



Minutes

Board Meeting

June 15, 2022 | 7:30 am – 9:30 am

AGENDA

- Approval of minutes from 3/23/2022 meeting
- Legislative update
 - Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist
- President's report
- Development report
 - Fiscal and giving year ends June 30
- Membership report
 - Leadership changes
- Program report
 - Education Awards review
 - STEM Education Conference – August 3 at Benilde-St. Margaret's
 - School Leadership Conference – September 26-28 at Ruttger's
- Governance update
 - 2022-2023 Slate of Officers
 - Chair – Michael Lamb
 - Vice Chair – TBD
 - Treasurer – Brian Lynch
 - Secretary – Wyayn Rasmussen
 - President – Tim Benz
- Finance Report
 - Balance sheet, income statement, restricted funds tracking, cash flow, dashboard
- FY 23 budget process and update
- Strategic plan update, discussion and next steps
- Other business
- Executive Session

MINUTES

Those present: Tim Benz, Tim Berner, Dean Broadhead, Jennifer Cassidy, Jim Hansen, Veena Lakkundi, Anna Lima, Brian Lynch, Teri McCloughan, Wyayn Rasmussen, Kelly Regan
Staff present: Michele Skare

Meeting began at 7:34 AM

2022 Legislative Outlook – Chas Anderson

The Legislature had \$11 billion dollars in budget surplus to spend this year. The 3-year supplemental target budget for Education was \$1 billion dollars. The two pieces of legislation which we were pushing – counseling expansion and transportation – were both included in the House Education Omnibus Bill, but not included in the Senate bill. While there was early talk of a special session to consider other legislation, it is looking unlikely with primary elections coming up on August 9th.

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Another piece of legislation we watched concerned student data privacy; how companies can access and/or sell the data. We surveyed our member schools about platforms they are using. While the original bill included nonpublic schools, the signed version did not. Nonpublic school staff are eligible to receive Front Line Worker Pay. Applications will be accepted June 8 through July 22.

Any legislation not finished is pushed to January, the start of the next session.

Question: After Uvalde, is there any talk about more counseling for schools? Answer: Rep. Jim Davnie had been pushing a mental health/counseling services bill, but the Senate did not want to take that up. There is also a Safe Schools Revenue piece which covers mental health and physical assets which we hope will be expanded to include nonpublic schools.

Question: Any talk of arming teachers in the classroom? Answer: No, have not heard anything about that.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 23 meeting as written was made by Kelly Regan, seconded by Jennifer Cassidy. Motion passed.

President's report

Tim Plath invited Tim Benz to speak at the New Ulm Rotary meeting in June. We have several schools in the area, and have had a historically good, close relationship with donors there. It was a good opportunity to talk to the group about nonpublic education and visit some of our member schools.

We are hearing from members that this past year has been the hardest of the last few. Faculty and staff were tired by year's end, and many teachers are retiring or leaving for different fields. This situation is not unique to nonpublic schools. Schools are looking at different approaches to recruiting and hiring teachers, since licensing is not necessarily a requirement; hiring, getting started in the position and then providing other training as needed is a possibility.

Debbie Kaliszewski, Business Manager, retired at the end of April. We have outsourced our accounting services to All in One Accounting. The onboarding process is going well but is taking longer than expected.

The FY 23 Budget is in process and will be ready for review and approval by the end of June.

We are upgrading our Blackbaud/Raiser's Edge Database to a fully cloud-based platform at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Work for this project has been funded by a grant from the Hardenbergh Foundation.

Federal Funds – EANS 1 was broadly distributed through nonpublic schools. EANS 2 (the American Rescue Plan) was much more narrowly focused. Both funds were \$40 million dollars. Because EANS 2 was so restricted as written, only 28 schools qualified for the funding. The amount left over - \$20 million – is intended to benefit nonpublic schools, and we have gotten confirmation from the Governor that these funds will be redistributed to nonpublic schools. The state will administer this program. We will partner with them the Department of Education in bringing informational webinars to schools regarding this funding.

