



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, December 18, 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 5:10 p.m.

On a call of the roll, members identified as present were: S. Finnegan (virtual), S. Grans-Korsh, M. Haley (virtual), P. Khosravi (virtual), B. Melville (virtual), D. Pierre-Toussaint (virtual), R. Salazar (virtual), S. Sampson (virtual), and T. Wollenzien (virtual). Members D. Hastings, E. Orfield-Johnson, D. Moen, and P. Hustoles were absent. N. Laven, ex-officio member and MDE representative, also present (virtual). A quorum was declared present.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was presented as posted. Member T. Wollenzien moved to approve the regular meeting agenda. Member D. Pierre-Toussaint provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor and no votes against. The motion carried.

ACTION: Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the Approval of the Minutes, Board of Directors Regular Meeting, November 20, 2025, and the Finance Reports ending November 30, 2025. Member T. Wollenzien moved to approve the consent agenda. Member D. Pierre-Toussaint provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor and no votes against. The motion carried.

INFORMATION: Professional Development and Resource Programs Report

Director Dr. Wendy Barden's written report was included in the board packet. No formal verbal report was provided. Board members noted appreciation for the clarity of the report and its alignment with strategic goals and SMART outcomes.

INFORMATION / ACTION: Deep Dive – Perpich Arts High School

Principal Rebecca Bullen provided a comprehensive deep dive focused on the Arts High School's recent recognition as an Art School Network (ASN) Exemplary School, accreditation findings, and the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) Annual Summary (formerly World's Best Workforce).

Principal Bullen shared a video produced by Media Arts Instructor Khalid Ali that was presented at the ASN conference and highlighted the strong response it received. She reviewed the national significance of the Exemplary School designation, emphasizing mission alignment, equity, innovation, and excellence in both arts and academics. She outlined how the ASN recognition was deeply connected to Perpich's accreditation work and CACR data, reflecting students' lived experiences, sense of belonging, and strong student-teacher relationships.

Highlights included:

- Rigorous and well-developed arts pathways aligned with colleges and conservatories
- Strong culture of care, belonging, and student voice
- 100% graduation rate and robust postsecondary planning
- Accreditation affirmations related to instructional practices, learning environments, and student engagement

Principal Bullen also reviewed identified growth areas, including the need for more consistent family communication, expanded stakeholder engagement, aligned instructional practices, and clearer systems for academic supports. She outlined steps underway to address these areas, including enhanced communication systems, family advisory circles, and continued instructional alignment work.

ACTION: Approval of the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR)

Member T. Wollenzien moved to approve the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Annual Summary as presented. Member S. Sampson provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor and no votes against. The motion carried.

INFORMATION: Board Chair Report

Chair Grans-Korsh thanked board members for their engagement and flexibility in attending the meeting virtually due to weather conditions. She expressed appreciation for the Arts High School deep dive and the opportunity to more fully understand the depth and impact of the school's work.

INFORMATION: Executive Director Report

Executive Director Allegra Smisek referenced her written report included in the board packet and provided brief verbal remarks in support of the Arts High School deep dive. She underscored the significance of the Art School Network Exemplary School designation as a national validation of Perpich's mission-driven work and noted its importance for statewide visibility, recruitment, and external storytelling. Executive Director Smisek emphasized the strong alignment between the Arts High School outcomes, accreditation findings, and the agency's broader strategic priorities, including student belonging, equity, and postsecondary readiness. She thanked Principal Bullen and Arts High School staff for their leadership, preparation, and thoughtful presentation, noting the work reflects both excellence and a commitment to continuous improvement.

INFORMATION: Human Resources Committee

Human Resources Committee materials were included in the board packet, including the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes. No additional verbal report was provided at this meeting.

INFORMATION/ ACTION: Government Relations Committee

Government Relations Committee materials were included in the board packet and the draft 2026 Legislative Platform. Chair Grans-Korsh and Executive Director Smisek made comments. Member P. Khosravi moved to approve the 2026 Legislative Platform with recommended changes. Member R. Salazar provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor and no votes against. The motion carried.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ex-officio Member N. Laven shared an MDE update regarding the MN Health Standards. Chair Grans-Korsh shared art-centric photos and reflections from recent travels. Member S. Finnegan shared an update on her Doctoral research on student voice and leadership. Member D. Pierre-Touissant invited members to attend an event his social and art enterprise is hosting. Member P. Khosravi shared his personal artwork. Member M. Haley shared a story about her daughter's literary achievement. Member T. Wollenzien shared the many musical ensemble performances he is participating in over the holiday season. Regarding the Arts High School presentation, noting pride in the recognition and appreciation for the transparent discussion of both strengths and growth areas. Members discussed the importance of leveraging the Exemplary School designation in recruitment and statewide storytelling.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Member T. Wollenzien moved to adjourn the meeting. Member D. Pierre-Touissant provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.