

General Membership Meeting Notes  
**SCHOOLS FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION**  
Thursday, September 19, 2013  
Four Points Sheraton in Minneapolis

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Bystrom at 9:30am.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The following people were present:

**Albany** –Scott Hanson, Steve Dooley, **Albert Lea** – Bill Leland, **Anoka-Hennepin** – Bill Harvey, Dennis Carlson, **Austin** - Richard Lees, David Krenz, **Belle Plaine** – Kelly Smith, **Big Lake** – Jon Miller, **Braham**-Greg Winter, Steve Eklund, Max Eng, **Brainerd** – Bob Nystrom, Steve Razidlo, **Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose** – Scott Thielman, Laurie Raymond, **Cambridge Isanti** – Ray Queener, **Centennial** – Dan Huffman, Suzy Guthmueller, **Chisago Lakes** –Tom Lawlor, Jerry, Vitalis, Lori Berg, Joe Thimm, **Dassel-Cokato** –Jeff Powers, Richard Tormanen, **Delano** – Carolyn Milano, Harlan Lewis, **East Central** – Andy Almos, Jeannette Kester, Pete Brown, **Faribault** – Todd Sesker, **Forest Lake** – Kathy Bystrom, Linda Madsen, Ross Bennett, **Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted**- Brad Sellner, **Kimball** - John K. Tritabaugh, Tim Zipoy, **Maple Lake** –Mark Redemske, **Monticello** – Jim Johnson, **Mora** – Craig Schultz, **New London Spicer** - David Kilpatrick, Paul Carlson, **Northfield** - Chris Richardson, Anne Maple, **North Brach** – Tim MacMillan, Deb Henton, **Owatonna** – Willie Giga, Pete Grant, Tom Sager Tom Sager, **Paynesville Area** – Bob Huot, **Pine City** - Wayne Gilman, Tim Geisler, **Princeton** – Chuck Nagle, Julia Espe, **Prior Lake- Savage** – Sue Ann Gruver, Stacy Ruelle, **Rockford** – Todd Anderson, Paul Durand, **Rocori** –Scott Staska, **Rosemount Apple-Valley-Eagan** –Joel Albright, **Royalton** – Jon Ellerbusch, Dale Lenz, **Rush City** – Vern Koepp, **St. Francis** – Amy Kelly, Ed Saxton, **Stillwater** – Mike Ptacek, Kristen Hoheisel, Natasha Fleischman, Corey Lunn, **Waconia** – Cathy Thom, Nancy Rajanen.

Deb Griffiths – SEE

Dick Berge – SEE

Brad Lundell - SEE

**III. PROGRAM**

Brad Lundell introduced Tom Berg who served in the MN House of Representatives from 1971-1978. He is the author of Minnesota’s Miracle: Learning from a Government that Worked.

Tom discussed funding levels and what is fair about funding. He emphasized how critical funding is to education.

The MN Miracle occurred in 1971. Tom provided a brief history of notable events that changed how states govern and how the MN Miracle came about. There was a culture of understanding then that education is important and lawmakers worked hard to fix funding.

The time of 1968 to 1978 was an exciting time of reform and transformative legislation. Tom talked about dysfunctional and functional government, the media and what we should do moving forward. We were advised to move on with it, elect thoughtful people and were told leadership matters.

Tom fielded a question from the floor about what characteristics he observed from the great leaders he had worked with. Tom said people have to work with one another, reach across the aisle and speak to those you don’t know well. He boiled it down to personal interaction. Another question came from the

floor about his observations of current legislatures. He remarked that he was impressed with the young legislators recently elected. Another question came about Wendell Anderson and why he was appointed to the senate. Tom stated in retrospect it was a mistake. Final questions came about how we can deal with bi-partisanship. Tom said you have to work with people and that if that is not possible use the election process to bring people to office that will focus on promoting the general welfare.

**IV. AGENDA**

Review completed by President Bystrom. Motion and second to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote to approve.

**V. MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 23 General Membership Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously on a motion and a second from the floor.

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Tom Sager reviewed the balance sheet and shared that SEE is well positioned moving into the future. Expenditures are on target. Report approved unanimously on a motion and a second from the floor.

**VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

The July 2013 meeting was reviewed. Tom Sager and Deb Henton were re-elected to their positions of treasurer and secretary. Cathy Thom approved as president-elect. A sub-committee was formed to review the membership fee structure. Joel Albright will lead that committee and questions may be directed to him. MMKR was approved to conduct an audit. The calendar was approved and employee contracts were approved. Goals were set for the year.

**VIII. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Nancy Rajanen shared the draft legislative platform. She urged all members to attend regional meetings to provide feedback on the draft. Nancy advocated that we all put dates on our calendar to visit the capitol as we have a great impact.

**IX. ALLIANCE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**

Chris Richardson reported the Alliance is rejuvenated by recent legislation. The Alliance is looking at developing a common platform among statewide organizations.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT**

Deb shared the dates for the 2013-14 SEE General Membership meetings and the Regional meetings.

Deb will conduct a workshop in January and/or February to help teach people about how the legislature works and the ins and outs of school funding. She is eager to continue her visits to school districts and to meet with groups.

**XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brad updated the membership on current topics being discussed that may move forward into this upcoming session. Brad is very optimistic.

Brad talked about bullying legislation, equity in funding, testing, and the emphasis on college and career readiness.

**XII. GUEST SPEAKER**

Brad introduced education commissioner Dr. Brenda Cassellius. She credited changes in legislation to broad support of bi-partisan groups.

Dr. Cassellius noted that we are just now at 2003 funding levels. Pre-K is now a critical investment. She encouraged us to do more with Head Start and commended those who have moved forward with all day kindergarten and those who are planning to implement next year.

Dr. Cassellius stressed she is working with schools to determine how they can get graduation rates to 90%. She wants to work in a coordinated effort to fix the very concerning low graduation rates for kids of color, those in poverty, those sub-groups of students not graduating.

Career and tech education was also discussed along with the NCLB waiver and the flexibility provided to create rigorous course programming.

Questions/comments from the floor included desire to have more flexibility in working with higher education, inability to compare new tests to previous tests and why students can't take both the new and old tests, the current test vendor, literacy aid, teacher evaluation as an unfunded mandate, Q Comp, consistency of staff at MDE, district reporting requirements for College and Career Readiness, bully prevention efforts, and poverty levels eroding the middle class...how do we reach those kids?

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Bystrom adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deb Henton