**Minutes**
**Executive Committee Meeting**
**May 13, 2026 | 7:30 – 8:30 am – via Zoom**

AGENDA

7:30-7:35

- Approval of meeting agenda.
- Approval of February 11, 2026 minutes

7:35-7:55

- President's report
  - Advocacy update

7:55-8:15

- Finance report
- Membership report
- Development report
- Program report
  - Education Awards
  - STEM Education Conference – 8/12 at Heritage Christian Academy
  - School Leadership Conference – 9/28-30 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

8:15-8:25

- Annual board survey - June
- Other business

**MINUTES**

Those present: Tim Benz, Josh Killian, Anna Lima, Brian Lynch, Teri McCloughan

Staff present: Jennifer Renstrom

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am.
Teri called for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion made by Brian Lynch, seconded by Josh Killian. Motion passed.

**President**
Tim reported on the successful Education Awards event, which included the new James B. Field Legacy Award for Doug Jaeger and resulted in three donors, two of which are new donors. The event was successful with increased attendance, and sponsorship for the event was just over the goal number.

The legislative session updates centered on school safety funding proposals, with discussion of the per-pupil, per-year, bill heard in the House, but it was not heard in the Senate. The bill heard in the Senate would be a grant program, where schools would have to apply, and it’s a one-time grant. Concerns were raised about the one-time nature and application process requirements, and the grant would prioritize schools with a lower fiscal capacity.

Tim and Jason Adkins (MN Catholic Conference) met with Senator Kunesh to address concerns about equity and implementation challenges. Tim also updated on the federal scholarship tax credit program, noting that New York has opted in while Governor Walz has stated opposition. If Minnesota doesn’t opt in by January 1, 2027, then the state will have to wait another year.

**Grant Approval and Administrator Engagement**
Tim announced that the organization received approval for a $55,000 Schulze unrestricted grant, which represents a significant increase from last year's funding. The conversation continued with news of securing a $100,000 Schott grant for STEM programs. They are the largest funder of the STEM program in the organization.

He noted that 3M will maintain their current $25,000 level of funding, at least for this year. We remain confident in being approved by Xcel Energy Foundation.

Tim also reported on recent school administrator gatherings, including events at Holy Family with partner elementary schools, and Wisconsin Synod administrators, which provided opportunities to engage with 10-12 groups of school administrators.

**Finance Report**
Brian provided a financial update, reporting that the organization is performing favorably compared to last year, with strong grant revenue and steady cash flow. Tim mentioned working on the 2027 budget with All-In-One Accounting and expected to send it to Brian within the next few days for the June board meeting.

**Membership Report**
Tim reported 188 current members and identified about 12 warm prospects for 2026-27 recruitment, also noting lower leadership turnover compared to recent years. The annual member assessment and needs assessment was sent to all members for feedback. The membership renewal process is underway with Jennifer handling updates and James at All-In-One handling billing after July 1.

**Development Report**
Tim reported solid progress with grants, noting that the Xcel grant is expected before end of June, while the 3M grant will likely come after June, and the Schultze Grant payment is expected by late May or early June. The meeting also focused on sponsorship strategies and board engagement. Tim and the team discussed the decline in 3M's funding and explored potential replacement sponsors, including Boston Scientific and other med tech companies. They agreed to create new sponsorship opportunities to accommodate interested parties. They discussed leveraging board members for new sponsor prospects.

**Program Report**
The group reviewed the upcoming STEM Education Conference, including new content for this year. They also discussed the upcoming School Leadership Conference, with an RFP out for presenter topics at the event.

MINNDEPENDENT staff met to discuss the 50th Anniversary and put together a project plan. The anniversary officially kicked off with the Awards event, and planning for future gatherings to engage with non-school people. More events will be planned for later fall and early winter to wrap up the 50th year.

The group discussed improvements to the board survey to better understand board member engagement and needs. Josh emphasized the importance of recruiting active board members and finding ways to engage both school and non-school representatives in their roles.

Tim shared the questions used in the annual board survey, which will go out in June. Comments from attendees focused on possibly creating two versions. One that is tailored to members with three years or fewer and another for more veteran board members.

**Adjournment**
Teri made a motion to adjourn. So moved by Josh, seconded by Brian. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 am.

May 13, 2026
/s/ Dean Broadhead
Secretary