

## **MSAB Site Council**

Thursday, March 5, 2026 2:00 PM

Electronic Means, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

3. **Reports**

3.A. Superintendent's Report

3.B. MSAB Director

3.C. MSA Special Education Director

3.D. MSA Director of Curriculum

3.E. MSA Director of Community Engagement

3.F. Board Representative From MSAB Site Council

3.G. Student Body Government

3.H. Site Council Chair

4. **Old Business**

5. **New Business**

6. **Announcements**

7. **Adjournment**

## **MSAB Site Council Meeting Draft Minutes**

The meeting of the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Site Council was held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

### **Member Attendance (Present):**

Harold Weber, Zena Anderson, Madeline Christensen, Sheila Koenig, Katie Davidson, Stephanie Franek.

**Ex Officio Members (Present):** Terry Wilding, John Davis, Lee Jones, Nichelle Steffen, Brittany Thomforde

**Welcome and Roll Call** – Everyone was welcomed to the MSAB Site Council Meeting. Harry opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

### **1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Madeline Christensen, seconded by Harold Weber, to approve the February 5, 2026, MSAB Site Council meeting minutes. Motion was carried with all in favor.

### **2. Reports**

#### **A. Superintendent Report**

- We have started working on our 3-year strategic plan. A survey was sent out; once information is gathered, we will have a review team review the feedback of the input and try to condense it down into 3-4 goal areas. Will be brought back to the Site Council for review.
- Calendar survey has been sent out. Option #1 was selected. Once approved by the Board, the 2026-2027 school calendar will be sent out
- This week we have sent out the annual staff climate survey, which will help us with the accreditation process, as well as strategic plan and improving the school in different ways.
- Visiting with each department on each campus. Looking at different ways that we can get better as a school.
- The Legislative session will be starting soon. Will be testifying about our bonding proposals, which will be happening with the Senate on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We had four proposals; however, the Governor did not select all four. That leaves us with the following three as part of his recommendation for the budget:
  - Predesign money for a student center at MSAD
  - Replace pool at MSAB
  - Asset preservation, keeping up our grounds and buildings

The fourth proposal that the Governor did not include was the blind school library, which the Senate and House could decide to add.

- We did receive an application for a parent representative. We should have full membership here on the MSAB Site Council

B. MSAD Director Report

- Amy Boyle has been hosting a weekly Book Club. Good student involvement.
- On February 17, we will have literacy night at 6 pm. Information has been shared.
- Wrestling meet coming up next week in Kansas. This will be taking place of the meet that was cancelled due to weather.
- State testing will be starting in April. Will also have ACT testing in early April.
- Our new parent representative will be starting in April. This individual has also shown interest in serving on our strategic plan group.
- New student starts soon. Several prospective student tours have been scheduled.

C. MSA Community Engagement

- Winter program was a success. Content was posted on social media.
- During winter break, my biggest project was setting up a community newsletter.
- Started cleaning up the MSA athletic website. The content will be a stand-alone page, ILT wanted athletics and activities included on one page.
- Will begin working on the Outreach portion, which we currently do not have any content for. Following that, I will start working on school departments. Continue to work on the website, making sure we have new fresh content.
- Charting's the C's conference coming up, will be going to more booths frequently.

D. Site Council Board Representative

No report given.

E. Student Body Government

- Wrestling trip to Kansas next week.
- Student Council has started planning for prom.

F. Special Education Director

- We continue with programming, teaming and collaborating. This year's theme is trying to help our teams collaborate on goals and objectives. Seeing great results via the progress reports.
- Currently we have a few job openings in my department. Excited to see the applicant pool when those positions close.

G. Dorm Report

- Met with SPG, along with Maddie, we have been collecting student input on prom.
- An ECA staff position for staff has been sent out to support that process.

H. Site Council Chair

- Had our teacher meeting with Terry, followed by strategic planning as a group.
- Will be chaperoning for the wrestling trip next week.
- This year, we are having a bowling league. Approximately 12 students are interested.

3. Old Business

None.

4. New Business

- Dorm project – Our architect has completed the predesign at the blind school. The deaf school dorm is more complicated. Our goal is still to start construction this summer.
- The deaf school site council will be setting up a small subcommittee that will be focused on taking a look at our sports program. Would the blind school like to do the something? It was suggested that Charlie Lechtenberg be part of that discussion next month.

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by Madeline Christensen, seconded by Katie Davidson, to adjourn The MSAB Site Council meeting. The motion was carried with all in favor.