Development report

The report has been posted. These items were highlighted:



In grants:

- >Awarded (Increased Amount) Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation awarded a general operations grant \$45,000, an increase of \$5000. Grant dollars were received on 5/24/2022.
- >Xcel Energy awarded \$25,000 to support the STEM Program. Funds expected in June or early July.
- >Awarded (New STEM Funding) HB Fuller awarded \$10,000 to support the STEM Community Partnership with We Share Solar. This grant will support participation of 4 underserved schools in the metro to participate in the Power2Share Program (Grades 7 – 12) during the 2022-2023 school year.
- >Awarded (Increased Amount) Schott Foundation awarded a \$100,000.00 grant, an increase of \$50,000 over prior year grant. The increased amount is for 2022/2023 only and is designated to the overarching STEM Program

Membership report

We are tracking a record number of leadership changes this year. We try to reach out to new leaders to let them know about the benefits of continued MINNDEPENDENT membership.

Membership renewals begin on July 1. Invoices are being emailed to all current members.

Program report

Education Awards – We rolled out our new name/branding at the event. People enjoyed being together in person.

Event was held at a new venue; smaller, but it felt fuller. With ample parking and easy access, we'll go back there again next year. While we still debate if it is a friend/fund-raiser or a recognition event, it's always a great celebration of the award winners.

STEM Conference – will be held at Benilde-St. Margaret's on August 3. Registration is slow so far, and we continue to monitor. If we need to pivot to a virtual event, we will do so.

School Leadership Conference – will be in person again this year. The planning committee will meet soon.

Governance report

The chair brought forth a proposed new slate of officers:

Michael Lamb – Chair

Vice Chair is TBD

Brian Lynch – Treasurer

Wyayn Rasmussen – Secretary

Tim Benz – President

Chair called for a motion to approve the new slate of officers. So moved by Wyayn Rasmussen, seconded by Veena Lakkundi, motion passed.

Financial Report

Numbers being reported here are from end of April; reports have been posted on the website. Some highlights:

The balance sheet shows an accounts payable amount of \$32.7K, which is the first payment of STEM grants to schools.

We continue to deposit \$3K/month into the reserve account.

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The income statement shows a gap in Honor Fund – which represents one gift from a donor with whom we are working. The variation in the Grants line is due to timing of receipts (ex: budgeted for June receipt, received in July – next FY.)

Cashflow looks good through year end.

Strategic Plan Update

The committee continues to meet. Members are Veena Lakkundi, Jim Hansen, Teri McCloughan, Kate Wollan, Brian Sullivan.

The focus for this plan is resource development, distilled into four areas:

- Advocacy,
- Partnerships,
- Resources Available to External Sources, and
- Professional Development.

Under each of these buckets, we have made the distinction between Members/Nonmembers. Nonmembers can be anyone from a nonmember school, to one of our foundations that supports us, individuals that believe in the mission – kind of a broad-based title. Members are purely member schools.

We are in the process of distilling actual action plans under each of those topics so that we can give the staff a road map as to what we think are the important priorities as far as development under each of those big buckets.

We realize that we have a very small staff, so we need to define how to efficiently utilize their time to reap the most benefit for our resource development.

The committee will be meeting over the summer and the goal will be to present the plan at our first meeting in September.

Further Business

We are currently in communication with a possible new board member from outstate Minnesota. More details will follow as they become available. And as always if you have contacts/ideas please forward them to Tim and Teri.

We are working on the 2022-23 board calendar and will send that information to all as it is available.

Question: Has any information been made available to member schools regarding the Employee Retention Credit? Answer: We have been in communication with a national company that is producing webinars with information about that topic (made the contact at the national CAPE conference.) We hope to have more information available over the summer

Adjournment

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:39am.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Wyatt Rasmussen'.

7/28/2022