



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, January 15, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
MSBA Leadership Conference
Minneapolis Convention Center
In-person: Room L100J / Virtual: 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
MINUTES - APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER: Chair S. Grans Korsh called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was presented as posted. Chair S. Grans Korsh moved to approve the regular meeting agenda. Member T. Wollenzien 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, December 18, 2025, and the Finance Reports ending December 31, 2025. Chair S. Grans Korsh moved to approve the consent agenda. Member T. Wollenzien 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.

INFORMATION: Perpich Arts High School

Principal Rebecca Bullen's written report was included in the board packet. No formal verbal report was provided.

INFORMATION: Board Chair Report

Chair Grans Korsh shared observations from the MSBA conference, highlighting superintendent evaluation best practices, the importance of board diversity and constructive disagreement with an emphasis on focusing executive evaluations on a limited number of strategic priorities and provided reflections on keynote themes related to leadership, arts, and community impact.

INFORMATION: Executive Director Report

Executive Director Allegra Smisek presented draft 2026 board meeting dates for review, noting consideration given to school calendars, holidays, and educator availability. She proposed to hold the August 2026 retreat earlier in the month and board members were invited to provide feedback directly.

INFORMATION: Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee materials were included in the board packet, including the January 2, 2026 meeting minutes. Committee Chair R. Salazar shared that the committee recommended re-election of current Chair (Grans Korsh) and Vice Chair (Hustoles) based on leadership growth, collaboration, and commitment. Open nominations will be permitted at the February Board of Directors meeting.

INFORMATION: Government Relations Committee

Government Relations Committee materials were included in the board packet, including the January 7, 2026 meeting minutes and the final 2026 Legislative Platform. Committee Chair P. Hustoles' topics included advocacy priorities with legislative leadership; focus on capital improvements and security enhancements and note that committee members can/will engage directly with legislators.

INFORMATION / ACTION: Human Resources Committee

Human Resources Committee materials were included in the board packet, including the January 7, 2026 meeting minutes. Committee Chair, S. Finnegan presented the draft mid-year Executive Director evaluation process for compliance purposes. S. Finnegan moved to approve the executive director mid-year evaluation process. Member D. Hastings provided a second. On a call of the roll, all present members voted in favor and no votes against. The motion carried.

INFORMATION: Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair P. Khosravi shared that the Budget and Finance Committee meets quarterly and needs additional committee members. Budget items continue to be reviewed prior to board consideration.

INFORMATION: Statewide Arts Outreach

Committee Chair T. Wollenzien highlighted professional development and outreach efforts across the state, support for Arts High School recruitment and continued collaboration with staff.

INFORMATION: Board Development Committee

With no designated committee chair, interim leadership, along with the need for additional members has been acknowledged. Bylaws are nearing final review and are expected for approval in February or March, 2026. Development of a concise Board Member Guide is underway.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Board members shared professional updates, arts advocacy, upcoming exhibitions and travel plans. A special note of general reflections and observations were shared regarding ICE occupation in the Twin Cities and solidarity with our immigrant communities.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair S. Grans Korsh adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.