



Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
February 8, 2023 | 7:30 am – 9:00 am

AGENDA

- Review and approve agenda
- Review and approve minutes from November 9, 2022 meeting
- President's report
- Strategic planning update
- Membership report
 - Member dues for 2023/24
- Development report
- Finance report
- Governance
 - New school board member update
 - Heidi Gallus – term began 1/1/23
 - ACSI/CSI representative
- Program report
 - Private & Independent Education Awards – Sunday, April 30, 2023, Mendakota Country Club
 - STEM grant program update
- Additional business

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Michael Lamb, Kate Wollan, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen, Joel Landskroener, Brian Lynch

Staff present: Michele Skare

Meeting called to order at 7:33 AM by Board Chair, Michael Lamb.

Chair called for a motion to accept the agenda as written. Motion made by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Kate Wollan.

Chair called for a motion to accept the minutes from the 11/9/2023 meeting as written. So moved by Terri McCloughan, seconded by Kate Wollan.

President's Report

The nonpublic enrollment numbers will soon be released by MDE. Preliminary enrollment figures show nonpublics are up 1.5% overall. Looking at the grade by grade numbers, there is growth in all with the exception of Kindergarten and 7th grade.

Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist, has forwarded a legislative update which has been posted. Highlights include: The legislature flipped in the last election, and with the new majority mandate, they are quickly pushing their priority bills through. The school counseling and mental health legislation that we are advocating has a good chance of being passed in the current legislature. Other legislation that is working in our favor is the tax conformity bill which aligns Minnesota tax to Federal tax code and contains provisions for



amounts up to \$10K in 529 accounts for K-12 students. We will continue to track this as it applies to nonpublic schools.

Awards: we are making good progress in securing sponsorships. We have a total of 55 nominations so far, with one week to go until they close. It is a very good pool of candidates, and we will have a winner in each of the categories: 2 leadership, 2 honor teachers, program, behind the scenes, and community champion.

We have had good grant meetings in the last month. Rosa Miller helped make a connection for us with John Banovetz of 3M and we are so grateful. We spoke about our long term STEM partnerships with 3M, Xcel, Pentair, Schott foundation and others, as well as our board needs and possible participation there.

We had a good site visit with Steve Hoepfner from the Schulze Foundation.

Our meeting with Xcel Energy is most enjoyable, and has always been a real, authentic partnership.

Accounting transition: still going smoothly. We are transitioning from Sage to Quickbooks which will automate many of our processes.

Nonpublic Education Council: Tim has been re-elected as chair.

Strategic Plan Update

The strategic planning meeting originally scheduled for January 19 has been rescheduled to March 8 (after the Board meeting.) Mike Brennan has been added to the committee.

Membership Report

We are starting to hear about some leadership changes already. We will continue to track these.

Discussion: Should membership dues be adjusted? Current dues are \$5/student and \$275 for schools with 55 or fewer students. Membership dues should be added as a topic in strategic planning/resource development. Suggestion: a dues cap for larger schools

Development Report

Between now and the end of the fiscal year we will look for grants from Schulze Foundation, Xcel Energy, 3M, Schott Foundation and the Frels family. Honor Fund numbers were a bit soft, but Tim and Lisa are working on plans to reach out to lapsed donors and prospecting new donors. Seminar/Sponsorship revenue is up because we have already secured 2-3 sponsors for the fall Leadership conference-very early to have sponsorships come in this early. Thrivent has also committed to a large multi-faceted sponsorship package; credit to Joel Landskroener for helping to nurture that relationship. The quarterly payment from the Helen Harrington Trust arrived in January.

Finance Report

The report has been posted on the website; a very clean report with a strong balance sheet. One item to highlight: the fees/outside services line shows a \$30K increase. This reflects our contract with strategic planner Brandi Olson, and note that most of this will be covered by funds from the WEM grant.

Governance

As discussed at the previous meeting, there is a need to broaden our "buckets" (categories) of members. Shana Duinick joined the board in September. Tim reached out to Heidi Gallus, from St. Michael's School in St. Michael, and she agreed to join the board on



January 1, 2023. With Brian Sullivan's resignation, we are still seeking representation from the ACSI/CSI schools. The committee identified three possible candidates and Tim reached out to them. All are currently considering it, none of have committed yet.

The Board Term report was posted. There is always a need to seek more community partners. If committee members know individuals with a passion for private education, and who want to have an impact on the broader nonpublic community please get those names to Tim. While we are well-connected with school leaders, there is a need to broaden our base. Also need to reach out to some members regarding term renewals.

Board Job Description: Tim distributed a draft version of the board job description which was modified a few years ago but never approved at the board level. This document will be helpful in recruiting new members, listing expectations and an understand of the position.

Suggestion: Tim will send this Word document out to all Executive Committee members to review, edit, comment, and send changes back to Tim. We will centralize these comments and come up with a proposed draft for the next committee meeting in May and the board meeting in June. The Bylaws of the organization also need to be reviewed and updated with our new name. Teri proposes the same process and timeline for this document.

Program Report

The Awards event will be held on April 30th at Mendakota Country Club. Registration will open soon after the winners are announced, around March 1. Lisa will schedule video shoots with all award winners.

The STEM grant program has rebounded, after a dip in applications over the past two years (attributed to the extra workload placed on teachers during the pandemic.) Last year we had 9-10 applications. So far this year we have received 18-19 LOIs (letters of interest) and because of an increased grant from the Schott Foundation we have more grant money to distribute. The Advisory committee will meet in mid-March to review all grants. STEM grant awards will be announced at the Private & Independent Education awards at the end of April.

Adjournment

There being no further business brought forth, the Vice Chair asked for a motion to adjourn (Chair was taking a phone call and was unavailable). So moved by Joel Landskroener and seconded by Teri McCloughan. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 AM.

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

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