauge interest.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business brought forth, the Vice Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Joel Landskroener and seconded by Teri McCloughan. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 AM.

*Wayne Rasmussen*

November 28, 2022