



***** 2022 Annual Member Meeting *****

5:00 pm | Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Online via GoToMeeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Welcome – President Matt Schultz
2. Approval of Agenda – President Schultz (ACTION)
3. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes – President Schultz (ACTION)
4. 2022 Review & Highlights – Executive Director Bob Indihar (INFORMATION)
5. 2023 Board Elections – President Schultz (INFORMATION)
6. Approval of Recommended 2023 Legislative Platform – President Schultz (ACTION)
7. Board Recognition – President Schultz (INFORMATION)
8. Adjournment – President Schultz (ACTION)



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*** 2021 Annual Member Meeting ***

5:00 pm | Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Online via GoToMeeting

MINUTES

Call to Order & Welcome

President Karen Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek, to approve the meeting agenda; second by Jeff Drake, Fergus Falls. Motion carried.

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dennis Laumeyer, Benson, to approve minutes of the 2020 Annual Member Meeting; second by Maydra Maas, Westbrook-Walnut Grove. Motion carried.

2021 Annual Review & Highlights

Executive Director Bob Indihar reviewed highlights from calendar year 2021, including the continuation of online meetings to allow more member participation statewide, returning the 2021 annual conference to an in-person format, and contracting with Mindful Marketing for communication services. University education majors were invited to attend the conference this year in a special workshop track, with 12 students attending.

Membership growth continued to be strong, with 231 district members total including new district members Central, St. Peter, Willow River, Chisholm, and Mountain Iron-Buhl.

MREA continued to be financially healthy due to robust membership renewals, strong conference attendance, and reduced travel and meeting expenses.

In 2022 MREA will adopt a new strategic plan, expand its conference workshop track for future educators, and expand its partnership with EmpowerU to provide educator self-care training to assist students with developing resilience and confidence.

2022 Board Elections & Candidates

President Jacobson thanked the MREA team and the Board for a successful year.



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Member elections for 2022 Board vacancies were starting soon with ballots due December 31. Candidates attending the meeting introduced themselves and shared how they could help the Board advance MREA's mission.

Approval of Recommended 2022 Legislative Platform

Members reviewed a legislative platform for 2022 recommended by the Board, featuring school facilities and support for education innovation at the local level.

Motion by Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek, to approve the recommended 2022 legislative platform; second by David Marty, Grand Rapids. Motion carried.

Board Recognition

President Jacobson thanked outgoing directors Kelly Berg, East Grand Forks; Abby Geotz, Crosby-Ironton; and Tim Lutz, Bemidji, for their service ending December 31. Directors Joe Cerar, Plainview-Elgin-Millville; Pollyann Sorcan, Rock Ridge; and Melissa Sparks, MACCRAY, resigned from their director positions mid-year.

Adjournment

Motion by Kelly Berg, East Grand Forks, to adjourn the meeting; second by Dennis Laumeyer, Benson. Motion carried.

President Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm.

APPROVAL PENDING

_____ 11/30/2022
Michelle Rinke Koch Date



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Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MREA advocates on behalf of about 235 school districts, 30 education districts and additional associate members across Greater Minnesota to provide educational opportunities and close achievement gaps in Minnesota in these key ways.

Draft Platform Recommended by MREA Board of Directors



PUBLIC EDUCATION REVENUE TO SUPPORT EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Minnesota public schools are struggling to attract and retain the staff needed to meet growing student needs. State aid for public education is not keeping up with inflationary pressures. The current funding model leads school districts to rely heavily on property taxpayer support. This creates major disparities in educational opportunities across the state. MREA is advocating for a significant portion of the state's record budget surplus to be invested in Minnesota's public schools.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF

- Increase the basic formula allowance by 5% annually for fiscal years 2024-25.
- Implement a 40% special education cross-subsidy reduction aid program.
- Improve TRA and Health Insurance benefits by reducing employee contributions with targeted state aid.
- Fund targeted staff development and career pathway initiatives.
- Improve funding for student mental health support.
- Create revenue guarantees to ensure small schools and cooperative educational systems can generate meaningful revenue for categorical programs, such as safe schools.

IMPROVE SCHOOL FACILITIES

There is a significant funding gap between school districts that receive Long Term Facility Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) and the "Alternative Facility" districts. The Ag2School bond credit has been critical for local school facility support, and additional state legislative action is needed to address rural school facility needs, specifically:

- Improve Long Term Facility Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) by allowing more items in the Health & Safety program including boilers, roofs, sidewalks, parking lot improvements and by increasing the LTFMR funding cap.
- Provide equal access to the \$65/pupil intermediate lease levy for rural education cooperatives.

SUPPORT LOCAL CONTROL AND INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS

- Oppose unfunded state mandates and "one-size-fits-all" approaches to education policy.
- Allow school boards to renew operating levies previously approved through voter referenda.
- Allow school boards to fill a school board vacancy without a general election.