



*Approved April 23, 2021*

## **Education Minnesota Governing Board Virtual (Zoom) Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2021**

**Members present:** Amy Aho, Jamie Alsleben, Todd Andrix, Shelli Arneson, Heather Bakke, Megan Bartel, Jerry Bellefeuille, Bernie Burnham, Monica Byron, Greta Callahan, Joe Cerar, Annette Davis, Michelle Dennard, Geneva Dorsey, Wendy Drugge-Wuenssch, Nick Faber, Michelle Farnum, Ryan Fierrick, Marty Fridgen, Jodi Hansen, Jana Hedlund, Al Helgerson, Jessie Holm, Valerie Holthus, Linda Howe-Wensel, Julie Jagusch, Cindy Kluempke, Tammy Knapper, Joan Lancour, Maureen Morrow, Yasmin Muridi, Ellen Olsen, Bety Rios-Christensen, Judy Rohde, Tammy Roth, Rodney Rowe, Scott Schaefer, Kate Schmidt, Ben Schwanke, Marty Scofield, Rob Simonich, Jared Simpson, Denise Specht, Mark Swenson, Stacey Vanderport, Matthew Wilmes, Kelly Wilson

**Members absent:** Ryan Roseen

**Staff present:** David Aron, Lisa Enwright, Rob Gardner, Sara Gjerdrum, Allison LaBree, Carrie Lucking, Shelley MacDonald, Kathi Micheletti, Bridget Moore, Shane Patrick, Dan Rivera, Mike Roehl

**Guests:** Anna Anderson, Harington, Langer & Associates

### **PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

**Call to order:** President Denise Specht called the meeting of the Education Minnesota Governing Board to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Roll call:** Recorded by Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Rowe as noted above.

**M-1 Moved, using unanimous consent, without objection, to approve the agenda as presented with flexibility.**

**Consent agenda:**

**M-2 Moved, using unanimous consent, without objection, to approve the following items on the consent agenda as presented:**

- Minutes of December 12, 2020 Virtual Governing Board Meeting
- NEA RA State-Credentialed Delegate Certification
- Certify New Local: Lake City Paraprofessionals
- Certify New Local: Education Minnesota – Ada Borup Paraprofessional Association

**Vice President's report:** Vice President Burnham presented the Organizing for Settlement action items.

**M-3 Bernie Burnham moved, with a second from Joe Cerar, to approve the Organizing for Settlement Fund items as presented:**

### **Loans**

1. Approval of a loan in the amount of \$41,200.00 to St. Croix Education Association for unusual negotiation expenses.

2. **Approval of a loan in the amount of \$18,984.39 to Chatfield Education Association for unusual negotiation expenses.**

#### **Grants**

1. **Approval of a grant in the amount of \$10,290.71 (80% of \$12,863.39 allowable expenses) to Albert Lea Education Association for unusual negotiation expenses.**
2. **Approval of a grant in the amount of \$29,613.03 (80% of \$37,016.29 allowable expenses) to United Teachers of South Washington County for unusual negotiation expenses.**
3. **Approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,477.18 (80% of \$6,846.48 allowable expenses) to Education Minnesota - Aitkin for unusual negotiation expenses.**
4. **Approval of a grant in the amount of \$2,161.87 (80% of \$2,702.34 allowable expenses) to East Central United Educators for unusual negotiation expenses.**
5. **Approval of a grant in the amount of \$1,892.18 (80% of \$2,365.22 allowable expenses) to Education Minnesota Zumbrota-Mazeppa ESPs for unusual negotiation expenses.**

**Motion carried.**

**One abstention: Marty Fridgen**

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Rowe reported on the following (full report on file):

- Anna Anderson of Harrington, Langer & Associates presented the Education Minnesota audit and management letter:
  - Unmodified, clean audit opinion.
  - Overall assets increased slightly, liabilities also increased.
  - Unsure if there would be long-term impact to the organization due to COVID-19.

