

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2020 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Google Meet

Present: Barnum Superintendent, Mike McNulty; Barnum Board Member, Jessica Unkelhaeuser; Carlton Superintendent, John Engstrom; Carlton Board Member, LaRae Lehto; Cloquet Superintendent, Michael Cary; Cromwell-Wright Superintendent, Nathan Libbon; Esko Superintendent, Aaron Fischer; Hermantown Superintendent, Wayne Whitwam; Lake Superior Acting Superintendent, Jay Belcastro; Moose Lake Superintendent, Billie Jo Steen; Proctor Superintendent, John Engelking; Willow River Superintendent, Bill Peel; Northern Lights Special Education Director, Dena Hagen; Northern Lights Academy Asst. Sp Ed Director, Barb Mackey; Northern Lights Special Education Coop. Business Manager, Jill Morberg

Absent: Cloquet Board Member, Jim Crowley; Esko Board Member, Todd Rengo; Lake Superior Superintendent, Bill Crandall; McGregor Superintendent, Brad Johnson; Wrenshall Superintendent, Kim Belcastro.

Call to order: *The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.*

Welcome and Introductions:

Approve Agenda:

Motion made by Superintendent Libbon to note correction of future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates on February 5, 2020 to 2021 before approving the agenda. Second by Superintendent Engelking. Motion carried.

Motion made by Superintendent Cary for Board Chair to only ask for those opposed when taking board action and if none, it passes. Second by Superintendent McNulty. Motion carried.

Approve October 2, 2020 meeting minutes (Attachment A)

Motion made by Superintendent McNulty to approve the October 2, 2020 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Superintendent Engelking. Motion carried.

Fiscal:

- Medical Assistance Revenue (Attachment B)
 - MA Billing revenue has been way down due to the pandemic.
 - Settle-up amounts for 18-19 will be processed next week.
 - Continued advice from Ms. Hagen for districts to not depend on MA Revenue as a source of revenue as it can be unstable.
 - MASE is supporting legislative changes to allow for billing for School Social Workers

- Contracted Services Review (Attachment C)
 - Revise Barnum contract #11 amount to \$15,000, as their services have increased with Presence Learning.

Director's Report: (Attachment D)

- Maintenance of Effort during COVID-19
 - Federal law requires school districts to spend a maintained amount of dollars on special education each year. If districts can't justify a reduction, then Federal dollars get decreased dollar for dollar if you don't maintain effort. MDE will continue to fund special education staff reassigned during the pandemic, but the Federal Gov't isn't providing any flexibility on MOE. Many states do not have the high level of cost maintenance that MN does. Ms. Hagen and Ms. Morberg will be meeting with district Business Managers on Friday, December 11, 2020 to discuss each district's data and options.
- Special Education and In-Person Services During Distance Learning
 - MDE Guidelines and information continues to encourage serving students with disabilities in-person, if safe to do-so. Ms. Hagen and special education coordinators are supporting individual situations with teams.
- PAES Lab
 - Practical Assessment Exploration System is an employment experience simulation work lab for school district students that includes many different work and trade areas, with tasks and assessments.
 - Helps students decide what they might like to do in the future for work.
 - Barnum/Moose Lake/Willow River have purchased a PAES lab and are working out sharing arrangements. (provided pictures of the lab).
 - Wrenshall/Carlton also purchased one to be up and running in 2nd semester.
- Other - Paraprofessionals Workshop on Martin Luther King Day
 1. Check-in-will paras work on MLK Day?
 2. Will paras have devices for the virtual workshop?Please connect with Ms. Hagen on answers so the planning can begin.
 - Some MN schools converted busses to provide "mobile" special education services during DL.
 - Celebrate and give extra recognition and appreciation to Special Education staff and paraprofessionals during the pandemic-they are the glue that's holding some of this together.

Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, Apr. 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Superintendent McNulty to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Second by Superintendent Cary. Motion carried.