

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 8, 2025 3:15 PM

Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Meeting Minutes Review**
3. **Board Retreat Agenda**
4. **Strategic Plan**
5. **Adjourn**



## Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting Minnesota State Academies Board

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A Executive Committee Meeting of the Minnesota State Academies Board was held Tuesday, June 10, 2025, beginning at 3:00 PM in the Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021.

**Present:** Chair Annette Freiheit, Vice Chair Sara Pratt, Officer of Business Affairs Katie Wangberg, Superintendent Terry Wilding.

**Guest:** Heather Smisek, MSA Human Resources Director.

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Freiheit called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

### 2. Meeting Minutes Review

No changes.

### 3. MSA Organizational Structure

Superintendent Wilding requested input from the Executive Committee regarding the organizational structure of the MSAD instructional program. One of the co-directors has accepted an opportunity outside of MSA, and his position will become vacant. Supt. Wilding provided two possible options:

1. Maintain the co-director structure, with one focused on supervising teachers and the other on student support; or
2. Shift to a single principal model similar to the MSAB structure (a director/principal at the top, with an assistant principal and paraprofessional supervisor underneath).

The committee expressed concerns about overlapping and integrated duties under the current model, which does not appear to be effective. A single director at the top would provide clearer leadership, and parents would have a clear point of contact. Katie asked what the leadership structure looks like at other schools for the deaf. It varies based on school size and operational needs. Regarding licensure: principals and assistant principals must hold administrative licensure; paraprofessional supervisors do not, since they do not supervise licensed staff.

The legislature recently passed the budget, so finances are currently under review. It is unlikely the school could support more than one assistant principal to oversee each department (ECE–5th, 6–12, etc.).

The Executive Committee strongly supported a model with one director/principal overseeing the instructional program, with support staff underneath. This would support accountability and improve oversight. The MSAD paraprofessionals have been advocating for their own supervisor for several years.

Supt. Wilding will bring the single-director model forward to MMB and the ILT, with hopes to post the position soon.

The committee also discussed the Curriculum and Educational Programs Director position. Supt. Wilding recommended keeping this position as is, given the increased oversight responsibilities (Online Academy, Outreach Department, Day Treatment, Curriculum/school accountability, professional development, etc.).

#### **4. Board Retreat**

The committee suggested hosting the retreat during the MSAB homecoming festivities. They agreed to keep the length to 1 ½ days, preferably on a Thursday and Friday. They would like opportunities to interact with students and staff, possibly through a joint meeting with both Site Councils, and student body government/council organizations. This would serve as a kick off to our strategic plan process.

#### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

## **Proposed 2025 Board Retreat Agenda**

### **Wednesday, October 1**

4:00 pm – check in lodgings (if needed)

### **Thursday, October 2**

8:00 – 8:30 AM – MSAD Wilkins Educational Center: check in, continental breakfast, introductions

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Board Training

12:30 – 1:00 PM – Catered Lunch - Wilkins Activities Center

1:00 – 2:00 PM – MSAD Showcase

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Joint Site Council - School Goals/Strategic Planning with Dr. Dave Webb

4:00 – 5:00 PM - Team Building Activities

5:15 PM – Return to hotel, free time

### **Friday, October 3**

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM – MSAB Board Conference Room: Check in, continental breakfast

8:00 – 9:30 AM – Board Training

9:30 – 10:00 AM - Break

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Board Training/Work Session

12:00 – 1:00 PM – Lunch (catered ), FACs Classroom/Location TBD

1:00 – 2:00 PM – MSAB Showcase

2:00 PM – Wrap up, depart MSA