



Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
May 14, 2025 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am

AGENDA

10:00-10:15

- Legislative update

10:15-10:20

- Approval of agenda

10:20-10:30

- President's report
 - Advocacy platform status

10:30-10:45

- Finance report
- Membership report
- Development report
- Program report
 - Education awards
 - STEM Education Conference 8/13 at Heritage Christian Academy

10:445-10:55

- Updates
 - Dean Broadhead, secretary and chair nominating committee
 - Potential new board members
 - Board position description
 - Board survey

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Teri McCloughan, Josh Killian, Michael Lamb, Brian Lynch

Staff present: Michele Skare

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Michael called for a motion to accept the agenda as written. Motion made by Teri, seconded by Josh. Motion passed.



Legislative Process and Advocacy Updates

Chas Anderson, MinnIndependent Lobbyist, provided an overview of the ongoing legislative process, noting that committee finance bill targets have not yet been agreed upon. The regular session is scheduled to end on May 19. Neither the House nor Senate has passed their Education Bills. The House version is favorable toward non-public schools, while the Senate version includes funding cuts. Chas reported that their advocacy efforts have been successful, resulting in over 6,300 legislator contacts. Tim added that the recent email acquisition campaign surpassed the original contact list size. Michael asked about changes in legislative language affecting non-public schools; Chas confirmed that the Senate has retained some of the original language. The advocacy platform has added between 3,000–4,000 new contacts, creating opportunities to reach a broader base of independent schools, including those beyond the Catholic community. Teri noted the expanded potential to connect with a more diverse set of schools.

Transportation Funding

Chas and Tim reported that transportation program funding totals \$50 million annually, evenly divided over two years. The House budget maintains this funding and includes a slight increase due to a formula change. In contrast, the Senate followed the Governor's recommendation to eliminate the funding entirely. Senator Nick Frenz introduced an amendment to restore transportation funding, but it did not pass. The Senate is expected to take up its version of the bill after the House acts. While the overall risk to the session is considered low, it remains a possibility. If a budget is not finalized by the May 19 deadline, the Governor may call a special session. If no state budget is enacted by June 30, a government shutdown would occur.

Governor's Position on Non-Public School Funding

Michael shared concerns about the rationale behind the Governor's and Senate's actions. Chas explained that the Governor believes non-public schools should not receive public resources. Senator Kunesh, chair of the Education Committee, views the issue as unconstitutional. Tim suggested this may be part of a broader political strategy. Teri voiced frustration that the dispute centers on a relatively small amount of money. The team agreed to continue monitoring and sharing updates.

Advocacy Platform and Legislative Engagement

Tim highlighted the success of the recent rally, which drew approximately 500 attendees. He emphasized the simplicity of the advocacy platform and its ability to generate varied communications. He noted that many legislators remain confused about how nonpublic pupil aid work, underlining the need for ongoing education.



Tim expressed appreciation for Republican leadership's commitment not to support an education bill that includes cuts to nonpublic school aid. He encouraged continued parent and school community engagement as legislative activity continues.

Finance Report

Due to delayed grant disbursements, the team discussed short-term cash flow solutions. A \$50,000 short-term loan from the program account, to be repaid upon receipt of the grant funds, was moved by Teri, seconded by Brian. Additionally, they reviewed a maturing CD and agreed to roll it over, placing \$50K in reserve and reinvesting the remaining \$131K in a 7-month CD at the best available interest rate.

Membership Report

Membership billing for the new year begins on July 1. We are tracking changes in leadership positions in conjunction with MNSAA.

Development Report

The honor fund remains soft, while grant funding has been inconsistent. A new donor recently funded Facebook ads and materials for the rally.

Program Report

The Education Awards event was well received and attendance was consistent with previous years.

Registration for the upcoming STEM Conference on 8/13 has launched.

Nominating Committee Leadership

Tim announced that Dean Broadhead has been appointed as chair of the Nominating Committee, citing his strong personal network and ability to expand engagement. Michael welcomed Dean's inclusion in the Executive Committee.

Board Recruitment

Tim provided an update on board recruitment. Prospective members were reviewed and discussed. The board is considering bringing on three new members, nearing its capacity. Several current board members—Brian, Michael, Heidi, and Shana—are up for renewal.



Board Position Description and Survey

Michael suggested distributing the board position description to all members for review and feedback. The team also agreed to keep the annual board survey consistent for at least three years to allow for useful trend data.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM

5/14/2025