

Northern Lights Academy Cooperative Board Minutes  
Mar 1st, 2024  
Google Meet

**Present:**

Jeff Pesta, Wrenshall Superintendent

Nathan Libbon, Cromwell-Wright Superintendent

Whitwam, Hermantown Superintendent

Billie Jo Steen, Moose Lake Superintendent

Jay Belcastro, Lake Superior Superintendent

Jessica Cook, Director of Spec. Education

Dawn Hultgren, Business Manager

Brad Johnson, McGregor Superintendent Wayne

Aaron Fischer, Esko Superintendent

Ken Scarborough, Cloq. School Board Mbr

Kerry Juntunen, Proctor Superintendent

Bill Peel, Barnum/Willow River Superintendent

Barb Mackey, Asst. Director of Spec. Education

Todd Rengo, Esko School Board Mbr

**Guests:** Ehlers: Jodie Zesbaugh, Beth Downes, Shelby McQuay

**Absent:** Donita Stepan, Carlton Superintendent; Jessica Unkelhaeuser, Barnum School Board Mbr; Ryan Leonzal, Carlton School Board Mbr; Dr. Michael Cary, Cloquet Superintendent

**Call to order**

*9:04 am Called to order by Chair A. Fischer*

**Approve Agenda**

*Motion to approve agenda by Superintendent K. Juntunen. Second by Cloquet school board member K. Scarbrough. Motion carried.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Board Minutes
  - Regular & Organizational Board Meeting dated Feb. 2nd, 2024 (AttachmentA)

*Motion to approve consent agenda items by K.Scarbrough. Second by Superintendent N. Libbon Motion carried.*

- Payment of Bills and Treasurer Report (Attachment B)
  - NLA \$3768.20 - NLSEC \$6968.08

*Motion to approve consent agenda items by Superintendent B. Peel. Second by Superintendent J. Belcastro. Motion carried.*

**Subcommittee Reports (Attachment C)**

- Facilities (Peel, Stepan, J. Belcastro) Met Feb 8th & Feb 13th, 2024
  - Discussed evaluation of Carlton HS building by ICS.
  - Updated numbers from Ehlers and will be @ Mar 1st mtg to update.
  - Both bills have been read and passed onto committees, SF3933 & HF 4282.
- Programming (Pesta, Steen, Whitwam) Has not met.
- Finance (Libbon, Juntunen, Johnson) Next meeting April 2nd.
- Personnel - (Fischer, Cary) Met Feb 8th. Next meeting Mar. 20th.
  - 2023-2024 NLA Staff Updates were shared - there continues to be a high number of absences this year and an open paraprofessional position which remains open.

- 2024-2025 NLA Staff Requests were reviewed.
- Student Support Personnel postings, will plan for next year.
- ESY- not enough staff interested yet. Still brainstorming and finding alternatives for ESY to meet the needs of students.
- Review of Special Ed Director contract and evaluation for end of the year.

Jodie Zesbaugh- Ehlers (Facilities Subcommittee Additional Information)

- Presentation to show the updated lease purchase, ltfm & lease levy tax impact.
- Averaged out the 7 years usage of each district.

Consider Approval of the NLA Calendar for 2024-2025 (Attachment D)

*Motion to approve NLA Calendar for 24-25 SY by Superintendent N. Libbon.  
Second by Superintendent B. Steen. Motion carried.*

### **Directors' Reports-Barb Mackey, Jessa Cook**

- Celebrations - Garfield building- aggression is short lived and time to be out has decreased. Carlton building- 9-12th graders are making some transitions to their resident districts.
- Enrollment Update (Attachment E) - 46 students enrolled. Still have a waitlist for several classrooms.
- Staffing Updates
  - Staff Absence Report (Attachment F)
- Programming Updates- Float teacher has been working with a couple of students who are receiving home-based services.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- Friday, **April 5, 2024** -9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday, **May 3, 2024** - 10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)
- Friday **June 7, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **August 2, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **September 13, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **October 4, 2024**-10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)
- Friday **November 1, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout
- Friday **December 6, 2024**-10:30a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)
- Friday **January 10, 2025**-9 a.m. Organizational Meeting/Google Hangout

### **Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn by Superintendent K. Juntunen. Second by Superintendent B. Steen. Meeting adjourned at 9:39am.*