



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 10, 2026 | 7:30 – 9:30 am

AGENDA

7:30-7:40

- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of meeting agenda
- Approval of March 11, 2026 minutes

7:40-8:00

- Legislative update and recap
 - Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist

8:00-8:15

- President's report

8:15-8:40

- Membership report
- Development report
- Program report
 - Education Awards
 - STEM Education Conference – August 12, 2026 @ Heritage Christian Academy
 - School Leadership Conference – September 28-30 @ Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort
- Finance report
 - April 2026 report
 - FY27 budget and budget assumptions

8:40-9:00

- Board items
 - Approval of slate of officers
 - Michael Lamb, Chair
 - Anna Lima, Vice Chair
 - Dean Broadhead, Secretary
 - Brian Lynch, Treasurer
 - Tim Benz, President
- Board of directors' page on website
- Acknowledge retiring board members

9:00-9:30

- Tour of Xcel Energy Marshall Operations Center



MINUTES

Those present in person: Tim Benz, Jennifer Cassidy, Heidi Gallus, Josh Killian, Michael Lamb, Teri McCloughan, Kelly Regan

Those present on TEAMS: Pete Deavan, Joel Landskroener, Anna Lima, Brian Lynch, Josh Schultz

Staff present: Lisa Vosbeek and Jennifer Renstrom

Guest: Chas Anderson, Park Street Public

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 AM.

Michael called for a motion to accept the meeting agenda. Motion made by Teri McCloughan, seconded by Heidi Gallus. Motion passed

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

The finance report was moved earlier in the meeting because Treasurer Brian Lynch had a scheduling conflict.

Legislative Report

Presenter: Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist, Park Street Public

The state legislative session ended on time on May 18 without a special session. Chas noted that the two-year session is now closed unless a special session is called. The Minnesota House remained tied 67-67, creating an unusual environment in which bills advanced only when bipartisan co-chairs could agree.

Legislators managed a short-term surplus while facing projected longer-term deficits. Federal policy changes, Medicaid and SNAP changes, fraud concerns, and the financial rescue of HCMC were major contextual pressures.

The governor's budget recommendations did not include reductions to non-public schools, and no cuts were made to pupil aid programs. Maintaining these programs remained a central advocacy priority.

There was bipartisan recognition that school safety must include public, charter, non-public, and tribal schools. A Senate bill created a grant concept for non-public school safety funding, although concerns remained about eligibility language and administrative control. Tim explained that MinnIndependent took no position on one



proposed grant bill because its fiscal-capacity language was unclear and could have allowed the Department of Education too much discretion.

The final budget agreement included approximately \$12–13 million in behavioral health grants through the Department of Health, available to all schools including non-public schools. Program details are still forthcoming.

The education bill included about \$4 million to begin implementation of an anonymous threat reporting program available to all schools, with the possibility of seeking more funding in a future budget year.

The board discussed the federal scholarship tax credit and the requirement for states to opt in. Minnesota is not expected to opt in under the current governor, despite other states moving forward.

Chas and Tim discussed the upcoming political landscape, including the governor's race, U.S. Senate race, fraud concerns as a top Minnesota issue, and possible shifts in legislative control. A future administration could be more favorable to private and independent schools than the current one.

Finance Report

Brian reported no significant changes since the previous report. Cash and current assets remain sufficient, liabilities remain low, and the balance sheet is strong.

Year-to-date revenue was approximately \$670,000 against about \$550,000 in expenses. Revenue is ahead of budget, while expenses are largely in line with budget expectations.

Grants and sponsorships are performing well. Tim noted that the Schulze Foundation approved a full \$55,000 grant, above budget, which strengthened the year-end outlook.

The board reviewed a balanced budget for the new fiscal year. Revenue increases include higher dues and increased grant support. Key expense assumptions include a 3% salary increase, bonuses, employee health insurance, and ongoing costs for the Quorum advocacy platform now built into the operating budget.

The board discussed conference attendance and revenue assumptions. STEM and School Leadership Conference attendance have fluctuated but a conflicting Archdiocese meeting may affect some School Leadership Conference attendance.

Joel Landskroener moved to approve the 2026–2027 budget, a second was provided by Kelly Regan. The motion was approved



President's Report

Tim reported that the organization's financial outlook is very strong. Major year-end funding pieces, including the Schott Foundation, Xcel, and Schulze grants, are secured. The organization expects but has not yet received confirmation of a 3M grant in the new fiscal year. If received, it will support the Science from Scientists program; if not received, the program will not be implemented. The grant is treated as budget-neutral. The organization's top individual donor made her annual gift in April, further strengthening the year-end position.

