

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
NLSEC Conference Room, 16 E. Hwy 61, Esko, MN 55733

Present:

Barnum Superintendent, Bill Peel
Barnum School Board Member, Jessica Unkelhaeuser (virtual)
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
Lake Superior Superintendent, Jay Belcastro
Moose Lake Superintendent, Billie Jo Steen
Proctor Superintendent, Kerry Juntunen
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, Dawn Hultgren
Northern Lights Special Education Administrative Assistant, Tisha Warbalow

Absent:

Carlton School Board Member, Eryn Szymczak
Carlton Superintendent, John Engstrom
McGregor Superintendent, Brad Johnson
Wrenshall Superintendent, Kim Belcastro

Call to order and Welcome: *The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.*

Guests: Jessica Knutsen, Secondary Transition Coordinator to speak about Mentoring Day
Laura Birman, Work Based Learning Coordinator

- The last Mentoring day was held in 2019 at Fond Du Lac Tribal & Community College.
- Mentoring day will be held March 13, 2023 - at Fond Du Lac Tribal & Community College-they donate their campus for the day.
- Registration will start February 15th and will have a week or so to register. Normally registration pulls in around 300 students.
- All the information for Mentoring day is on the NLSEC.org website.
- Looking at having around 40 presenters.
- Duluth has decided not to be part of Mentoring Day this year.
- It costs about \$3000.00 to host this event. The Northern Lights Interagency Council pays for this. We have received donations from the Moose, the Lions Club and Minnesota Power.
- There is a Parent strand at Mentoring Day that Dena coordinates.
- Suggestions for donations for future years could be reaching out to Frito Lay and Bernick's.

Approve Agenda:

Motion made by Superintendent Belcastro to approve the February 3, 2023 agenda as presented. Second by Superintendent Libbon. Motion carried.

Approve December 2, 2022 meeting minutes

Motion made by Superintendent Juntunen to approve the December 2, 2022 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Superintendent Steen. Motion carried.

Personnel

- Work-Based Learning Coordinator Hired and Started January 12th
 - Welcome Laura Birman!
 - Will continue Cloquet hosted contract, former Cloquet MS SpEd teacher
 - Serves: Cloquet, Esko, Carlton, Wrenshall, Willow River
- ECSE Coordinator
 - Previous ECSE coordinator Jessica Brown resigned in October 2022
 - This is a much needed position to support our districts
 - Will post the position early Feb. for a Fall 2023 start date.
 - Coverage Plan - K-12 coordinators are supporting their assigned districts at this time.
- K-12 Coordinator
 - Heidi Halker retired December 31st.
 - Posted and interviewed once.
 - Coverage plan for the remainder of the school year.
 - Lake Superior - Dena
 - Moose Lake - Billie Jo Steen & Eric Butche
 - NLSEC purchased services from Willow River. Bambi Newman will be the coordinator for Barnum for the remainder of the school year.
- OT/COTA Services Update -
 - NLSEC OT Proposal
 - Proposal to hire 1.0 FTE as a response to not being able to hire COTAs anymore.
 - Board member question: What about having one of the districts host a COTA satellite training site? There are no COTA schools in the Northland area.

Motion made by Superintendent Whitman to approve the NLSEC OT 1.0 Proposal Hire as presented, pending more discussion and financial recommendation at a later date. Second by Superintendent Peel. Motion carried.

Fiscal

- Medical Assistance Revenue
 - Summary of what's happening/ hopefully we are out of the covid years
- Contracted Services Review
 - When districts aren't able to hire their own staff for service, outside contracts are needed. This is the list to date for 2022-23 SY.

Director's Report

- 2022 Child Count
 - Child Count is by resident district and this year there are 101 more students than last year's count.
 - Working Data Session proposed at NLSEC - Friday, March 24th for Superintendents to discuss rising Child Count.

- Annual Paraprofessional Training Day
 - Monday, January 16, 2023 at Esko High School-133 attendees
- MASSP Pre-Conference Special Education Presentation
 - Dena and colleagues presented at MASSP on behalf of MASE to support principals with more training in SpEd.
- Monthly NLSEC Newsletter - [NLSEC Newsletter](#)
 - Created to reduce and condense the emails that NLSEC sends out to districts.
- Special Education Legislative Update
 - MASE Day at the Capital is Feb. 27th
 - MASE is watching many bills - the good, the bad and the ugly

Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- Friday, May 5, 2023, 9 a.m., NLSEC Conference Room (tentative until board approved on 1/6/23.)

Adjourn:

Motion made by Superintendent Juntunen to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Second by Superintendent Steen. Motion carried.