



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 23, 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

Chair S. Grans-Korsh called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. On a call of the roll, members identified as present: M. Haley, S. Grans-Korsh, D. Hastings, P. Hustoles, P. Khosravi (virtual), N. McComb, B. Melville (virtual), E. Orfield-Johnson(virtual), D. Pierre-Toussaint, R. Salazar (virtual), and T. Wollenzien(virtual). A quorum was declared present. S. Sampson (virtual) and D. Moen (virtual) joined the meeting after the initial roll was taken.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda – Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the regular meeting agenda. 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 approval of the Minutes from the Board of Directors Regular Meeting on September 18, 2025. Member P. Hustoles moved to approve the consent agenda. Member M. Haley 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 S. Grans-Korsh welcomed new board member David Hastings and highlighted the insight he brought during orientation regarding federal grant restrictions tied to the presence of DEI programming. Chair S. Grans-Korsh noted this as an important concern for future planning and thanked members for their engagement with the evening’s Finance Deep Dive. An update on fundraising task force work was provided.

INFORMATION / ACTION: Finance Deep Dive – Finance Director J. Toop and Finance Committee Chair P. Khosravi presented the first “Finance Deep Dive,” reviewing FY 2024–25 year-end results, FY 2025–26 status through September 30, and recommendations for the use of carryover and special revenue funds.

Payroll at year-end finished \$10,000 favorable; non-payroll was \$273,900 favorable, resulting in a total carry-in of \$283,883 from FY 24–25 into FY 25–26, along with an additional \$114,159 carried in from FY 23–24. Through September 30, 2025, 16% of the \$8.637 million general fund appropriation had been spent with 25% of the fiscal year elapsed. Projections anticipate a 97% spend and approximately \$289,000 carryover into FY 26–27.

Special Revenue Funds were reviewed: the cafeteria program is expected to generate approximately \$116,000 in reimbursement revenue, and the Dormitory Fund began with a \$113,000 carry-in with projected revenues of \$66,000 and expenses of \$161,536. Breakfast participation increased nearly 70% under the current free meal model.

The Budget and Finance Committee unanimously recommended five actions:

1. Adjust the dorm salary/fringe allocation from 70% to 85% to the general fund (one-time for FY 25–26) to build approximately \$130,000 in the Dorm Special Revenue Fund.
2. Reduce the 2026–27 junior dorm fee from \$4,500 to \$4,050 and hold seniors at \$3,600.
3. Add morning security coverage from 7 a.m.–noon to extend building coverage to 7 a.m.–8 p.m., with an estimated cost of \$104,490 across FY 25–26 and 26–27, and establish an initial \$30,000 security hardware budget.
4. Approve a temporary MNIT-supported technology position through June 30 to address backlog.
5. Approve \$23,510 from carryover funds for facility studies on Arts High School bathrooms and the main accessible entry to support the upcoming asset preservation request.

ACTION: Member P. Khosravi moved to approve the Finance Reports ending September 30, 2025, the five Deep Dive proposals, and the Summary Spend Plan as presented. Member R. Salazar provided a second. On a call of the roll with each member voting in favor and no votes against, the motion was approved.

INFORMATION: Executive Director Report – Executive Director A. Smisek provided updates on strategic plan implementation and shared working definitions for “Thriving” and “Future-Ready.” She highlighted progress on security improvements, staffing transitions, and statewide arts education partnerships.

INFORMATION: Arts High School Report – Principal R. Bullen’s written report was included in the board packet; no verbal report was provided as she was attending a national conference.

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

INFORMATION / ACTION: Government Relations and Board Development Committees –

Government Relations Committee Chair P. Hustoles reviewed the October 1, 2025 committee minutes, legislative advocacy materials, and legislator contact expectations. Members were encouraged to begin outreach and log contacts.

Board Development Committee Director A. Thabet reported that Policy #529 (Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students) received its first reading pending committee approval. The board approved formation of an Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee to support student recruitment and district engagement.

INFORMATION: Board Discussion – Members discussed topics for future topical deep dives and agreed that administration will propose timely topics aligned to staff capacity and organizational needs.

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 7:06 p.m.