Tim attended the CAPE meeting in Washington, D.C. He described CAPE as the national body representing private education interests at the federal level, with Minndependent serving as Minnesota's state CAPE affiliate. Tim reported uncertainty around where the Office of Nonpublic Education will be housed in the federal government, noting that the office remains an important resource. Tim emphasized the value of connecting national school organizations with state affiliates so local schools remain engaged in advocacy where decisions are made.

The Education Awards event was described as very successful. The 50th anniversary video received strong praise and has been useful in telling the organization's history and mission.

Tim highlighted meetings with school groups including WELS, Missouri Synod-North District, Holy Family in Victoria, and others as part of a strategy to reach schools collectively and reinforce the value of Minndependent's work.

Membership Report

Membership reached 189 schools, the organization's highest level to date. Zion Lutheran in Cologne joined recently, with Joel credited for the connection.

Staff are tracking school leadership transitions and asked schools to report changes so contact records remain current.

Membership invoices will be sent July 1, the start of the new fiscal year. Tim noted that technically membership resets to zero on July 1 until renewals are received. Tim does not anticipate major difficult renewals but is monitoring leadership changes at key member schools, including Our Lady of Grace and St. Ambrose as a possible membership opportunities.

Development Report

Development activity is strong. Sponsorships, grants, and the Honor Fund are performing well, and the organization has added new donors and seen increases in



some giving areas. Tim emphasized that grants are significant and valuable but create some annual uncertainty because funders can change priorities. The organization will stay close to key partners, including the Schulze Foundation, as they consider possible changes.

The anniversary year has created engagement opportunities with donors, prospects, and schools. Staff are working on a small number of additional anniversary-related events likely to occur in late summer or fall.

Lisa is actively working on sponsorships for the fall School Leadership Conference, with early indications looking positive.

Michael reminded board members that 100% board participation in giving with an emphasis on participation, not gift size, with June 30 identified as the deadline for current-year participation.

Program Report

The Education Awards event was considered highly successful, and the organization plans to return to Mendakota next year because the venue works well for logistics, parking, and atmosphere.

STEM Education Conference registration is open, with roughly 60 attendees at the time of the meeting. The conference will be held in August and will feature a dynamic keynote speaker known as "Princess Paula." The content is designed as "STEM and more," especially to support smaller schools without dedicated STEM specialists.

The School Leadership conference is scheduled for September 28–30. Five general sessions are planned, with two largely locked in. Staff received multiple RFP submissions and will ask school board members to help assess which topics best fit school leaders' needs. Potential topics include inspiration, technical/practical leadership support, HR and legal issues, and school operations. Sam Nelson is expected to present on school HR and legal matters.

Tim shared a note from former Minnehaha Academy principal Jason Wenschlag describing the Bay Lake retreat as his favorite professional development experience as a principal, reinforcing the conference's strong reputation.

Technology and AI Discussion

Board members discussed whether schools are seeing a pendulum swing away from student technology use, including phone restrictions and renewed interest in paper-based or classical approaches. Lisa reported that AI emerged as a top professional



development need in the member needs assessment, though schools may interpret that need differently for teachers, administrators, and classroom practice. Heidi described a middle-ground model in which students do not carry devices one-to-one, but devices are available in classrooms and Google Classroom is used for many assignments. Schools are hearing both from families who want more technology access and families who want less. Jennifer Cassidy emphasized that independent and faith-based schools have an opportunity to teach technology and AI through an ethical, mission-centered lens while continuing to build interpersonal and human skills. Michael shared that the University of St. Thomas Engineering School is focused on teaching students to use AI ethically and that major technology companies are investing heavily in data centers, indicating AI and related technology demands are accelerating.

Board Business

The board considered a slate of officers consisting of Michael, Anna, Dean, Brian, and Tim. Teri McCloughan moved to approve the slate; Josh Schultz seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

Michael and Tim proposed making the board webpage more robust to better reflect the strength and credibility of Minndependent's board. The page may include board member photos, titles, brief bios, and short responses to questions such as "Why do you serve?" or "What drew you to independent and private schools?". Board members noted that a stronger page could help donors, prospective members, and other stakeholders better understand the organization and the people supporting it. Anna suggested adding board member spotlights in newsletters or social media, such as LinkedIn features, especially during the 50th anniversary year. Staff will proceed without a formal vote, request photos and short information from board members, and work toward completing the page before the next board meeting.

Tim and other board members recognized Kelly Regan's retirement from the board after 14 years of service. Kelly thanked the board and said she believes children are the future and that education is a powerful channel for making an impact. She praised Minndependent's leadership and described the organization as impressive among nonprofits. Kelly was presented with Minndependent gifts in appreciation for her service.

Adjournment

With no further business being brought forth, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m. Participants attending in person were invited to remain for a tour of Xcel Energy's control center.

June 10, 2026

/s/ Dean Broadhead
Secretary