

Organizational Governance

BRIGHTWORKS, A NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1976 BY THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE COST-EFFECTIVE, HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION-BASED PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS OTHER NONPROFITS IN THE SEVEN COUNTY TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN REGION. THE ORGANIZATION IS GOVERNED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY & AN EXECUTIVE BOARD.

rev 5/2025

THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Representative Assembly (RA) consists of one current School Board member from each member school district who has been appointed by their Board to the Assembly. As a unit, the Representative Assembly is the governing body of BrightWorks and regulated by laws applicable to independent school districts in Minnesota.

DUTIES AND POWERS:

- Serve as liaison from their district to BrightWorks.
- Elect an Executive Board to oversee the workings of the organization. **
- Grant final approval to the annual budget. **
- Grant final approval to Bylaw changes. **
- Meet once each year (See Annual Meeting).

**Sent by email to each representative Assembly member.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: An Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. Representative Assembly members are invited to attend; attendance is not mandatory.

MEMBER REPRESENTATION:

School district representation (member and non-member) is created on a geographic basis with seats allocated as follows:

Electoral District 1 (Anoka-Hennepin, Mahtomedi, St. Francis, White Bear Lake)

Electoral District 2 (Columbia Heights, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony-New Brighton, St. Louis Park)

Electoral District 3 (Edina, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Richfield, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, South Washington County)

Electoral District 4 (Eastern Carver County, Eden Prairie, Jordan, Orono, Shakopee, Waconia, Wayzata, Westonka)



THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board consists of eight Representative Assembly members who have been elected to serve by their peers from other member school districts in their Electoral District. Two appointed member district administrators and up to three appointed citizen representatives also serve.

DUTIES AND POWERS:

- Approve expenditures within the approved budget.
- Review the annual budget for final approval by the Representative Assembly.
- Review recommended Bylaw changes for final approval by the Representative Assembly.
- Approve or review contracts, when required.
- Ensure adequate facilities and equipment are in place.
- Identify and provide mechanisms for inter-agency liaison and for multidistrict cooperation.
- Provide support to the Executive Director and oversee performance reviews.
- Select and/or appoint an Executive Director when a vacancy occurs.

TERMS OF OFFICE: Members serve two consecutive three-year terms with an option to continue, pending review.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Third Wednesday in August, October, January, April and June. Changes, however, may occur.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

- Carol Bomben—Community Representative
- Paula Cole—Representative Assembly member, Richfield
- Andrea Cuene—Community Representative
- Kacy Deschene—Representative Assembly member, Anoka-Hennepin School Board, representing Electoral District 1
- Jessica Ellison—Representative Assembly member, White Bear Lake School Board, representing Electoral District 1
- Karen Gabler—Representative Assembly member, Edina School Board, representing Electoral District 3
- Bill Harvey (Chair)—Community Representative
- Sarah Johansen—Representative Assembly member, Wayzata School Board, representing Electoral District 4
- Laura Oksnevad—Representative Assembly member, St. Anthony-New Brighton
- Deborah Pauly—Representative Assembly member, Jordan School Board, representing Electoral District 4