

# MINUTES

## Mesabi East Youth Hockey Board

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*Sunday, August 10, 2025 Hoyt Lakes Arena*

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### In Attendance

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President: Brad Engstrom  
Vice President: Derek Hirsch  
Secretary: Absent  
Treasurer: Hillary Hartleben  
Ace Coordinator: Vacant  
Registrar: Absent  
Tournament Coordinator: Stephanie Engstrom  
Hockey Hut Manager: Absent  
Volunteer Coordinator: Absent  
Hockey Hut Co-Manager: Anneissa LeChevalier (arrival at 6:00 pm)  
Fundraising Coordinator: Absent  
Apparel Coordinator: Absent  
Equipment Manager: Absent  
Scheduler: Absent  
Website Manager: Vacant  
Clinic coordinator: Vacant

Special guest: Jim and Jacy Hernandez

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 by Brad Engstrom

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### Approval of Minutes

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Approval of June minutes. M: Brad S: Hillary

Approval of May minutes:

The corrections requested to the minutes of the May meeting have not yet been updated. As a result, those minutes could not be approved at this time. The updated minutes—reflecting the necessary corrections—will be presented for approval at the next board meeting.

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## Financials

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### Budget:

A draft budget was presented and reviewed for the 2025–2026 season, reflecting increases in tournament funding as follows:

- Squirts: \$3,000
- Mites: \$1,600
- Minis: \$700

### Cash Balances as of August 10, 2025:

- Hockey Hut – Savings Account: \$25.10
- Hockey Hut – Checking Account: \$15,431.92
- General Checking Account: \$29,667.74
- General Savings Account: \$31,258.03

### Financial Statements:

The balance sheet and profit and loss (P&L) statements were presented, covering financial activity up to August 10, 2025.

### Action Item:

Garrett was acknowledged and thanked for his service as a voting member of the association and the distribution of his stipend was approved.

M: Brad S: Derek

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## Old Business

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### A. Water Carnival-Pancake Feed and Parade Feedback

#### 1. Pancake Feed Recap

- The Pancake Feed was successful, thanks to the dedication of volunteers and effective advertising.
- Detailed notes on setup and inventory were collected to make more informed decisions if the event is held again next year.
- Some supply receipts are still pending; however, a handout outlining the profits, expenses, inventory adjustments, and a cost comparison with Village Inn–provided supplies were distributed.

#### 2. Parade Event Update

- The Parade event was also successful, with strong participation and decoration efforts.

- Due to a possible higher turnout—spurred by the Water Carnival’s 70th anniversary—the freezies at City Hall ran out.
- It was agreed to increase the freezie inventory to 2,500-3,000 units for the upcoming season.

#### **B. Need to fill Ace Coordinator Position**

- The Ace Coordinator position will be posted.
- Updating the association’s social media page has been identified as a key method to enhance the post visibility and hoping that will assist in reaching potential candidates.

#### **C. ByLaw/Handbook Updates**

- Brad presented a summarized review of the changes to the bylaws/handbook for the upcoming season.

#### **D. Volunteer and Hockey Hut Policy Decision**

- Discussion was proposed to make these updates to the association’s policy:
  - Each check for volunteer hours and Hockey Hut hours will be increased to \$300, with check cashing deferred until March 1st if the buyout option is not selected in registration.
  - Hours worked in the Hockey Hut will no longer be counted toward volunteer hours; instead, they will be recorded separately under Hockey Hut hours.
  - The number of Hockey Hut shifts per season will be increased to four.
  - If payment is made using a method other than checks (e.g., electronic payment), funds will be withheld initially and reimbursed once the required hours are completed.
- A sign will be placed at the Hockey Hut stating that no one under the age of 15 is allowed behind the hut, if not one already.
- Volunteers working Junior Gold and MEYHA games who are not members of the association will be compensated \$35 per game.
- Improvements to communication within the Hut were proposed regarding:
  - Process for referee’s stipend meals/drinks
  - Volunteers working the Hut still need to pay for provided meals/drinks

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### **New Business**

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#### **A. Dryland Camp Ideas**

- The association discussed an interest in providing some dryland training in October to bridge the gap before ice becomes available.
- Ideas were discussed with a plan to review closer to October.
- Discussion also included other potential summer camp ideas to strengthen skill development during summer and engagement.
- See if there is a possibility of participating in other open hockey around the area.

