



MISF Executive Committee Meeting
September 9, 2015
7:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Annunciation School, Minneapolis

AGENDA ITEMS

[Click Here for Meeting Documents \(added as they are available\)](#)

- Review minutes from 5/27/15 meeting
- Conflict of Interest statements
- President's report
 - * Updates
 - * Development report
 - * Membership report
 - * Advocacy update
 - * Program report
 - * STEM Education Conference wrap up
 - * School Leadership Conference
- 2014-2015 Audit
- Finance report: balance sheet, income statement, restricted funds tracking, cash flow, operating reserve funds
- Board governance report
 - * Kevin Gyolai to join 1/1/16
- Critical dialogue
 - * Board meeting 9/30/15 at Ruttger's
- Other business

MINUTES

Those present: Greg Anklam, Tim Benz, Jennifer Cassidy, Greg Chamberlain, Josh Killian, Joel Landskroener, Greg Margarit

Staff present: Michele Speranza

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 AM.

Motion was made by Joel Landskroener, seconded by Greg Margarit, to approve the agenda as written.

Motion was made by Josh Killian, seconded by Greg Anklam, to approve the minutes from the 5/27/15 meeting as written.

Members of the Executive Committee were asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest with regard to MISF board service they might have this year. None were reported.

President's report

We've had a good start to the fiscal year, with an efficient and clean audit. We are in the 1st year of a 3 year contract with our auditors.

Legislative Activities – Most have been focused on the OAK (Opportunity for All Kids) coalition. The group has been meeting weekly, and plans to expand its reach to include Christian and Jewish private schools.

Legislative issues being addresses include: reauthorization of the ESEA (No Child Left Behind), and the Omnibus Tax Bill which was not passed by the legislature during the last session. The bill contains both the education tax credit and tax deduction. Looking to expand the credit to include private school tuition, increase the allowable deduction (has not been adjusted since 1997), and increase the income cap so that more middle income families will be able to take advantage of this benefit.

School Leadership Conference – 66 have registered to date, running slightly behind last year's total of 72. Registration will end on 9/21, so feel that we still have time to reach and surpass that number. The President's Reception (as suggested by Joel Landskroener) will be held on Monday evening 9/28, and already have 51 attendees who have RSVPd to the event. The agenda is almost 100% locked in. On Wednesday 9/30 at 8:15 AM, will be holding a leadership panel/discussion session. Currently have 3 panelists, all outside of the education field: Jim Breen, of Betterway Foods; Mark Dienhart, Richard Schulze Family Foundation, and Megan Junius, Peter Hill Designs. Currently looking for 1 more panelist. If committee members know of anyone, please let Tim know.

Development report

Grants:

Bremer Foundation grant was declined for FY2015. There is a new grant officer this year, and Tim had a good conversation with her. Bremer realizes the value of what we are doing, however, there were more grant requests than money available. Question that we are facing with them is how we can define "outcomes", recognizing that we are removed from most student outcomes (other than STEM). Need to find a way to tell our story differently. We will stay close to them (an interim meeting will be helpful), and we are invited to write a new request next April for an August grant.

General Mills grant application is due 10/5. They also have a new grant officer in place; one who is a product of private schools, and whose children attend private school.

We have a meeting with 3M scheduled for tomorrow.

We are in the process of setting up our yearly meeting with the Hardenbergh Foundation (Jon Theobald of the MISF board is on their board as well). This year's grant will not be as large as last year's, which included some capacity dollars.

We will reach out to Pentair (denied last year) and McCarthy Bjorklund Foundations.

We have purchased and began using Foundation Search software to assist in researching new foundation opportunities. Tim is familiar with this tool, which he used at Catholic Charities.

Honor Fund: Plan to send out the Annual Appeal letter in mid-October.

Sponsorships:

Raised \$11K in STEM Education Conference sponsorships, and working to meet \$28K goal in School Leadership Conference sponsorships (\$21K currently).

Looking at starting year-long sponsorship agreements with some key sponsors: CompuNet, TADS, Alpha-Omega.

Board Giving: Goal is 100% participation in board giving this fiscal year, just as we had last FY.

Grant Pipeline Report will be ongoing throughout the year; as will the Development Report Spreadsheet, which lists grant goals by area (Grants, Honor Fund, Sponsorships, In-kind).

