

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Google Meet

Present: Barnum Superintendent, Mike McNulty; Barnum Board Member, Jessica Unkelhaeuser; Carlton Superintendent, John Engstrom; 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; Wrenshall Superintendent, Kim Belcastro.

Absent: Cloquet Board Member, TBD; Esko Board Member, Todd Rengo; Lake Superior Superintendent, Bill Crandall; McGregor Superintendent, Brad Johnson.

Call to order: *The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.*

Approve Agenda:

Motion made by Superintendent Libbon to approve the NLSEC Board Meeting agenda. Second by Superintendent McNulty. Motion carried.

Approve December 4, 2020 meeting minutes (Attachment A)

Motion made by Superintendent McNulty to approve the December 4, 2020 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Superintendent Peel. Motion carried.

Fiscal:

- Medical Assistance Revenue (Attachment B)
 - Settle-up payments for 18-19, received.
 - This year we are expecting the overall revenue numbers to be down but as students start coming back into the building we will see those numbers rise due to the services provided again.
- Contracted Services Review (Attachment C)

Personnel:

-Process Review by Dena Hagen

- NLSEC staff stay on the current host district if the employee is already employed by a coop district. If hiring outside the coop districts then the board would delegate which district would support this new contract.

- The NLSEC board does not take resignation or official hiring action due to member district board action

-Resignation of Mary Borden (Administrative Assistant), new hire from Proctor as replacement -Lake Superior Schools request for Model Change from COTA/.5FTE OT to 1.0FTE OT (Attachment D) - Hiring of 1.0 FTE OT at LSSD, to replace .5 FTE Greg Sumner

Motion to approve made by Superintendent Cary. Second by Superintendent Libbon. Motion carried.

Director's Report: (Attachment E)

- Child Count (12/1/2020)

- Resident student counts are down due to pandemic
2,212 B-21 students as of 2020 down from 2,260 in 2019
- ECSE referrals to expect a surge after the current low year
- ESY and Compensatory Education
 - There are a variety of ways to address students' special education needs as they transition back-ESY, Compensatory Education, Gen Ed. Recovery, IEP revision
 - Notify Dena if parents are inquiring about student IEP hrs not being met so she can support the resolve. We want to make sure all students' needs are being met.
- Retentions
 - Involve your school psychologist for input on these conversations
 - Retention is overall not a recommended practice, especially for students with IEPs.
 - Does each district have a retention policy in place?
 - Use other resources to help get students get back on track (Examples: Summer School, Tiered Services, Recovery, ect).
- School Psychologists
 - MN shortage overall
 - Next Board meeting we will have a few presenters for this topic.
 - A couple districts are possibly looking to share a position-Moose Lake, Willow River.
 - MTSS is a great investment of time and energy to support students and school psychologists can provide leadership in this area.
- MDE Compliance Monitoring
 - MDE has communicated a Mid-March Start
 - Minimum work this year for districts, NLSEC, and no on-site visits or interviews

Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- Friday, April 30, 2021, 9:00a.m.
- Friday, May 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, 9:00a.m.
- Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, 9:00a.m.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Superintendent Fischer to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Second by Superintendent Cary. Motion carried.