



PERPICH
TEACHING IN AND
THROUGH THE ARTS

December 18, 2012

Board of Directors
East Metro Integration District 6067
30 East County Road B
Maplewood, MN 55117

Letter of Intent to Explore Governance of Crosswinds School

The Board of Directors of the Perpich Center for Arts Education (herein referred to as Perpich Center) passed a resolution at its December 13, 2012 meeting giving the executive director authority to explore the potential governance by the Perpich Center of Crosswinds Arts and Science School. An agreement would be contingent upon fulfilling all financial and statutory obligations of Perpich Center as an agency of the State of Minnesota.

The Board recognizes the synergy and strength of Crosswinds with Perpich Center philosophy of bringing urban, rural and suburban students together in effective educational programs focused on teaching in and through the arts.

With approval from the Board of the East Metro Integration District 6067 (herein referred to as EMID) and in collaboration with EMID Superintendent Janet Mohr and/or her designees, Perpich Center will begin a due diligence process to gather information pertinent to a final plan of action. This process will be done with dignity and respect to all stakeholders of Crosswinds, including teachers, staff, parents/guardians, EMID parents, students, administrators and EMID member schools and board personnel. It is understood that EMID will provide requested and accurate data related to the operation of Crosswinds, including, but not limited to: program, student achievement, school demographics, historical data, financial, operations, human resources and contractual obligations. All Perpich Center and EMID policies and rules related to confidentiality will be maintained.

Perpich Center will respect and honor the decisions of the EMID Board of Directors and understands that other partners and/or entities may be chosen for governance of Crosswinds to best meet the needs of EMID. The executive director of Perpich Center and/or her designee will serve as primary spokesperson for Perpich Center and will, to the best of her ability, keep the EMID Superintendent apprised of all communications regarding Perpich Center and Crosswinds that may result during the due diligence process. This includes advanced notification of public meetings or hearings; meetings with appropriate legislative committees, meetings with EMID stakeholders, surveys and meetings with appropriate other state agency personnel.

In recognition that all Minnesota students deserve opportunities to be reached through models of education effective for them, Perpich Center submits this Letter of Intent in a spirit of cooperation, dedication and appreciation for given the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Mackert
Executive Director

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Perpich Arts Outreach
Perpich Arts Library

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Overview of the Perpich Center for Arts Education

Perpich is a state agency that serves all school districts in Minnesota. Created in 1985 by the legislature, the agency seeks to advance K-12 education throughout Minnesota by teaching in and through the arts. Perpich staff and faculty serve teachers, administrators, schools, students and artists through outreach, professional development, research, curriculum and standards development, a statewide arts library and a public state arts high school for 11th and 12th graders. A board of directors appointed by the Governor governs the Perpich Center. Directors represent Congressional Districts throughout Minnesota.

Process for Determining the Possibility of Governance by Perpich Center

As an agency of the State of Minnesota, consideration for Perpich Center to govern Crosswinds will require legislative action. If the EMID Board of Directors approves exploration by the Perpich Center for governance of Crosswinds, Perpich Center will take immediate steps to initiate a process for statutory approval. The Legislative Session begins January 8 and must conclude its work by May 17, or sooner. Action on any proposed changes may occur at any time during the session. A tentative plan of action would include the following steps within the suggested timeframes. Perpich Center is cognizant of the EMID Board's desire to meet timelines to effect such a change, ideally, by the end of this fiscal year. Perpich Center leadership is committed to trying to accommodate this need, while not making precipitous decisions or putting either entity at risk. It is understood that Perpich Center will establish an internal working committee of board, school and agency administration to spearhead the process.

1. By December 28, meeting between EMID Superintendent and Perpich Center Executive Director. At this meeting, Perpich Center will outline an appropriate plan of activity to fit within schedules of EMID desired outcomes, Crosswinds school calendar and legislative procedures.
2. By December 28, meeting between Finance Director of EMID and Perpich Center to begin detailing costs associated with all aspects of school operation.
3. By January 4, meetings between Perpich Center management and appropriate personnel from:
 - a. Minnesota Department of Education
 - b. Minnesota Management and Budget
 - c. Minnesota Department of Administration
 - d. Office of the Attorney General
 - e. Perpich Center Board of Directors Executive Committee
4. By January 4, tour of Crosswinds by Perpich Center internal task force members.
5. By January 4, informal meeting with Crosswinds staff to explain Perpich Center interest and respond to possible concerns.