Membership report

FY15 year-end membership was 160 schools, 33,448 students.

Renewal rate for FY16 (as of 9/2) is 111 schools (72.4%), 23,601 students.

3 confirmed non-renewals (budgetary constraints, distance, school closure) – net loss of 189 students.

43 pending renewals (have verbal confirmation, have registered for School Leadership Conference, or have received a STEM grant).

5 Associate Members.

We are in touch with or have on our radar several “target” schools: All Saints (Lakeville), Trinity School at River Ridge, Visitation.

7 new schools have joined in FY16, including Shakopee Area Catholic Schools with 677 students.

Working to get a real cost-per-student figure for this year – was \$3.85 last year.

Program report

STEM Education Conference:

74 % increase in net income

34% increase in attendance

50% of attendees were first-timers

2/3 of those surveyed would definitely attend again.

Dr. Olester Benson from 3M was keynote speakers – received great feedback on his presentation, and he stayed for the day’s activities.

The STEM Advisory Committee presented a workshop on successful grant writing that was very well attended and received.

Change in venue this year (Concordia Academy – Roseville) was great. Lots of good energy in the building, lots of positive feedback.

Need to always focus on presenting quality sessions, and providing teachers with takeaways is very helpful.

Need to also consider: what is our next STEM? Entrepreneurial, Fine Arts, Humanities, Finance?

2014-2015 Audit

Greg Margarit indicated a copy of the audit was posted to the board website for review prior to the meeting, and hard copies were distributed.

Debbie Kaliszewski did a great job preparing for and working with auditors. It was a relatively uneventful audit, with a clean opinion. Only one matter discussed with the audit committee – the significant decrease in unrestricted net assets in 2015. Auditors were assured that the board is absolutely mindful of the situation.

The Executive Committee sets forth a recommendation to bring the 2014-15 Audit as presented before the full board for approval at the 9/30/15 meeting. So moved by Joel Landskroener, seconded by Jennifer Cassidy.

Finance report

Balance sheet

Cash balance is high due to membership renewal period.

Restricted balance decreased due to 2015 STEM grant payments (2/3 of total awarded in spring, 1/3 awarded in fall when project plans are submitted).

\$7414 balance in operating reserve (includes \$6914 from Rosa and \$500 designated by budget. Currently \$3500 in the reserve fund – part of loan agreement with NAF.

Deferred revenue was zeroed out for STEM conference (registrations were paid in previous fiscal year).

Income statement

Membership dues are up over last year.

Might want to consider charging a credit card convenience fee to offset Paypal and merchant fees.

Cash flow

A revised cash flow statement was distributed at the meeting, one that reflected the \$11K Helen Harrington gift which arrived in August. Beginning cash on hand is \$85.9K. Critical by March 2016.

Board Governance Report

Dr. Kevin Gyolai, President at Benilde-St. Margaret's, has indicated that he would be willing to join the board in January of 2016. Motion by Joel Landskroener to approve Kevin Gyolai's appointment to the board in January, seconded by Greg Margarit. Motion carried.

Critical Dialogue

The 9/30 board meeting at Ruttger's will be another "retreat" of sorts, and a continuation of the MISF 3.0 discussion that began at the 6/30/15 board meeting. Tim will prepare a white paper/summary of that discussion to reinforce and give more framework to the idea.

"– It should be a good opportunity for Tim to lay out his vision and provide opportunity for board members.

Discussion – what factors led to the "bottoming out" of schools over the last few years, and what are the challenges being faced by private schools:

1. Changing demographics – smaller families, with different priorities
2. Economics – teachers must be paid more, salaries need to be competitive
3. Lack of "denominational identity" – realities are different by location. (e.g. – St. Croix Lutheran/LCMS urban school vs. Mayer Lutheran/LCMS rural school)
4. (A positive impact) – The parental choice movement is growing. The value of nonpublic education is being realized.

Other Business

Information on registration for board retreat will be sent in the next week.

Question – is there some kind of clearing house/list serv/info source that tracks grants that schools would/should know about? MISF will do some research.

There being no other business brought forth, Joel Landskroener moved to adjourn, seconded by Jennifer Cassidy. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.



9/11/15

Greg Anklam/Secretary