

MNSAA

MINNESOTA NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION



2019 Stakeholder Report



205 Lexington Ave S

952.758.5985



New Prague, MN 56071

www.MNSAA.org

From the Director's Desk

It's been another exciting year for MNSAA as we adapt to the needs of our ever-changing educational landscape. Our focus continues to be leading schools toward continuous improvement and sustainability into the future.



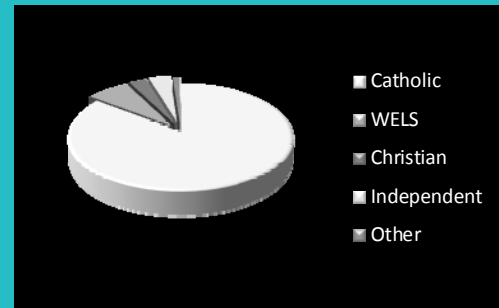
Sarah Winslow Mueller

Guided by a strong and active leadership team, this year we focused on discerning innovative new directions which improve and drive our accreditation processes, as we continue to support parental choice in education. Our rigorous standards are supporting schools across the state, new onsite team chairs have been trained and operating policies and practices have been updated. We continue to operate at an extraordinarily affordable cost to our schools while providing local and personalized, upon-demand support and assistance to Minnesota's nonpublic schools.

The 2018 MNSAA Annual Conference was amazing! **Leading by Design** was a theme that spoke well of the work of our Association and efforts of schools to improve. The **Our Lady of Grace School** community did a superior job of making the day a blessing for over 350 participants who came from all corners of our state to learn and network! **Dr. Eric Twadell** and other wonderful speakers inspired educators throughout the day. The professional development breakout sessions were exceptional and the exposition was excellent.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to MNSAA!

167 Schools Accredited in 2018-19



- ◆ 28,536+ students supported by MNSAA
- ◆ 25 schools hosted MNSAA onsite visits
- ◆ 2 new schools joined our Association
- ◆ 3 schools entered Candidacy status

New Directions in the Future

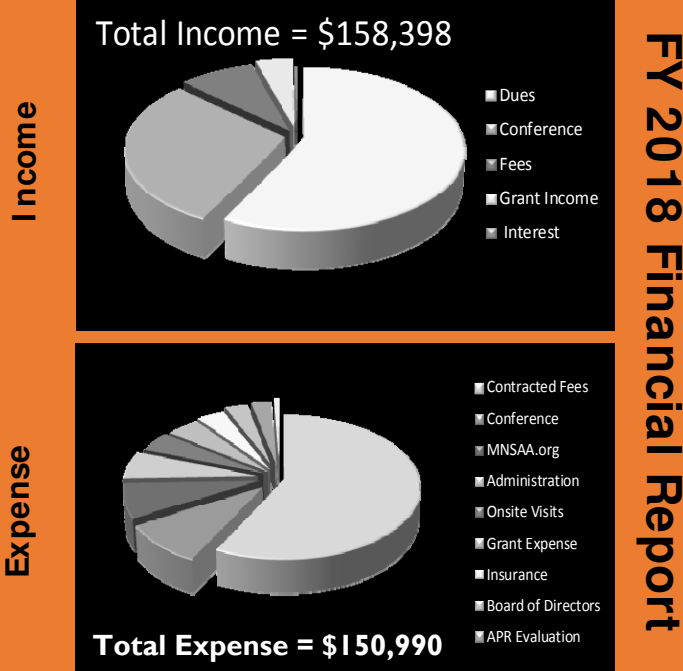
Just as MNSAA requires schools to strategically plan for improvement, we take seriously ongoing advancement of the Association. During the past year the following goals were met:

- ◆ *Made the accreditation of preschools an affordable option for our schools to add to their K-12 academic program. 5 schools are in the process of piloting these standards in 2019.*
- ◆ *Built partnerships with two regional agencies — AdvancED and Middle States Association. Schools may now choose to be accredited with both agencies using only MNSAA's standards and protocols.*
- ◆ *Piloted system-wide accreditation.*
- ◆ *Supported our sustainability by protecting financial resources to meet goals and to fund future transitional needs.*
- ◆ *Enhanced opportunities to interface with schools using electronic means/resources— including revamping our websites to grant member schools individual portal space.*

Improvement Goals & Future Challenges:

- ◆ *Achieve DHS differential rating status to support our schools in Parent Aware star rating.*
- ◆ *Increase awareness of MNSAA with non-member schools and partner agencies.*
- ◆ *Support schools in revising strategic plans to guide and drive improvement into the future.*

Visit us and learn more at www.mnsaa.org



Meet the Board of Directors

Mary Adrian (President of MNSAA Board)
Principal, Holy Spirit Catholic School, St. Paul

Martha Laurent (Vice President & Governance)
Principal, Holy Name of Jesus School, Wayzata

Andrew Hilliker (Treasurer & Finance Chair)
Principal, St. Joseph School, Moorhead

Vicki Kalina Marvin (Board Secretary)
Principal, St. Dominic Catholic School, Northfield