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6. By January 4, informal meeting with EMID parents to explain Perpich Center interest and respond to possible concerns.
7. By January 8, meeting with Office of the Governor.
8. By January 9, report of preliminary findings to EMID Superintendent.
9. By January 25, meetings with designated House and Senate leadership and committee leaders in education, governance, finance, government policy and other appropriate legislators.
10. By January 31, report of preliminary findings to EMID Superintendent.
11. By February 15, discussion with legislators.
12. By March 1, prepare language and identify legislative sponsors in time to meet first (March) deadline for introduction of bills in the legislature.
13. By March 13, or sooner, discuss findings and determine forward movement of Perpich Center in this process.



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Q & A Concerning Perpich Center Intent to Explore Governance of Crosswinds School

Why is Perpich interested in Crosswinds?

As the state agency responsible for arts education, Perpich Center takes seriously its role in ensuring that every student in Minnesota has access to arts education. Crosswinds, with its focus on art and science, serves students who's proven achievement is dependent upon a curriculum built around the arts and sciences. It seems prudent and wise to maintain this viable option of education.

Additionally, Perpich Center understands operating small, specialized schools. The Perpich Arts High School is in its 27th year of operation. The balance between fulfilling state education and graduation requirements and supporting a creative learning environment takes unusual leadership, calculated risk and a determination to keep programs relevant. Perpich Center understands that operating a school focused in the arts and sciences also requires incorporation of some non-traditional models of teaching, as well as a commitment to explore and incorporate alternative models in which to evaluate student performance. These educational practices require ongoing assessment, teacher professional development and staff access to research and resources. The unique offerings within the Perpich Center, including access to professional development, planning services and an arts education library — all would be of great benefit to Crossroads.

Do you look at Crosswinds as being a feeder program to the Perpich Arts High School?

No. Crosswinds students will have the same access to admissions as all other students from around the state. This will not change if Perpich Center becomes the governing body for Crosswinds. Perpich Arts High School thrives on a fair application process that affords access for students across the state.

Will you eliminate staff at Crosswinds?

The commitment of Crosswinds staff and teachers is known and respected. As part of any due diligence process, areas of duplication will be identified and addressed to determine if consolidation of any services can be effected in the best interest of the organization. Protection of staff positions must always be a priority in any 'merger' of this kind, but expectations are that some position eliminations and/or mergers will occur. To the extent possible, the interest of Perpich Center is to maintain the integrity of the programs, services and grade configuration of Crosswinds.

How would this benefit the organizations involved?

The Perpich Center provides professional development, outreach services and curriculum and standards development for all K-12 schools in the state. The Perpich Arts High School serves as a living laboratory of arts education. The Perpich Center's Arts High School serves 11th and 12th graders and Crosswinds serves grades 6 through 10. Access to middle school resources, students and teachers, will augment development of arts education

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curriculum for younger grades. Perpich Professional Development and Outreach staff can provide resources for statewide dissemination of learning and teaching tools and resources. This synergistic relationship would benefit both students at Crosswinds and K-12 students throughout the state.

Synergism also exists in the areas of art and science programs. Artscience is a new program at Perpich Arts High School that combines aesthetic and analytical ways of thinking. Students work across disciplines to produce innovative ventures based on a given scientific theme. Perpich art and science teachers, along with community experts, provide support and guidance to help students develop ideas that improve people's lives.

In its second year, the Perpich program could be developed and rolled out to Crosswinds lower grade levels before statewide dissemination. The Perpich model and artsience curriculum will be expanded throughout Minnesota's K-12 schools. Perpich offers the only in-school application of the original ArtScience Prize program, based in Paris and Boston. ArtScience Prize is an international program with participating schools in Oklahoma City, Boston, France, Singapore, Dubai, Dublin and British Columbia.

Does Perpich Center have legal or legislative authority to govern Crosswinds?

No. Amendments to Perpich Center's enabling legislation would have to take place. This will require work and collaboration among all stakeholders. Timing is not optimal, but should be regarded as a priority in order to maintain this flagship school. We believe we can make a solid case for leaders who truly care about supporting effective education with proven results that prepares Minnesota youth to be contributing members of the 21st Century creative workforce.