#### **B. 4x4 plan for 2026 - TABLED**

## **C. Appeal inquiry with Carol at 321 Graphix in Virginia. - TABLED**

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### **Action Items**

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#### **A. District Meeting - Monday September 22nd, 2025**

- Brad and Kathy are planning to attend the upcoming meeting.
- Any other voting board members interested in attending the non-scheduling portion of the meeting are invited to do so. Please notify Brad in advance if you plan to attend.

#### **B. Fundraising Update (Board, Decals, etc.)**

- The discussion regarding boards, decals, and sponsorship letters were tabled for the next meeting. Hillary will coordinate with Dan to review and update the sponsorship letter.
- Cash Calendar
  - Discussion was proposed to make these updates to the association's policy:
    - Extend the cash calendar participation requirement to include Mini-Mites, with a cap of two children per family.

#### **C. Registration Plan**

- Online Registration: Brad and Hillary are collaborating to update the online registration system, aiming to have it operational as soon as possible.
- Discount for First-Time Participants: A \$50 discount will be offered to players who have successfully completed a Learn to Skate program and are registering for youth hockey for the first time at any level. This initiative aligns with efforts to introduce new players to the sport.
- Terminology Update: The term "termites" will be replaced with "Learn to Skate" in all relevant documents and communications to ensure consistency and clarity.
- Mini-Mite Registration Fee: The registration fee for Mini-Mites will be increased to \$80 per player to better align with program costs.
- Policy Reviews: The Locker Room Policy and Jersey Policy, which are part of the youth hockey registration process, will be reviewed to ensure they are up-to-date.
- In-Person Registration and Equipment Pickup: Once online registration is active, plans will be discussed for on-site registration dates, finalizing registrations, and distributing equipment. The possibility of conducting all activities inside the gym, including equipment handouts, will be considered to streamline the process.
- Community Engagement: The association is considering participation in the Mesabi East Schools' open house to increase visibility and engage with the community.

#### **D. Coaches Application**

- Prior year coaches application questions were reviewed.
- The coach application form will now include positions for Learn to Skate coaches.
- The updated Google Form for coach applications will go live simultaneously with the online registration system to streamline the registration and coaching application process.
- A new question has been added to the application form: "Have you coached prior? If so, when, where, and for what association?"

**E. LTS, do we pay coaches?**

- Historically, the Learn to Skate coaches have been compensated for their services.
- Learn to Skate coaches will now align with how all coaches are compensated within the association.

**F. Send in USA Hockey numbers to Leah. Complete Safe Sport and background check, if needed. (Background check is every 2 years)**

- Please refer to Leah's message on TeamReach. Any questions reach out to Leah.
- Any new members are required to do both.
- Any existing members need to complete safe sport and review if a new background check is needed.
- Any reimbursement inquiries reach out to Hillary.

**G. Website Changes**

- Hillary reviewed the association's website and provided a handout detailing the observed changes. Other members are encouraged to review the website and report any additional changes or improvements needed.
- Brad and Hillary will coordinate with Kathy to receive training on the website to take on the role of making website updates going forward.

**H. September Meeting Agenda Items**

- Informed of some of the agenda items for the next meeting.

**I. Social Media Changes**

- Hillary will be creating a new public facing Mesabi East Hockey Facebook page. The private site will be deactivated once the new page is fully operational.
- We will also be creating a new Instagram page. This will allow for simultaneous posting across both platforms.
- A "Like and Share to Win" campaign will be launched, offering prizes such as hats or other available.
- The admins on the current page of past members will be removed.
- A TeamReach group will be created for the association as a whole, designated as an announcement-only group. Posting permissions will be limited to administrators.

**J. Timeline - Flow Chart**

- A timeline was found on the drive and distributed. We will review and update to reflect on the current procedures and monthly tasks.

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**Next Meeting**

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Next Special Meeting for Voting Members - Wednesday, August 13th at 4:00 pm

Next Regular Meeting - Sunday, September 14th, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.