

BrightWorks

2 Pine Tree Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112

Executive Board Meeting

April 15, 2026

Members Present:

Paula Cole, Electoral District 3

Andrea Cuene, Community Representative

Kacy Deschene, Electoral District 1

Jessica Ellison, Electoral District 1

Karen Gabler, Electoral District 3

Bill Harvey, Community Representative

Heidi Kader, Electoral District 4

Deborah M. Pauly, Electoral District 4

Members Absent:

Carol Bomben, Community Representative

Laura Oksnevad, Electoral District 2

Staff Present:

Ingrid Aasan, Director of Special Education, Regional Low Incidence Facilitator

Gina Boots, Teacher & Apprenticeship Liaison

Miriam Castro Sanjuan, Help Me Grow Parent Connector

Colleen Feller, Director of SparkPath & Director of Human Resources

Derek Francis, COMPASS Culturally Responsive Instructional Leadership Regional Lead

Lydia Lindsoe, COMPASS Culturally Responsive Instructional Leadership Regional Lead

Andria Livingston, Help Me Grow Parent Connector

Paul Rud, BrightWorks IT Systems Manager (Technology support)

John Schultz, Executive Director

Angela Skrade, Executive Assistant, Office Manager, Executive Board Support (Recorder)

Chris Streiff-Oji, Regional COMPASS Director

Tom Wieczorek, Business Manager

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Visitors:

Karsten Anderson, ISD 15, Superintendent

Ann Bradsher, ISD 272 Representative Assembly Member (Virtual)

Matt Bruns, ISD 200 Representative Assembly Member

Mannix Clark, ISD 623 Representative Assembly Member

Dr. Carlondrea Hines, ISD 283 Superintendent (Virtual)

Chad Johnson, ISD 720 Representative Assembly Member

Virginia Mancini, ISD 283, Representative Assembly Member

Call to Order:

Chair Harvey called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

Approval of Agenda:

Chair Harvey called for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Pauly and seconded by Ms. Cuene to approve the agenda with a change of order. The motion carried.

Financial Update:

Mr. Wieczorek presented the financial report as of March 2026, noting current cash flow and fund balance challenges and outlining the strategies in motion to address these issues.

After the financial report, Mr. Wieczorek introduced the preliminary BrightWorks FY 2027 budget. He noted this budget is specific to the administrative side of the organization. He discussed planned membership increases, future goals for organizational contributions towards staff insurance premiums, anticipated increases to the fund balance, and the financial impacts of these changes for the organization. He is optimistic that administrative fees will be more than he has budgeted and that he was conservative enough to build the fund balance over the period of 2026-2027. Questions from board members and visitors were addressed. As follow-up actions, the 2024-2025 participation data reports and copies of the fund balance policy will be distributed to all attendees.

Chair Harvey called for a motion to approve the Financial Update.

A motion was made by Ms. Deschene and seconded by Ms. Ellison to approve the Financial Update as submitted. The motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Chair Harvey called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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A motion was made by Ms. Ellison and seconded by Ms. Gabler to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion carried.

BrightWorks History & Timeline Presentation:

Ms. Feller presented a historical report commemorating the 50th anniversary of Metro ECSU-BrightWorks. The presentation included a timeline spanning 1976–2026, highlighting key organizational milestones and developments.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting commenced with board member, staff, and visitor introductions. Executive Director Schultz gave a brief introduction, noting that the purpose of the Annual Meeting is for our Representative Assembly Members to learn more about who we are and the services and opportunities available to districts through BrightWorks.

Leadership Team Reports:

Executive Director Schultz and Ms. Feller presented an update on the 2023–2026 BrightWorks and SparkPath Strategic Plan. The planning process for the next 3-year strategic plan will be introduced at the June 2026 Executive Board meeting.

Following the strategic planning overview, Ms. Aasan, Ms. Boots, Ms. Castro Sanjuan, Ms. Feller, Mr. Francis, Ms. Lindsoe, Ms. Livingston, Ms. Skrade, and Ms. Streif Oji, shared brief presentations on their respective programs. Questions from the board and visitors on these programs were answered.

HOTT Forum:

Topics discussed included teacher contract negotiations, superintendent contracts, budgets, levies, and bond referendums.

Other Business: None

Adjournment:

Chair Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm

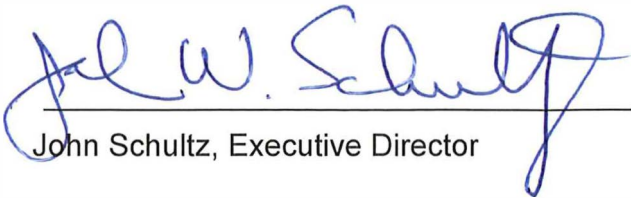
A motion was made by Ms. Cuene and seconded by Ms. Gabler to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

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John Schultz, Executive Director


Karen Gabler, Board Clerk

Next Meeting Date: June 17, 2026
