



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

AGENDA

- Review and approve agenda
- Review and approve minutes from May 10, 2023 meeting
- President's report
- Development report
- Finance report
 - FY23 Audit
- Membership report
 - Membership renewal
 - New members
- Program report
 - STEM Education Conference – August 1 at Heritage Christian Academy
- School Leadership Conference – September 25-27 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort
- Additional business
 - President evaluation process
- Executive Session

MINUTES

Those present in person: Tim Benz, Michael Lamb. Present by Zoom: Josh Killian, Brian Lynch, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen
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 Wyayn Rasmussen, seconded by Josh Killian. Motion passed.

Chair called for a motion to accept the minutes from the 5/10/2023 meeting as written. So moved by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Brian Lynch. Motion passed.

President's Report

The WEM Grant of \$250K was received in August. The foundation is winding down, and they are granting out their remaining funds. Jim Hield, foundation president, indicated that there was great confidence in our organization's board leadership and direction.

Invoices for membership renewal were emailed on July 1. As previously stated, our accounting platform is now QuickBooks online; giving us the ability to see if emails sent from it have been opened. Because of the new platform, the possibility exists that the email may have landed in the receiver's clutter or junk mailboxes; Tim reminds leaders that this might be the case, and we can resend emails if needed. Leadership transitions may also cause emails to be misdirected. Dues receipts can linger into September/October. We are currently satisfied with the way they are coming in.



Sponsorships for all conferences are far exceeding expectations. We needed to cap School Leadership Conference sponsorships at 15, and open additional room in the conference center. We feel that our new identity/brand is a driving factor.

We are fielding many questions about the free meals (breakfast/lunch) legislation that was passed this year. All schools can opt into the program, and have to serve both meals which is not always feasible. Question: is this a good topic for a webinar? Answer: not a webinar from us, because of the number/type of questions. Those are best directed to MDE, and we have the correct contacts there.

School Leadership Conference planning is well underway; sessions are set, sponsors secured, registration running well ahead of previous years.

Through a connection from Randy Kroll (former board treasurer), Tim met with the National Christian Foundation (similar in scope to the Catholic Community Foundation.) There is an opportunity for their donor advisors to be introduced to our organization.

Tim also attended a meeting of LCMS school leaders at Mayer Lutheran High School.

Development Report

The Development report has been posted to the website. Highlights include:

We had a strong end to the fiscal year.

We are reassessing the need to continue applying with the Ciresi Walburn Foundation; we question our fit with their guidelines.

Sponsorship numbers have been very strong. One area of giving that is lagging is board giving. In FY23 just 72% of board members made a gift. Funders will notice this.

Lisa met with Access Philanthropy which can provide a list of the top funders in Minnesota. She has been doing some prospecting there.

Finance Report

The June and July reports have been posted on the website.

FY23 ended strong, with gifts from Schott and WEM Foundations and the ERC money (\$73K) we received.

Note that, per discussions at the previous board meeting, we funded 2 CDs on 6/29; one for 7 months, one for 13.

There is a new accountant standard for leases which will affect our office and copier leases. Our expenses are in line; only exception is the expense for consultant (Brandi/Strategic Plan)

Discussion about the ERC money: should the money be left in the operating account or moved to the reserve account? And if it is moved to reserves, should we continue to fund that reserve account at the current rate of \$3K/month? Suggestion: may be a good idea to hold those funds in the reserve account to see how the coming year looks, especially with some uncertainty around 3M giving. Final decision made. Motion to put the ERC funds into the reserve account and continue to fund that account at \$3K/month. So moved by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Wyayn Rasmussen. Motion passed.

Audit: Redpath & Co. completed their fieldwork 2 weeks ago. Cathy Lydon, CPA, Audit Director will present the audit at our September Board meeting.

Membership Report

Membership renewal is ongoing. We know of three schools that will not be renewing for FY24: Gethsemane Lutheran (closing), Frassati Catholic School (new leader) and Loyola Catholic School/Mankato (financial – will most likely return the following year).



The membership dashboard has been posted, but because of the ongoing renewal process the total number of schools (180) may be inflated. Our average retention rate is 95%, so based on the total number of possible renewals (167) we can expect to see 9-10 nonrenewing schools.

Program Report

STEM Education Conference was held on August 1st. Attendance was comparable to last year, which is still very soft compared to pre-pandemic years. This leads to consideration/discussions about what that conference should be; just STEM topics, or a wider-ranging Education Conference with different tracks. Noted: some of the sessions from this year were not STEM-related: Paul Bernabei/Top 20 Training and Care Counseling. We also noted that very few high schools attended. Perhaps they are getting their STEM curriculum/ideas from other sources, perhaps a wider-focused conference would bring them back. Heritage Christian Academy was the host school. Set up was great, and their faculty and staff were wonderful to work with. Special thanks to board member Wyayn Rasmussen for stepping in to help at the registration table.

The School Leadership Conference will be held on September 25-27 at Rutgers Bay Lake Resort. This year's topics feature a good mix of both the technical and the inspirational. Registration is running ahead of previous years, and sponsorships came in at over \$30K.

There being no further business brought forth, the Committee met in Executive Session beginning at 8:25 AM.

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

August 30, 2023