



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, August 25, 2025 - 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 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

Chair S. Grans-Korsh called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm. On a call of the roll, members identified as present: R. Doyle, S. Finnegan, S. Grans Korsh, M. Haley, P. Hustoles, P. Khosravi, N. Laven, E. Orfield-Johnson, D. Pierre Tourssaint, R. Salazar (virtual), T. Wollenzien.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda – Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the regular meeting agenda. Member R. Salazar 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 - Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member P. Khosravi 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 / ACTION: Board Chair Report – Board Chair S. Grans Korsh provided an update regarding the exploration of fundraising opportunities to assist with various operations at Perpich including supplementing student dorm fees, activities fees, as well as other student-centered opportunities. Board Chair S. Grans-Korsh asked board members to express their interest to her regarding participating on a board fundraising task force. Questions from R. Doyle were addressed by Finance Committee Chair P. Khosravi and Board Chair S. Grans Korsh.

Member R. Salazar motioned to establish a fundraising task force to explore opportunities and make a recommendation to the full board for approval. Member P. Hustoles provided a second. Member R. Doyle requested a procedural clarification whether a publicly posted agenda item can be changed from Information to Action. K. Morgan will consult with the Attorney General’s office. On a call of the roll with each member voting in favor, no votes against, and one abstention, the motion was approved.

INFORMATION: Executive Director Report – Executive Director A. Smisek provided an update to the board on various topics including strategic planning, draft goals and Perpich staff welcoming visitors to the Perpich Center. Executive Director A. Smisek shared her draft goals and welcomed feedback by email sent directly to her. Comments were provided by Board Chair S. Grans Korsh and M. Haley. Executive Director A. Smisek provided a “shout out” to staff member Toni Beckler.

INFORMATION: Finance Director Report – Finance Director J. Toop provided a detailed report on Perpich Center’s carryforward analysis and construction funding in to FY25-26. Additionally, Perpich’s funding request and rationale were explained. Questions from member S. Grans Korsh and R. Doyle were addressed. Comments were provided by members S. Grans-Korsh, R. Doyle, and N. Laven. Member R. Doyle requested a paragraph from Finance Director J. Toop addressing what the board will learn or talk about during the Finance Director report.

INFORMATION: Professional Development and Resources Update – Dr. Wendy Barden, PDR Director, provided an update on statewide participation in professional development opportunities for the first half of the month of August. Member P. Hustoles encouraged the Government Relations Committee explore ways to provide this information, including anecdotes, to legislators.

INFORMATION: Arts High School Report – Rebecca Bullen, Arts High School Principal, provided an update on the start of a new academic year including implementing an extended orientation program along with additional student supports. Principal R. Bullen also shared some of the student responses to “What is Your Why” (you are attending Perpich Center for Arts Education) and “What are Your Hopes” (as a Perpich student).

Principal R. Bullen responded to questions and comments from members P. Khosravi, S. Finnegan, R. Salazar, and Chair S. Grans Korsh. Member R. Doyle requested enrollment numbers compared from last year to this year including a breakdown by race and other MCA categories. Comments were provided by Board Chair S. Grans Korsh.

ACTION: Board Secretary K. Morgan will place on Board members’ calendars the Perpich Dedication event. All board members are encouraged to attend.

INFORMATION: Board Development Committee – Committee Chair R. Doyle provided an update on the committee’s activities including planning the board retreat, developing the code of conduct and other board policies. In July the initial review of the existing bylaws was completed and Executive Director A. Smisek is currently cross-referencing prior to sending to the full board for a first reading. New Board Member Orientation was reviewed and revised as well as the policy review and approval process. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

INFORMATION: Government Relations Committee: Committee Chair P. Hustoles provided an update regarding committee work to help pair new members. The Government Relations Committee is working to pair new members with their legislators and provide, by September, a “How To” guide that includes information and a script on how Perpich impacts board member’s specific district. Member P. Khosravi provided comments.

INFORMATION: Board Discussion – Member T. Wollenzien reported he will be attending the Americans for the Arts Conference. Board Chair S. Grans Korsh suggested member T. Wollenzien provide a report at the next board meeting. Member M. Haley noted her daughter participated in the Film North Camp.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.