Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2026 | 7:30 – 9:30 am

AGENDA

7:30-7:50
- Welcome and board member introductions
- Approval of meeting agenda
- Approval of June 10, 2026 meeting minutes

7:50-8:15
- 2026 Audit Report
  - Cathy Lydon, CPA, Director, Nonprofit Team Leader, Redpath and Co.
- Motion to accept audit

8:15-8:35
- President's report
  - MINNDEPENDENT 101 presentation

8:35-8:55
- Finance report
  - June 30, 2026 FYE report
  - July 2026 monthly report
- Membership report (renewal status)
- Development report
- Program report
  - STEM Education Conference - August 12 @ Heritage Christian Academy
  - School Leadership Conference – September 28-30 @ Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

8:55-9:15
- Board Survey results and discussion

9:15-9:30
- Executive Session

MINNDEPENDENT

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Mike Brennan, Dean Broadhead, Pat Callan, Shana Duininck, Jim Hansen, Josh Killian, Joel Lanskroener, Anna Lima, Brian Lynch, Teri McCloughan, Blake Nelson, Molly Wilson and Kate Wollan.

Staff present: Lisa Vosbeek & Jennifer Renstrom

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

Anna made a motion to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by Mike Brennan. Motion passed.

Anna made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Josh Killian. Motion passed.

The board meeting began with introductions for new and existing members, including Molly Wilson, who joined as a new board member with experience in children's mental health and private schools. The meeting then moved to approve the agenda from the previous meeting and the minutes from the June 10th meeting, both of which were approved unanimously.

Financial Audit Results

Cathy Lydon from RedPath presented the draft financial statements and audit management letter for Minndependent, covering fiscal years 2026 and 2025. She reported that the audit process went smoothly with no findings, and the financial statements received an unmodified opinion, indicating they are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Cathy noted that total revenues increased by about $45,000 due to higher grants from the Hardenburgh and Schulze Foundation, while expenditures remained consistent year-over-year, resulting in an increase of net assets of $78,000 compared to $30,000 in the previous year.

President’s Report

Tim began by telling everyone that they are in the midst of the membership renewal process. Not all schools pay membership dues on July 1 or July 15th, so the process of receiving membership checks is ongoing. Invoice reminders will go out in mid-September.

Tim presented “Minndependent 101” which provided a comprehensive overview of Minndependent's operations and presented the organization's strategic framework, including their mission to support Minnesota's private and independent schools.

The membership report indicated stable renewal rates with one non-renewal, while development efforts showed positive results with grants overperforming targets. Tim talked about the success of the STEM conference and shared that registration is up over last year for the School Leadership Conference.

The board engaged in meaningful discussion about how to better utilize board members' talents and increase awareness of Minndependent within member schools' communities, with several members suggesting specific communication strategies including newsletter blurbs and highlighting grant recipients.

Finance Report

Minndependent finished with a strong balance sheet as of June 30th, 2026, and the income statement was consistent year over year. The honor fund was at or above budget which can be difficult to get over the $80,000 plan, but the organization was able to surpass that this year. Brian said Minndependent had a financially strong year-end performance from both the balance sheet and income statement.

Membership Report

St. John’s in Savage did not renew their membership, but Trinity School at River Ridge joined this year. Tim has a list of schools he reaches out to who have expressed interest in the past. Membership dues continue to come in.

Development Report

Tim stated it was a really strong year last year, with grants overperforming, and already starting out very good for this fiscal year. Grant season is just starting. One of the larger grants, the Hardenberg grant, is due October 1. The Schulze grant is due at the end of the fiscal year. The Schulze Foundation is going through some strategic changes, and their new plan might be to give fewer but larger grants.

Program Report

The annual STEM conference took place at Heritage Christian Academy on August 12th. The conference has morphed to include broadening of some topics. A popular session was regarding neurodiverse learners and Tim stated that they will discuss other additions and changes to the conference in the Executive Session.

The School leadership conference is coming up at the end of the month at Ruttger's and is a great opportunity to network. Registration is up from last year and some of the historical schools that came with a few administrators are coming back, and they are hoping for 70 attendees. The partners, sponsors and vendors attend to be in front of the school leader audience and they want to make sure sponsors return year after year.

Board Survey Results

The board seems to be functioning well, and the members seem to have a strong understanding of who the board are and what they do. One area to discuss is how to utilize board members more, tap into different strengths, and use board members to achieve the organization's goals.

The board discussed how to connect school communities to Minndependent so families know there is an organization that advocates on behalf of all private education institutions in Minnesota. There was discussion about asking member schools to share Minndependent communications to their communities.

The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn for an executive session.

Adjournment
With no further business being brought forth, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07am. Lisa Vosbeek & Jennifer Renstrom left the meeting.

Meeting moved into Executive Session.

September 9, 2026
/s/ Dean Broadhead
Secretary