

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 1, 2017
9:00 – 10:30 am Cloquet Board Room

Present:	Superintendent, Dave Bottem	Barnum
	Board Member, Jessica Unkelhaeuser	Barnum
	Superintendent, Gwen Carman	Carlton
	Superintendent, Ken Scarbrough	Cloquet
	Superintendent, Nathan Libbon	Cromwell-Wright
	Superintendent, Aaron Fischer	Esko
	Superintendent, Kerry Juntunen	Hermantown
	Superintendent, Bill Crandall	Lake Superior
	Superintendent, Paul Grams	McGregor
	Superintendent, Bob Indihar	Moose Lake
	Asst. SpEd Director of NLA, Barb Mackey	Northern Light Academy Cooperative
	Superintendent, John Engelking	Proctor
	Superintendent, Bill Peel	Willow River
	Superintendent, Kim Belcastro	Wrenshall
	Special Education Director, Dena Hagen	Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

Absent:	Board Member, Sue Karp	Carlton
	Board Member, Jim Crowley	Cloquet
	Board Member, Maggie Sunnarborg	Esko

- I. Call to order:
The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am.

- II. Approve Agenda:
Superintendent Indihar motioned the approval of the agenda, seconded by Superintendent Juntunen, and it was approved by a unanimous yea vote of all members present.

- III. Approve October 6, 2017 meeting minutes: (see attachment A)
Superintendent Crandall motioned the approval of the October 6, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Superintendent Carman, and it was approved by a unanimous yea vote of all members present.

- IV. Fiscal:
 - Review to-date MA revenue (see attachment B)
 - Review to-date outside contracts (see attachment C)
 - Discuss change from 60/40 formula cost sharing of NLSEC services

NLSEC has always shared the cost of some staff through a 60/40 formula. 40% of the cost is shared equally among all 12 districts and the remaining 60% is paid by districts based on their total enrollment. MDE told Ms. Pykkonen that this cost sharing method is not allowed. Ms. Hagen and Ms. Pykkonen gathered information through research of other true cooperatives in the state and how the member districts share expenses, in which they do this basically the same way as NLSEC does. They pay an “access” fee in case they need the service, just like our cooperative. Ms. Hagen asked MDE, “Why does NLSEC have to do it different than other cooperatives and why doesn’t everyone do things the same?” MDE response, *Technically,*

according to statute, all districts are supposed to pay for services based on actual service received not as an insurance policy. Ms. Hagen proposes that we don't change anything. Superintendent Bottem motioned to continue to keep all districts at 60/40, including, Audiologist, Dr. Amy Packer, seconded by Superintendent Fischer, and it was approved by a unanimous yea vote of all members present.

V. Personnel:

- Lynn Pykkonen will be retiring as of March 30, 2018 and all thanked Ms. Pykkonen for her 20 years of outstanding service to the districts. Ms. Hagen proposed to post immediately for the NLSEC Business Manager position and to have Ms. Pykkonen's support during the transition period.

Superintendent Fischer motioned the acceptance of retirement of Ms. Lynn Pykkonen and to post for a for a new NLSEC Business Manager with a start date of March 19, 2018, to allow for a two-week training period with Ms. Pykkonen along with any additional training needed occasionally after, seconded by Superintendent Indihar, and it was approved by a unanimous yea vote of all members present.

VI. Director's Report:

- Celebrations: Necessary conversations led by Administration have been had to Special Education teachers regarding direct instruction to students with disabilities. Examples: Students not having Paraprofessionals by their side until they grow up or Speech therapists doing too much. Remember, Special Education teachers are the qualified professionals and they should be teaching with related service as supports.
- St. Louis County Meeting: Ms. Hagen met with, Brent Harju, Supervisor for the Intellectual Disability unit in the St. Louis County and other staff. Brent stated that this was the first time in 10 years that a meeting between the county and school districts of this kind has been held. Discussion on a proactive, collaborative relationship to support students in our districts. The next meeting is sometime in January 2018.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultants:
NLSEC Autism Coordinators - Jill Pring & Kristina Otten
 - Adjustment in service delivery (see attachment D)
ASD consultants were required to be at every IEP meeting and a part of every Evaluation for students with Autism. Ms. Hagen proposed the ASD consultant not be required to attend every meeting, only those without an ASD or ABS licensed teacher or for those students that are complicated cases. Consultants are expected to keep in close contact with their districts as to whether they need to be on the IEP or evaluation team. ABS licensed teachers can work with mild/moderate students with DCD, LD, EBD and Autism. Evaluations don't need to be always conducted by an ASD licensed person, a school psychologist can be the expert. Again, they will keep in close contact to determine appropriate evaluators. This isn't a major change, but will increase their time consulting with staff for the benefit students.

- Interagency Council:
 - Mentoring Day: Superintendents have been invited to attend Mentoring Day, which is a special day of transition resources for High School Special Education students, held on March 12, 2018 at the Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College.

VIII. Other:

School Linked Mental Health Grant meeting was held on November 30, 2017 with information to Carlton Co. districts from three mental health agencies regarding the upcoming application and for accessing SLMH grant dollars. Agencies will provide a snapshot of what each agency does. The question is-will existing services change when the new SLMH grant is in place? Ms. Hagen will ask Donna Lekander this question as she is facilitating the two groups working together.

VIII. Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- February 2, 2018
- April 27, 2018

IX. Adjourn:

Superintendent Engelking motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Superintendent Juntunen, and it was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.