

NLSEC Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 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)
Carlton Superintendent, Donita Stepan
Cloquet Superintendent, Dr. Michael Cary
Cloquet School Board Member, Ken Scarbrough (Virtual)
Cromwell-Wright Superintendent, Nathan Libbon
Esko Superintendent, Aaron Fisher
Esko School Board Member, Todd Rengo
Hermantown Superintendent, Wayne Whitwam
Lake Superior Superintendent, Jay Belcastro
McGregor Superintendent, Brad Johnson
Moose Lake Superintendent, Billie Jo Steen
Proctor Superintendent, Kerry Juntunen
Willow River Superintendent, Bill Peel
Wrenshall Superintendent, Kim Belcastro
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

Call to order and Welcome: *The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.*

Guests: Stephanie Jaspersen-Aagenes, SpEd Director Intern - Absent

Approve Agenda:

Motion made by Superintendent Juntunen to approve the May 12, 2023 agenda as presented plus one addition. Second by Superintendent Steen. Motion carried.

Approve February 3, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion made by Superintendent Libbon to approve the February 3, 2023 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Superintendent Johnson. Motion carried.

Personnel

- ECSE Coordinator
 - Hired Jenny Bouchie under Hermantown Contract
 - Comes with experience for Birth-21. Was an ECSE teacher with Cloquet and currently at UMD for the past 10 years.
- K-12 Coordinator
 - Hired Laura Wieck under Lake Superior Contract.
 - Currently SpEd teacher at Lake Superior. She does have Admin and Principal experience in 4 different states.
 - District assignments are still being worked on.

- Occupational Therapist Interview 5/8/23
 - Interviewed 2 candidates and will be making an offer to the candidate next week.
- Audiologist Amy Packer Retiring, Interviews 5/10/23
 - Interviewed 3 candidates and will be making an offer to the candidate next week.
- NLSEC Technology Coordinator - Shannon Proulx
 - Increasing FTE to 1.0.

Fiscal

- Approve FY24 Planning Budget

Motion made by Superintendent Steen to approve the FY24 Planning Budget as presented. Second by Superintendent Blecastro. Motion carried.
- 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.

NLSEC Bylaws

- Need updating
 - Revision proposals to the board.
- Membership Enrollment Renewal
 - Tisha has sent these out to the districts but if you need a copy, please grab one.
- Annual Agreement

Director's Report

- NLSEC Data Project Summary
 - Superintendents are meeting this afternoon to review the data.
 - Received data from 6 districts.
 - How many SpEd students have exited Special education in the past 10 years?
 - More SpEd students than GenEd students?
- Tuition Agreements and Bills for Day Treatment
 - Day treatment
 - Inpatient Hospitalization
 - ABA - Autism centers are not public schools
 - For care & treatment, resident districts can be held responsible.
- Northern Lights Interagency (NLIC)
 - Connecting with different agencies in the area for students on IEPs.
 - Joint meetings are held with Duluth Public Schools
 - Subcommittees
 - Secondary Transition
 - Public Awareness
 - Parent Advisory
- Northern Lights Parent Advisory and Family Support Committee
 - Need to raise awareness to recruit.
 - Post on districts' websites
 - Update yearling and look at superintendents attending, rotating?

Future NLSEC Board Meeting Dates:

- Friday, October 6, 2023, 9 a.m., NLSEC Conference Room

Adjourn:

Motion made by Superintendent Belcastro to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Second by Superintendent Johnson. Motion carried.