**M-4 Moved by Wendy Drugge, with a second from Michelle Dennard, using unanimous consent, without objection to receive and file the Education Minnesota audit and management letter dated August 31, 2020.**

**Recess:** At 9:36 a.m. the board recessed and reconvened as the Education Minnesota Properties Board.

***Education Minnesota Properties convened 9:36 a.m.***

**Properties Audit:** Anna Anderson from Harrington, Langer & Associates presented the Education Minnesota Properties, Inc. audit and management letter. Key points included:

- Unmodified, clean audit opinion.
- Net assets increased slightly from the previous year.
- Liabilities decreased, mainly due to timing issues.
- Unsure if there would be long-term impact to the organization due to COVID-19.

**M-1 Moved by Wendy Drugge, with an audit committee second, using unanimous consent, without objection to receive and file the Education Minnesota Properties, Inc. audit and management letter dated August 31, 2020.**

*Education Minnesota Properties adjourned at 9:42 a.m.*

**Reconvene:** The meeting of the Education Minnesota Governing Board was reconvened by President Denise Specht at 9:42 a.m.

### **Unfinished Business**

**M-5 Moved using unanimous consent, without objection, into executive session at 9:45 a.m.**

**M-6 Moved using unanimous consent, without objection, to rise from executive session at 12:11 p.m.**

**Goal Updates:**

**Union of Strong Unions:**

**EPIC Report: Disrupted Learning, COVID-19 and Public Education in Minnesota:** Allison LaBree, provided a brief report on the new EPIC report. Key points included:

- Education as we know it is over, and we must think of “school” in deeply different ways.
- COVID is not the cause of inequities but illuminates the problems we always knew existed.
- It is not all about COVID; collective trauma experienced
- Research compared to “summer slide” and learning loss in times of collective trauma
- Recommendations:
  - Fund extra time programs
  - Support equitable, restorative and transformative returns to schools
  - Do no harm approach to student assessments
  - Encourage districts to prepare for future disruptions
  - Close the digital divide
  - Reimagine public education

**Extended Learning:** President Specht reported that Education and MDE will be meeting to present our best thinking on extended learning options. Governing Board members, Council of Local Presidents and interested members met to discuss this topic. We are creating an outward facing document to present to the Department of Ed and an internal document to share with leaders and bargaining teams to help at the local level to direct the additional dollars at the bargaining table.

**Hoekman:** General Counsel David Aron reported on the *Hoekman* lawsuit.

- February 12, 2021 decision by Judge Susan Nelson
- Granted union’s motion to dismiss in its entirety based on “good faith defense”
  - Not liable for fees or dues collected before *Janus* because they relied on presumably valid law and took all reasonable steps to comply with *Janus*
- Upheld our revocation window
- Plaintiffs have appealed to 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit; if 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit affirms, it will likely be the end of the case – unlikely to go to the Supreme Court.

### **New Business:**

**Proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments:** Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Rowe presented the proposed amendments on behalf of the committee and was in attendance while the Constitution and Bylaws committee reviewed the proposals.

**M-7 Moved by, Joe Cerar, seconded by Kate Schmidt, to take a position of support for proposed Bylaw Amendment 1.**

**37 Yes            1 No            1 Abstain**  
**Motion carried.**

**M-8 Moved by Marty Fridgen, seconded by Ryan Fiereck, to take a position of support for proposed Bylaw Amendment 2.**

**37 Yes            0 No            0 Abstain**  
**Motion carried.**

### **Open Forum:**

**Denise Specht:** Bargaining between Ed MN and staff unions will occur this spring. Looking for a governing board member, especially an ESP, to be on the USM management bargaining team. Please reach out to Joe Cerar or Sara Gjerdrum if you have questions about the bargaining process. RC delegate information is coming soon. April 23 governing board meeting time TBD, likely after school time.

**Marty Fridgen:** NEA360 contains the NEA Directors Report – it includes a link to the NEA RA, and a link to NEA Budget Committee. The NEA Budget Committee now includes President Specht.

**Shelli Arneson:** Kevin Lindstrom running for TRA. TRA forum coming up. David will get back to Shelli about distributing more information on candidates behalf.

**Rodney Rowe:** On Tues, March 2nd, you can hear from the TRA candidates via a Zoom meet and greet. The 4-year position candidate forum will be 4:30-4:55 pm. The 2-year candidate forum will be 5-5:25 pm. Three active members for two four year positions. Three active members for one two year position. Only 6-7% of membership usually vote in the TRA elections, please help push this out within your local. Ballots will begin arriving mid-March, votes must be in by April 23.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.