

Northern Lights Academy Cooperative Board Minutes

Feb. 2nd, 2024

10:30- NLSEC Conference Room

16 E. Hwy 61 Esko, MN 55733

Present:

Jeff Pesta, Wrenshall Superintendent

Nathan Libbon, Cromwell-Wright Superintendent

Wayne Whitwam, Hermantown Superintendent

Dr. Michael Cary, Cloquet Superintendent

Billie Jo Steen, Moose Lake Superintendent

Jay Belcastro, Lake Superior Superintendent(v)

Jessica Cook, Director of Spec. Education

Dawn Hultgren, Business Manager

Jessica Unkelhaeuser, Barnum School Board Mbr (v)

Donita Stepan, Carlton Superintendent

Brad Johnson, McGregor Superintendent (v)

Aaron Fischer, Esko Superintendent

Ken Scarborough, Cloq. School Board Mbr (v)

Kerry Juntunen, Proctor Superintendent

Bill Peel, Barnum/Willow River Superintendent

Barb Mackey, Asst. Director of Spec. Education

Ryan Leonzal, Carlton School Board Mbr (v)

Absent: Raeanne Bergren, Head Secretary; Todd Rengo, Esko School Board Mbr;

Call to order

10:47 am Called to order by Chair A. Fischer

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Superintendent B. Peel. Second by Superintendent J.

Pesta. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Board Minutes
 - Regular & Organizational Board Meeting dated Jan.19, 2024 (AttachmentA)
- Payment of Bills and Treasurer Report (Attachment B)
 - NLA \$630.21 - NLSEC \$14739.11

Motion to approve consent agenda items by Superintendent K. Juntunen. Second by Superintendent N. Libbon. Motion carried.

Subcommittee Reports (Attachment C)

- Facilities (Peel, Stepan, J. Belcastro)
 - No meeting has been held since last month. Only update is the new estimate for a brand new 30,000 sq ft building is \$550 per square foot. With this information, the contract with the Costin Group was signed based on the motion made and approved at the December board meeting.
- Programming (Pesta, Steen, Whitwam) Met Jan 22, 2024.
 - Restrictive Procedures
 - NLA will train staff using a full CPI training every other year and during the year in between, it will be an abbreviated training to refresh de-escalation skills and to make sure staff are able to use physical holds correctly.
 - Student Support Personnel Aid jobs

- Inability to program for certain students
 - Discussed difficulties programming for more significantly involved students, NLA staff are continuing to try to problem solve to find additional ways to support these students and keep others safe
- Homebased Teacher- Needs for 4 students at this time. Looking at other districts.
- PE/Health - add .4 FTE possibly to add Health and DAPE
 - Discussed the possibility to increase the Phy Ed teacher to 1.0 FTE for Phy Ed/DAPE/Health. This would add Health education for our students and it would have a consistent person to support DAPE needs which NLA students have. This will be discussed at other subcommittee meetings coming up.
- Finance (Libbon, Juntunen, Johnson) Met Jan 31, 2024
 - Reviewed the NLA Revised Budget for FY24 - Subcommittee recommends approval.
 - Discussed the possibility of NLA investing a portion of the unrestricted fund balance. Dawn is going to gather information to bring back to the subcommittee later this spring. It will be reviewed with the plan to bring a recommendation to the May board meeting.
- Personnel - (Fischer, Cary)
 - No meeting has been held since the last board meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be on February 8th

Consider Approval of the NLA Revised Budget for FY 24 (Attachment D)

Motion to approve FY 24 revised budget by K. Scarbrough. Second by Superintendent D. Stepan. Motion carried.

Directors' Reports-Barb Mackey, Jessa Cook

- Celebrations - Volunteer Science Teacher comes in to work with 3-5th grade, K-5th grade class went swimming at the middle school.
- Enrollment Update (Attachment E) - 46 students enrolled.(1 starting on Feb 6th) Still have a waitlist for several classrooms.
- Staffing Updates
 - Staff Absence Report (Attachment F)
- Programming Updates

Future Meeting Dates

- Friday, **March 1, 2024** -9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday, **April 5, 2024** -9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday, **May 3, 2024** - 10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)
- Friday **June 7, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **August 2, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **September 13, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **October 4, 2024**-10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC

meeting at 9am)

- Friday **November 1, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **December 6, 2024**-10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)
- Friday **January 10, 2025**-9 a.m. Organizational Meeting/Google Hangout

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Superintendent D. Stepan. Second by Superintendent B. Peel . Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.