



Minnesota State Academies Board

Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM

MSAB Site Council

Electronic Means

615 Olof Hanson Drive

Faribault, MN 55021

Meeting ID: 847 8483 2710

Passcode: 632M00

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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1. Welcome and Roll Call
 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 2
 3. Reports
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 1. Transition to distance learning
 2. Update on the GPS Ionization devices on our HVAC systems
 3. Update regarding Mike Hopwood and Katy Roth's positions
 4. 2021-2022 MSA school calendar drafts 5
 5. Return to school plans for the 2nd semester
 - B. MSAB Director
 - C. MSA Director of Communications
 - D. MSA Board Representative From MSAB Site Council
 - E. Student Body Government
 - F. Wellness Committee
 - G. Site Council Chair
 4. Old Business
 5. New Business
 6. Committee Work
 - A. History Committee Update
 7. Announcements
 8. Adjournment

INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS
SHOULD CONTACT LOLA BRAND
EMAIL: lola.brand@msa.state.mn.us
PHONE: (507) 384-6602 / VP: (507) 412-5109

Minutes of MSAB Site Council

The meeting of the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Site Council was held on Thursday, December 3, 2020, beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present: Vice Chair Sheila Koenig, Superintendent Terry Wilding, Director John Davis, Jessica McBurnett, Rian Copeland, Jeffrey Peterson, Crystal Bauer, Tim Aune, Ken Trebelhorn, Michele Baldeshwiler, Abby Winters, Tori Andres, Jennifer Pelletier, Scott Berglund.

Co-Officio Member: Special Ed Director Brittany Thomforde, Communications Director Kim Barron.

Members Absent: Chair David Tanner.

1. Welcome and Roll Call

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Rian Copeland, seconded by Jeffrey Peterson to approve the November 5, 2020, MSAB Site Council meeting minutes. Motioned was carried with all in favor.

3. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

- Covid cases continue to rise. As of last Monday, all students have transitioned back to distance learning. We still have a few students on campus receiving childcare for parents who are tier one essential workers.
- The installation of the new Ionization machines for the HVC system is complete on both campuses. This will keep the air filtered and clean.
- Currently having issues with the roof at the blind school. We are working on getting it fixed at this time.
- Operational team – Katy Roth, Food Service Director, accepted a new position elsewhere. We are starting interviews and hope to hire a replacement within the next few weeks. Mike Hopwood, Finance Services Director, will be retiring this January. Position will be posted.
- We are working on having the steering committee review our current plan and make sure we are on the right track. We will be looking at reviewing goals and action steps for the next 2-3 years. We are currently looking for a site council member, along with a parent and student representative to serve on the steering committee.

B. MSAB Director

- We are currently in distance learning at this time. We have one student who will be starting childcare next week.
- In November, both Terry and I presented at the NFB conference virtually. On January 23, 2021, we will be attending the Minnesota ACB conference virtually.
- FACS room – construction is complete. Starting to move furniture and equipment back in the room. Still waiting on exhaust hood.
- Cultural awareness training for teachers and support staff will be this Friday.
- This past month, several of our administrators went to the Minnesota Rural Education Association Conference. We also had staff who attended the BVI conference in October.
- Thanksgiving Video – school came together and put together a song. Video can be viewed on Facebook.

C. Director of Communication

- We are working with a website vendor in creating a mobile app for our website for parents, staff, and students.
- Currently we are working on frequently asked questions, which will be posted on our website, telling about our program. Questions and answers were reviewed. Looking for feedback.

D. MSA Board Representative from MSAB Site Council

No report given.

E. Student Body Government

- Plan on meeting next month.
- Looking to keep the school and community connected together virtually.
- Spirit week will be held before Winter break.

F. Wellness Committee

Have not met since last site council meeting. Have been busy with wellness and safety in general, especially in the rising cases of Covid.

G. Site Council Chair

No report given.

4. New Business

- Reviewed the following policies:
 - Policy 409 – Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations.
 - Policy 505 – Distribution of Non School-sponsored Materials on School Premises by Student and Employees.
 - Policy 528 – Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status nondiscrimination.

Feedback for pending revisions:

- Policy 450 – School Volunteer Policy
 - Policy 451 – Appropriate Use of Social Media
-
- Assistive Technology Team – working on improving our assistive technology on both campuses. Currently focusing on the following three items:
 1. Providing some simple technology tips that staff can use with their students.
 2. Putting together a survey to gather information on what tools may help students.
 3. Our team is learning about accessibility. How to make sure everything is accessible for all our users.

5. Committee Work

History Committee Report:

- The recording studio class interviewed Marilyn, who wrote our school song. Great experience for students.
- Still looking for a student representative to join our committee.
- A few staff who have been redeployed are assisting in the museum at this time.
- Received photos back, will begin inputting data into a spreadsheet.
- Another project is to begin organizing all our digital archives.

6. Announcements

No virtual holiday program this year.

7. Adjourn

- A motion by Rian Copeland, seconded by Tim Aune to adjourn the MSAB Site Council meeting. The motion was carried with all in favor.
- The MSAB Site Council will meet on January 7, 2021, at 2:00 pm.

Draft 1 –

July 12-23: Summer School (tentative)
August 24-27: MSA In-Services & Staff Workdays
August 29: Registration Day/Open House
August 30: First day of School/1st Semester
September 3-6: No School - Labor Day Weekend
September TBD: MSAD - Homecoming Day
October 15: MSAB White Cane Day
October 20: Early Dismissal (Noon)
October 20: Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 21-22: No School - Ed. MN Conference
November 11: Veterans Day - School in session
November 25-26: No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 20: Teacher/Staff Workday
December 20-31: No School - Winter Break
January 11-12: Final Exams - 1st Semester
January 13: Last day of 1st Semester
January 14: Teacher/Staff Workday
January 17: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday
January 18: First Day of 2nd Semester
February 21: No School - Presidents Day
March 18: Early Dismissal (Noon)
March 18: Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 21-25: No School - Spring Break
April 18: No School - Long Weekend
May 30: No School - Memorial Day
May 31-June 1: Final Exams - 2nd Semester
June 3: Last Day of School/2nd Semester

Draft 2

July 12-23: Summer School (tentative)
August 17-20: MSA In-Services & Staff Workdays
August 22: Registration Day/Open House
August 23: First day of School/1st Semester
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Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind 2021-2022 (Draft #1)

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KEY
First and Last Day of Semester
Breaks - NO SCHOOL
Professional Development - NO SCHOOL
Half-Day - School Ends at Noon
Final Exam Days
Special Events
Holidays

1st semester - 88 days; 2nd semester - 86 days
Total Days of School= 174
Teacher Workdays = 180

MSA empowers every student to Achieve, Care, and Thrive in an ever-changing world.

MSAB - 400 6th Avenue SE, Faribault, Minnesota - 507.384.6700

MSAD - 615 Olof Hanson Dr., Faribault, Minnesota - 507.384.6600

NOTE Calendar/work days may change, depending on factors such as weather or other emergencies. Updates will be determined by the MSA board.

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