Regina Ashley (Governance Committee)
Principal, Divine Mercy Catholic School, Faribault

Julianne Blaze vic (Development Committee)
Principal, Stella Maris Academy, St. James, Duluth

Jodi Vanderrheiden (Finance Committee)
Principal, Mary of Lourdes School, Little Falls

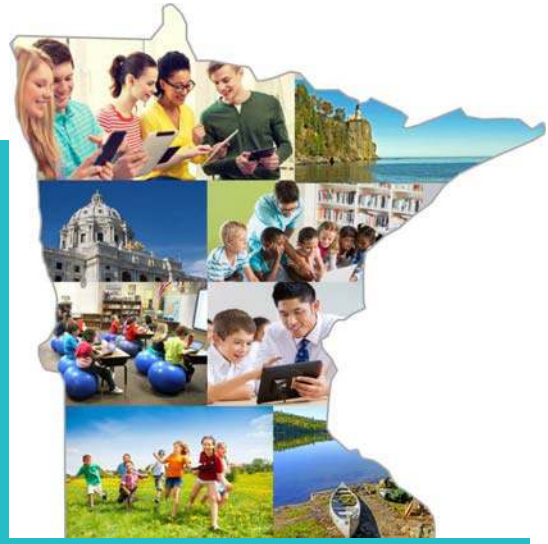
Todd Russ (Finance Committee)
President, St. Croix Lutheran Academy, West St. Paul

Gail Wolfe (Development Committee)
Principal, Christian Heritage Academy, Rosemount

Jane A. Carroll (Chair of Governance—Associate)
Placement Director St. Catherine University, St. Paul

Marsha Stenzel (Chair of Development -Associate)
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

*Directors to the MNSAA Board are recommended by the Governance Committee and elected by the Association at the Annual Business Meeting to serve a 3-year term. Directors represent the Association's diversity of affiliations, geographic area, and size of student enrollment.



Accrediting nonpublic schools across Minnesota

Essential Standards

The following standards are essential for all MNSAA accredited schools:

- ◆ Schools have foundational statements that identify their vision/ mission/ core values.
- ◆ Schools have defined outcome-based and student-focused curriculum standards that outline criteria for student achievement.
- ◆ Schools assess student learning and utilize at least one standardized assessment tool.
 - ◆ Schools meet state and federal legal requirements for health and safety.
- ◆ Schools have competent staff to support student learning - including a qualified principal/ administrator leadership.
 - ◆ Schools have a governing body/ commission/ council in place to support the leader and policies of the school.
- ◆ Schools have an annual budgetary process that supports its mission and is accountable to stakeholders.
- ◆ Schools have a written improvement plan that conforms with quality expectations of being valid, supported, visionary, reasonable and focused on improving student learning.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) is a catalyst for enhancing the quality of Preschool through Grade 12 nonpublic education in Minnesota through a comprehensive process of accreditation.

Who May Seek Accreditation?

MNSAA accredits MN nonpublic schools that have been in existence for at least two years and have 501c3 nonprofit status. Nonpublic schools are private institutions of learning in which a resident may legally fulfill our State Compulsory Instruction Law. They are institutions of learning that have one: unified mission, administration, consistent curriculum, and local governing authority.

What Are Membership Costs?

Member schools of MNSAA pay an annual dues reflective of the number of students enrolled. Costs to schools range between \$300-\$1650 averaging \$3 per student annually. Our Annual Conference is supported by a registration fee. There are additional expenses associated with renewal and onsite visits. Reasonable fees for services and benefits are possible because MNSAA utilizes the generosity and talent of volunteers from our membership.

Why Seek Accreditation?



CREDIBILITY

Delivers recognized credibility of the quality of the school's program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public.



VALIDATION of EXCELLENCE

Offers objective outside validation that a school has met high standards of excellence and is actively seeking a quality education program.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Provides for long-range strategic planning focused on student achievement and ongoing school improvement.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Provides local and ongoing accountability as schools provide annual reports identifying progress achieving goals, new opportunities or obstacles to growth, communication with stakeholders, and monitors the progress of its learners.

Overview of our Accreditation

MNSAA enhances the quality of education through a process of self-evaluation and ongoing improvement. An essential and vital principle is that our schools are evaluated in terms of how well they are guided by their own mission. Respect is given to the differences that exist among accredited schools. We subscribe to a traditional accreditation process in which every 7 years member schools are required to complete an extensive self-evaluation based on MNSAA standards. As a result of this reflection, a school develops a visionary strategic plan for improvement. A highly qualified team of impartial educators visits the school to analyze compliance and provide feedback. Schools then respond to recommendations of the team.

MNSAA Accreditation Standards:



- Mission & Philosophy
- Teaching & Learning
- Quality of Personnel
- Leadership & Governance
- Climate for Learning
- Community Relations
- Strategic Plan for Improvement



Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association
205 Lexington Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071
P: 952.758.5985 • smueller@mnsaa.org • mnsaa.org