**The next Site Council Meeting will be on March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.**

## MSAB Site Council Report

1. Student Numbers
  - a. Current: 48
  - b. 4 possible new students so far for next year.
2. Upcoming events
  - a. Cognia accreditation visit is April 28, 2026.
  - b. 2026 Extended School Year Program
    - i. July 13 – July 30, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
    - ii. ESY will be on campus.
  - c. Literacy Night – March 18<sup>th</sup>
    - i. This will be held virtually.
  - d. Artist in Residency – April 13 – 17, The student will be making clay, pinch pots.
  - e. Spring Mixed Precipitation Group working with middle and high school students during the months of March and April. They will be creating an audio drama that will be posted to our website.
  - f. Short-term programs
    - i. March 9 - 11: Focus is on work skills and done in conjunction with SSB.
    - ii. April 13 – 15: Focus is on technology/assistive technology.
  - g. Triathlon – May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - h. MSAB Family Learning Day – June 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Programs on Campus
  - a. Spring Program – Choir and Rock Band concert (April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm)
  - b. Drama – “Character Matters” (April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am)



# MINNESOTA STATE ACADEMIES FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault MN 55021 (507) 384-6600 [www.msa.state.mn.us](http://www.msa.state.mn.us)

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## Board Report – March 2026

Department of Curriculum & Educational Programs

Justin Cyboron, Director

**Outreach** - We have 7-8 students registered for our short course programming this month for BVI students. MSA has partnered with State Services for the Blind to provide programming related to career exploration. Since our last Board Report, Outreach has also taken an active role in opening up Literacy Night for non-MSA BVI students. These are presented in a virtual format. We have another BVI Literacy Night coming up in March.

This spring we will be searching for a new Outreach Specialist after one of our staff moved with her family out of state. We are hoping to replace her before school starts in the fall. Other staff have been jumping in to cover her responsibilities along with contracting out for a few tasks. On the MSAD campus, we have continued providing in-person ASL Literacy Night events. We have seen a smaller turn out in the winter months compared to the numbers we had in the spring. We are continuing to provide Family ASL courses with about 50-60 families in regular attendance. MSA staff are continuing to provide direct DHH services to a few students from Pine Island and Faribault Public Schools. Lastly, Outreach has begun its second semester of the MSAD Online Academy.

**Minnesota Resource Library** - Since our November Board Report, the Minnesota Resource Library has shared 961 items between Deaf and Blind patrons. Some of these items are annual renewals for assistive technology. In the past month, 355 items have been shared or renewed.

**School Accountability** - Since November, the School Accountability Committee has developed a new 5-year Curriculum Purchasing Cycle. The committee has also begun work on creating a course catalog for both campuses. This includes cleaning up our course offerings, making sure that the courses align with the state MCCC system, and designing a procedure for faculty to request a new course.

**Professional Development** - The professional development trainings that MSA staff have attended since the beginning of November are attached in Appendix A. On-campus trainings provided to staff have included CPR, CPI, Mental Health, and an Introduction to MTSS. We also have 4 faculty members from the Blind campus (Kristin Deml, Stacy Akemann, Harry Weber, Amy Boyle) that will be taking Phase 1 of the required READ Act training within the next few months. Additional teachers will be required to take Phase 2 training next school year. The DHH READ Act Work Group is developing a separate READ Act training for Teachers of the Deaf across the state. Once it is complete, some of our teachers at the Deaf campus will take that training.

**Accreditation** - The instructional administrators have been meeting the past few months to complete some of the analyses required for Cognia Accreditation. We are close to the end. John Davis and Justin Cyboron have been working on entering the information into Cognia's system and making the necessary arrangements for our site visit at the end of April.

**Statewide Connections** - On behalf of the Outreach Department and along with our work in curriculum, our department is represented at the state level through various committees and work groups – DHH READ Act Work Group, Minnesota K-12 Online Learning Alliance, MCDHH Collaborative Experiences Subcommittees, Math Leaders Network, ELA Leaders Network, Science Leaders Network, Art Leaders Network, Social Studies Leaders Network, Statewide Curriculum Leaders Meeting, Statewide Vision Network, Statewide DHH Community of Practice, Region 10 DHH Community of Practice, Region 10 BVI Community of Practice, and Region 10 Assistive Technology Community of Practice.

We will also be connecting with a variety of families and professionals over the next couple of months. We are currently set to run booths at the Deaf Culture, Language, and Careers (DCLC) event; Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) spring conference; Charting the Cs special education conference for families and professionals; and will be working to support the national Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) held in Minnesota this spring. Attending these events are vital in developing relationships with school districts and families across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Cyboron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Cyboron  
Director of Curriculum & Educational Programs

## **Appendix A**

Julie Langeslag - Minnesota School Based OT/PT Conference

Kristin Deml - Getting in Touch with Literacy

Charlie Lechtenberg - NCASB Athletic Directors Meetings

Heather Breitbach - OCALICON Autism & Disabilities Conference

Kim Barron, Jessica Rademacher, Donna Hanson - Artificial Intelligence for Administrative Assistants

Julie Langeslag - Documentation Life Preserver: OT/PT Workshop on Coverage for Mobility Products

Kelsey Kirkpatrick - Southern MN Speech and Language Institute

Kathy Hamlin - Wellbeing Reset Retreat

Russell Pudas, Jenene Johnson - Cultural Competency in Action

Amy Boyle - MDE DeafBlind Representatives Best Practices

Kelsey Kirkpatrick - GLP and AAC: Rethinking AAC Intervention

Kim Viskocil - 2026 MN School Health Services Annual Conference