

Date/time: Thursday, November 20, 2025

Location: Virtual (WebEx)

Attendees: Beth Barsness, Tim Benz, Eric Billiet, Joey Cienian, Scott Croonquist, Keri DeSutter, Jeremiah Ellis, Jessica Espinosa, John Fanning, Nancy Floyd, Stephanie Graff, Satasha Green-Stephen, Alison Groebner, Beatrice Handlin, Emily Hanson, Sheila Hoffman, Krystle Igbo-Ogbanna, Mandy Janssen, Josiah Litant, Katie McClelland, Anthony Miller, Jennifer Kunze, Nick Mathern, Nora Morris, Fred Nolan, Joe Nathan, Dennis Olson, Leiataua Jon Peterson, Sally Reynolds, Wendy Robinson, Khalique Rogers, Lauryn Schothorst, Raj Singh, Denise Smieja, Paula Talley, Bianca Virnig, Liz Williams

Meeting minutes:

1. Welcome

Welcome from Josiah Litant, Executive Director (ED) of MNP20. September minutes were approved without revisions. Guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

2. Member spotlight

John Fanning and Denise Smieja from the MNP20 member organization Education Partnerships Coalition (EPC) presented an overview of the EPC—who they are, what they do, and some current highlights of initiatives they are working on and leading. Members were invited to follow up with John and Denise with further questions or for more discussion. *(See PowerPoint slides for more details.)*

3. Project Progress Updates

a. Educator Workforce Committee

Katie McClelland, Director of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB), and ED Litant presented an update on the joint GWDB-MNP20-IWA (Interagency Workforce Alignment task force from the Governor's Office) initiative on educator workforce. Director McClelland provided a refresher of the group's framework, charge, and membership. ED Litant provided updates on the generation of recommendations, which are being constructed in subgroups focused on the different stages of the educator journey (explore, become, grow, thrive). ED Litant and Director McClelland reviewed the timeline for recommendations to start moving forward to GWDB, MNP20, and IWA in early 2026, stating that recommendations will come in installments so that the work can move forward sooner than later. ED Litant thanked the many

MNP20 members who volunteered to participate on this committee. *(See PowerPoint slides for more details.)*

b. Financial Aid and Literacy Committee

Committee co-chair Krystle Igbo-Ogbanna provided an update of this group's work on the FAFSA Supports Landscape Review project. This project had been paused previously and was resumed this fall. The FAL committee has a subgroup currently working on identifying gaps in the assessment they have conducted, and they will be gathering more information from key stakeholders to further fill in their landscape review over the next month. This work will then be synthesized into findings as we move into 2026. ED Litant mentions that this work could result in a whitepaper of findings that we share, but also could result in recommendations to MNP20 for consideration this spring.

c. Attainment Goal 2026

ED Litant and Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) Assistant Commissioner (AC) Dr. Wendy Robinson provide an update on progress towards recommending a new statewide higher education attainment goal in advance of the 2026 legislative session. ED Litant reaffirms MNP20's commitment to pursuing a new goal, and said he was excited that OHE shares that same commitment. To that end, OHE has decided to propose such legislation for 2026. AC Robinson states that OHE is currently working on a draft of the proposal, and will be looking at all aspects of the goal including the goal percentage, the age range, identifying disaggregated populations (maintaining a commitment to disaggregating by race and ethnicity and possibly adding additional subpopulations for disaggregation), and more. AC Robinson states that OHE is also interested in recommending that more specific strategies be implemented to support the new goal, possibly including progress benchmarks and greater coordination over the duration of the goal. ED Litant notes that MNP20 leadership has been consulted as part of this process, and that two main recommendations from MNP20 being included in the proposal are:

- The establishment of early childhood and K-12 subgoals to take a more comprehensive approach to educational attainment
- MNP20 serve as a convenor of key stakeholders over the course of the attainment goal, to help support cross-organizational engagement, strategy development, and planning

ED Litant says that there will be more updates on this work at the February meeting, and the proposal will be available to this group once it is made public by OHE. MNP20 would have active participation in the work if a new attainment goal is adopted.

d. Strategic Planning

ED Litant and Deputy Director (DD) Janssen provided an update on the MNP20 strategic planning process, and notified members that a member survey will be distributed by The Improve Group in the coming weeks as part of the information gathering phase, which will also include interviewing four other state P-20s and conducting a national scan of emerging and best

practices. ED Litant says there will be an invitation forthcoming to members to consider participating on the strategic planning task force that will be operational from February through April to help shape the plan.

e. Impact Measures, Communications Plan

ED Litant and DD Janssen provided the group an update on the “ROI” work that is being conducted. This project is now being referred to as “MNP20 Impact Measures,” and its purpose is to identify key metrics that indicate MNP20’s ability to impact its mission and vision. This is different than statewide measures related to student success that MNP20 wants to keep tabs on, which are also essential and will be identified through the strategic plan. This project is intended to more clearly articulate the direct impact of MNP20’s work. It is also accompanying new messaging and a communications plan that will be rolled out early in 2026, all part of an effort to help more strongly articulate who we are, what we do, and what our impact is. These materials will be useful in many ways, including as MNP20 works towards securing more stable future funding.

4. “Next Phase of Dual Enrollment Policy” National Cohort

ED Litant provided a refresher of this scope of this project that MNP20 is the lead organization for, and updated the group on progress to date. This update included reviewing the statewide stakeholder survey that was conducted with over 1,000 responses received, as well as the current high school student and parents/guardians of current high school student surveys that are being conducted right now in partnership with OHE. ED Litant shared some statistics about the student and family survey participation statistics so far:

- a. Student survey currently has 872 responses. 27% are from students of color. 53% are students outside the metro area. 48% are from students attending schools that are smaller than 800 students.
- b. Parent/guardian survey currently has 572 responses. 22% identified as living in an urban area, 53% identified as living in a rural area, and 24% identified as living in a suburban area. 12% identify as having a non-white child. 55% say their child is in a high school of less than 800 students. Participants identified a pretty even split across having children in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- c. Both surveys include responses for students in public schools, public charter schools, and independent/private schools.

ED Litant said the surveys will remain open through mid-December and the feedback will be used to continue to inform the planning team’s work.

ED Litant then presented the draft vision for dual enrollment that has been crafted. Members worked in two breakout rooms to discuss the vision statement and provide their feedback on what they liked, what they recommended for changing, and what they saw that was missing from the documents. ED Litant said a member survey will be sent out in the next day or two for additional feedback including from those who missed this meeting. This feedback will be used to continue to edit the document,

which will then be shared for broader statewide input.

ED Litant said there will also be roundtables in the new year with students, and possibly with other stakeholders, to begin to gather input on some of the recommendations that are being considered. He stated that MNP20 members will have the chance to give feedback on those as they begin to get shaped as well.

(See PowerPoint slides for more details.)

5. Guest comments, member announcements

ED Litant offered a special thank you to Dr. Raj Singh, the voting member of the University of Minnesota and a member of the Executive Committee. This is Dr. Singh's last meeting as he returns to his faculty role in January. A new Vice Provost has been named this week and will step into this role with MNP20 in the new year.

Guests were invited to share comments and members were invited to share any comments, invitations, or updates.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51pm.