



***** 2019 Annual Meeting *****
10:30 am, Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order & Welcome – President Lee Carlson**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** (ACTION)
- 3. Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes** (ACTION)
- 4. Approval of Recommended 2020 Legislative Platform** (ACTION)
- 5. Election Update for 2020 Board of Directors** (INFORMATION)
 - 5.1. Review of Elections Timeline
 - 5.2. Introduction of Board Candidates
- 6. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members** (INFORMATION)
- 7. 2019 Review & Highlights – Executive Director Fred Nolan** (INFORMATION)
- 8. 2020 Preview – President-Elect Lance Bagstad** (INFORMATION)
- 9. Approval of 2020 Annual Membership Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020** (ACTION)
- 10. Adjournment** (ACTION)



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***** 2018 Annual Meeting *****
10:30 am, Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

MINUTES

ITEM 1. Call to Order & Welcome

President Todd Holthaus called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

ITEM 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Charles Funk, Sebeka Schools; second by Mike Vasek, Fisher Schools. Motion carried.

ITEM 3. Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes by Karen Jacobson, Minnesota River Valley Education District; second by Ken Anderson, Foley Schools. Motion carried.

ITEM 4. Approval of Recommended 2019 Legislative Platform

Motion to approve the 2019 Legislative Platform by Gary Gauldin, Park Rapids Schools; second by Kevin Enerson, Pipestone Schools. Motion carried.

ITEM 5. Update on 2019 Board of Directors Elections

5.1. Review of Elections Timeline

President Holthaus reviewed the nomination and election process. Ballots for the 2019 Board of Directors elections will be mailed the week of November 26 and must be return-postmarked by December 31 to be valid. Each full member receives three ballots for one administrator, one school board, and one teacher vote. Associate members receive one ballot.

5.2. Introduction and Remarks by 2019 Board Candidates

President-Elect Carlson announced candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors. Candidates in attendance each addressed the membership with remarks. Candidates for 2019 are:

North Zone At-Large Representative

- Laurie Bitter, Principal, South Koochiching Rainy River Schools
- Beckie Campbell, Special Education Teacher, Bemidji Schools
- Jim Ferden, School Board Chair, Win-E-Mac Schools
- Carol Rhen, School Board Trustee, Badger Schools

North Central Zone Teacher Representative

- Sarah Bauck, Band Teacher, Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Schools
- Janice Oakley, High School Math Teacher, Pine River-Backus Schools
- Michelle Rinke-Koch, 2nd Grade Teacher, Menahga Schools

South Central Zone School Board Representative

- Maydra Maas, School Board Chair, Westbrook-Walnut Grover Schools

South Zone School Board Representative

- Jim Jensen, School Board Chair, Triton Schools

ITEM 6. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

President Holthaus presented a recognition plaque to outgoing director Scott Vedbraaten, Newfolden, who served ten years from 2009 through 2018. Thanks were also extended to outgoing directors not in attendance: Rick Frederickson, Springfield, Micheal Hamilton, Plainview-Elgin-Millville Schools; Brandon Borich, Princeton Schools (resigned August 2018).

ITEM 7: Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Date

Motion by Jerry Ness, Fergus Falls Schools, to set the 2019 Annual Meeting date for Tuesday, November 19, 2019; second by Dennis Laumeier, Benson Schools. Motion carried.

ITEM 8. Adjournment

Motion by Vince Hinojos, Wadena-Deer Creek Schools, to adjourn the meeting; second by Maydra Maas, Westbrook Walnut Grove Schools. Motion carried. President Holthaus adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

APPROVED

Karen Jacobson
Secretary-Treasurer

Date



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

2020 Legislative Platform

Draft Recommended by MREA Board of Directors

MREA advocates on behalf of about 230 school districts across Greater Minnesota, 30 education districts and additional associate members for providing educational opportunities and closing achievement gaps in Minnesota in these key ways.



Cooperative Facilities

Greater Minnesota school districts rely on cooperatives to help provide specialized instructional programs and facilities for high-need students. They face an unprecedented growth in the numbers of these students and lack both appropriate spaces and the financing tools to give Greater Minnesota access to similar well-designed, appropriate learning spaces available for metro students.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

Provide rural school districts with financing tools that are available to members of the metro Intermediate Districts and increased flexibility with existing revenue streams in SF 1999 and HF 1980.

- Allow Long-Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) to be used to enhance leased facilities from public and private owners
- Provide Greater Minnesota school district members of cooperatives the authority to levy up to \$65 per pupil for cooperative facilities, the same as district members of Metro Intermediates
- Allow districts to form joint powers boards to bond for improvements and new facilities
- Allow districts to use lease levy for cooperative facilities even if they once owned the facility
- Provide state funding through the state's general fund or bonding authority to help cooperatives meet facility needs
- Support cooperative planning among districts with improvements to 123A.485

Teacher Shortages

Teacher shortages continue to grow, especially in rural areas and key subject areas. Six rural Economic Development Regions had the greatest percentage of teacher shortages, according to the 2019 Minnesota Teacher Supply and Demand Report. This led to increases in special teaching permissions and assignments out of compliance, with the highest percentages in the rural corners of the state.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Provide support for Regional Grow-Your-Own (GYO) program development
- Increase funding for student teacher stipends
- Increase funding for teacher loan forgiveness
- Allow short-call sub license eligibility to include persons with an AA degree

Funding Student Needs

As state basic education funding continues to lag inflation, school districts have increasingly relied on voters for operating referendum revenue to fill the gap, which has grown to \$661 since 2003. Referendums have passed at a higher rate for metro districts than those in Greater Minnesota.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Index the Tier II equalization factor to 85% of average RMV/RPU to equalize tax burdens in 225 mainly rural school districts
- Index the Tier I equalization factor to 125% of average RMV/RPU to equalize tax burdens in 281 districts
- Improve equalization of categorical aid formulas, including but not limited to: Safe Schools, Achievement and Integration, Operating Capital
- Provide a community viability option for districts below 1,000 APU by removing their referendum cap

Healthy and Safe Schools & Youth

Mental health needs, the dramatic increase in youth vaping and other chemical health issues are negatively impacting youth. These need to be addressed to create safe educational environments.

More Minnesota students than ever report having long-term mental health, behavioral or emotional problems. Eleventh-grade female students who report having long-term mental health, behavioral or emotional problems has more than doubled from 2013 to 2019 and 24 percent report missing a full or partial day of school in the last 30 days because they felt very sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed or angry.

The tobacco and vape industry aggressively markets to youth and young adults. Almost 95 percent of addicted adult smokers start before age 21 and youth tobacco use is rising in Minnesota for the first time in 17 years, according to Clearway Minnesota.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Increase funding for school linked mental health and innovative mental health grants
- Raise the legal age to purchase all tobacco products and devices to 21 and require age ID for every purchase and delivery of tobacco products

