



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, November 20, 2025 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Perpich Center for Arts Education**  
**Zoom Meeting**

*Mission: to provide all Minnesota students the opportunity to develop and integrate their artistic and academic abilities to their highest potential.*

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APPROVED – MINUTES – APPROVED**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair S. Grans-Korsh called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

On a call of the roll, members identified as present: M. Haley (virtual), S. Grans-Korsh, D. Hastings, P. Hustoles, B. Melville (virtual), E. Orfield-Johnson(virtual), and T. Wollenzien (virtual). S. Sampson (virtual) and D. Moen (virtual) joined the meeting after the initial roll was taken. A quorum was declared present. N. Laven, ex-officio member and MDE representative, also present.

**ACTION:** Approval of Meeting Agenda – Member P. Hustoles recommended two amendments to the agenda – board consideration of a January meeting change and the creation of an Ad Hoc Enrollment Committee. Executive Director Smisek also requested that the agenda include consideration of a blanket approval for MSBA Conference accommodation costs for board members that live outside of the metro area. Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the regular meeting agenda as amended with the three proposed amendments. Member M. Haley provided a second. On a call of the roll with each member voting in favor and no votes against, the meeting agenda was approved.

**ACTION:** Consent Agenda – The Consent Agenda consisted of the Approval of the Minutes, Board of Directors Regular Meeting, October 23, 2025 and the Finance Reports ending October 30, 2025. Member T. Wollenzien moved to approve the consent agenda. Member P. Hustoles provided a second. On a call of the roll with each member voting in favor and no votes against, the consent agenda was approved.

**INFORMATION:** Board Chair Report – Chair Grans-Korsh thanked members for their ongoing engagement and noted the positive energy around recent Board committee work. She highlighted the Scrollathon experience and expressed appreciation for staff and student participation.

Director M. Haley provided a supplemental Scrollathon update, sharing reflections on the significance of the event for students.

**INFORMATION:** Resource Library Deep Dive – A. Dennison provided the scheduled deep dive on the Resource Library, highlighting statewide usage, curricular supports, and partnership opportunities.

**INFORMATION/ ACTION: Finance Director Report** –Finance Director Toop provided updates on financial status, including a Parallel Technologies quote update and a request for approval reflected in the board packet. Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the presented Parallel Technologies quote. Member D. Hastings provided a second. On a call of the roll with each member voting in favor and no votes against, the motion carried.

**INFORMATION/ ACTION: Executive Director Report** – Executive Director Smisek highlighted the Kennedy Center Scrollathon and reviewed her monthly strategic dashboard, noting most updates had been shared in weekly reports. She focused her verbal remarks on Goal 3 and summarized statewide engagements, including the AMSD Conference and her first MREA Conference, where she formed new rural connections, attended Director Barden’s session, and spoke with Rep. Kresha about the prior closure bill and the need to address false narratives. She also noted a conversation with an Activities Director that revealed a statewide need for better arts-support training, prompting exploration of a related AMSD survey question. She provided an update on the Board Secretary search and recognized HR Specialist Tina Krieger for exceptional support across multiple agency processes. She concluded with an overview of Perpich’s expanded presence at the January MSBA Conference and encouraged board participation on January 15.

**ACTION:** Executive Director Smisek requested that the January Board meeting be moved from January 22 to January 15 to align with the MSBA Conference schedule. The meeting time will be determined (likely 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.), and hybrid participation will remain available. A motion to change the January Board meeting date to January 15, with time to be determined, was made by Member P. Hustoles and seconded by Member M. Haley. The motion was approved by roll-call vote. **ACTION:** Executive Director Smisek requested blanket approval to provide hotel lodging for outer-metro board members attending the MSBA Conference and the January 15 meeting. Lodging may include Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights depending on individual travel needs. A motion to approve lodging for outer-metro board members as requested was made by Member P. Hustoles and seconded by Member S. Sampson. The motion was approved by roll-call vote.

**INFORMATION:** Arts High School Report – Principal R. Bullen’s written report was included in the board packet; no verbal report was provided.

**INFORMATION:** Professional Development and Resource Programs Report – Director Dr. W. Barden’s written report was included in the board packet; no verbal report was provided.

**INFORMATION / ACTION:** Board Development Committee – **ACTION:** The committee presented Policy #529 Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students for a second reading. The policy received final Board approval with all present members voting in favor and no votes against. The motion carries. **INFORMATION:** Executive Director Smisek reviewed the draft of Board Goals aligned with the strategic plan. Discussion included: level of ambition (“aim high” vs. feasibility), need for clarity in self-assessment tools, interest in ensuring metrics are meaningful without over-specifying methodology, agreement that the goals reflect the August retreat’s work. **ACTION:** Member P. Hustoles moved to adopt the Board Goals as presented. Member S. Sampson provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor; no votes against. The motion carries. **ACTION:** The committee presented the recommendation to formally create an Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion acknowledged the longstanding need for focused attention, flexibility for volunteer membership, an opportunity to include non-board participants as appropriate, anticipated launch in January due to staff workload. Roll-call vote on formation of the Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee resulted in all present voting members voting in favor; no votes against. The motion carries.

**INFORMATION:** Government Relations Committee – Because the November 19 meeting lacked a quorum, no formal actions were taken. Chair Hustoles reiterated expectations that all board members contact their state senator and two House members. He noted the importance of relationship-building to counter misinformation and invited members to reach out for assistance.

**INFORMATION:** Statewide Arts Outreach Committee – Chair Wollenzien summarized the November 20 committee meeting, including: a report from A. Johnson highlighting challenges in district responsiveness during fall recruitment travel, more promising connections emerging from middle-school outreach, positive momentum for summer Arts Camp expansion, Executive Director Smisek’s attendance analysis showing Perpich high school attendance exceeding regional high school averages, committee prioritization of enrollment strategy development in partnership with the new Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee.

**INFORMATION:** Board Discussion – Members discussed plans for the December 18 deep dive on the Arts High School, interest in recruitment strategy updates, importance of distinguishing principal-level reporting from recruitment strategy discussions, and considerations for future agenda planning.

**INFORMATION:** Public Comment – No public comment was offered.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, Member P. Hustoles moved to adjourn the meeting. Member S. Sampson provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.