

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Cloquet Garfield Board Room, 302 14th St., Cloquet, MN 55720

Present:

Barnum Superintendent, Mike McNulty
Barnum School Board Member, Jessica Unkelhaeuser
Carlton Superintendent, John Engstrom (virtual)
Carlton School Board Member, Eryn Szymczak
Cloquet Superintendent, Dr. Michael Cary
Cloquet School Board Member, Ken Scarbrough
Cromwell-Wright Superintendent, Nathan Libbon
Esko Superintendent, Aaron Fisher
Esko School Board Member, Todd Rengo (virtual)
Hermantown Superintendent, Wayne Whitwam (virtual)
Lake Superior Superintendent, Jay Belcastro
McGregor Superintendent, Brad Johnson (virtual)
Moose Lake Superintendent, Billie Jo Steen
Proctor Superintendent, John Engelking(virtual)
Wrenshall Superintendent, Kim Belcastro
Willow River Superintendent, Bill Peel (virtual)

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 (virtual)
Northern Lights Special Education Administrative Assistant, Tisha Warbalow (virtual)

Absent:
None

Call to order: *The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.*

Welcome and Introductions:

Approve Agenda:

Motion made by Superintendent McNulty to approve the February 11, 2022 agenda as presented. Second by Superintendent Cary. Motion carried.

Approve December 3, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion made by Superintendent McNulty to approve the December 3, 2021 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Superintendent Kim Belcastro. Motion carried.

Fiscal:

Regular Medical Assistance Revenue

MA designee from each district is listed.

Revenue has been updated for 2021/2022 as of this week.

Settle-up/Settle down for 2019/2020. Three districts are in the negative.

Settle down, DHS will take from future payments.

Going forward, Dena will be reviewing the rates a couple times a year and if looking off, can appeal the rate. Up until COVID, rates have been pretty accurate for the past 6 years.

- This MA revenue spreadsheet will be shared with the district business managers.

COVID Revenue Update

For the past year and a half a Provider Relief Fund Covid money for healthcare providers that could be applied for. Schools were included as HCP's per IEPs. Applications were submitted and districts received 2-3 payments.

About two weeks ago, Lake Superior business mgr. came across an error with the Phase 3 application. Previous MA revenue was reported incorrectly in the applications without decimal points, which indicated an amount 100 times more than actual. PRF Revenue was supposed to be 2% of that.

Due to this error, districts received way too much. NLSEC is working with HHS on how to fix this. NLSEC will be reaching out to districts on how the money has been spent in order to do the required reporting until a solution is known.

Contracted Services Review

This spreadsheet shows all outside contracted special education services for NLSEC member districts.

Wrenshall is not sure if they will continue with Presence Learning for speech services. They might look at posting for a therapist for next school year.

Cromwell contracts speech out and it's for 4-days per week. Suggested to Cromwell to reach out if they need help with speech therapy.

Barnum, Moose Lake and Willow River changed from an independent contractor for Occupational Therapy to an OT hire shared between them, board approved in December of 2021. This resulted in a model change for Barnum and Moose Lake from COTA/OT to just OT for services.

Personnel: OT Maternity Leave Coverage

- Cloquet is the host district and has posted a position for the leave of absence.

Director's Report:

Fun to Start -

COVID Special Education Recovery and Supports

Recovery Tracking for MDE has started with IEP managers.

The State of Minnesota passed a law that districts needed to offer COVID recovery meetings by December 1, 2021 to determine if any recovery supports were needed. All district staff have done a wonderful job for this. There were not many concerns from parents. If there were, the concerns are being addressed.

The tracking needs to be reported in approximately August of 2022. This has been shared with IEP managers to enter info so that it's easy to tell what is happening with the student.

There are 4 buckets of recovery to consider for each student - General Education, Revision to IEP, ESY or Compensatory Education.

MDE will ask Directors to report: How much money was associated with this recovery service? There is a pot of money for this reason. What was the money used for? If the money wasn't used, do we have to return the money?

Teached will need to have the information sent to the NLSEC before they go

home for the summer.

LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling

A professional development course that bridges deep, meaningful research into practical classroom success, used regardless of the literacy program that is in use. This helps teachers understand how to teach students to read and what to do if they can't read. This course is recommended by the International Dyslexia Association and MDE.

Intro video [HERE](#).

A study of teaching institutions found only 29 percent actually prepare teachers with all five essential components of literacy instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

[MDE LETRS Training for Teachers and Facilitators](#)

2022 MN Legislation is looking at funding more training with LETRS. NLSEC is paying for one special education teacher per district at the rate of \$300.00 per person.

Employment Capacity Building Cohort (ECBC)

There are currently 20 students across the NLSEC in 18-21 programming.

Goal met! 11 of these students have obtained competitive integrated employment—the new way.

Olmstead v. United States, MN Olmstead Plan: **people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life** in the most inclusive setting.

Comprehensive Special Education Evaluations

School psychologists are also informed about this information

IDEA requires school districts to conduct a “full and individual” evaluation after a school district identifies a student as potentially having a disability. 20 U.S.C. § 1414(a)(1)(A). A comprehensive evaluation should consider the requirement that districts provide medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. 34 C.F.R. § 300.34(a).

Minnesota law similarly states that a “student must be evaluated in all areas of suspected disability.” [Minn. R. 3525.2710, subp. 3\(C\)\(4\)](#).

[Addt'l info from Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger](#)

Paraprofessional Documentation and Staffing

NLSEC reboot on this topic

There is inconsistent documentation of a para in the IEP

Additional ways to track para data per SpEd forms reports has been identified by coordinators.

[Guidance for member district staff](#) on how to appropriately and consistently document para need is being revised and training will occur by webinar.

Infinitec or another platform will be used for this.

Fun to End

[Modern Times](#)

An announcement

Dena is the recipient of the MASE New Special Education Leader award. She will be recognized at the MASA/MASE Spring Conference held March 10-11, 2022 in Minneapolis.

Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- Friday, October 7, 2022 9 a.m, NLSEC Conference Room
- Friday, December 2, 2022 9 a.m., NLSEC Conference Room

Adjourn:

Superintendent Fisher adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.