

## Northern Lights Academy Cooperative Board Minutes

January 19th, 2024

9:00 a.m. - Google Meet

### **Present:**

Kerry Juntunen, Proctor Superintendent  
Dr. Michael Cary, Cloquet Superintendent  
Aaron Fischer, Esko Superintendent  
Brad Johnson, McGregor Superintendent  
Ken Scarborough, Cloquet Board Member  
Billie Jo Steen, Moose Lake Superintendent  
Jeff Pesta, Wrenshall Superintendent  
Barb Mackey, Asst. Director of Spec. Ed. NLA  
Raeanne Bergren, Head Secretary NLA

Wayne Whitwam, Hermantown Superintendent  
Donita Stepan, Carlton Superintendent  
Nathan Libbon, Crom-Wright Superintendent  
Bill Peel, Willow River/Barnum Superintendent  
  
Ryan Leonzal, Carlton Board Member  
Jessa Cook, Director of Spec. Education  
Dawn Hultgren, Business Manager

### **Absent:**

Jay Belcastro, Lake Superior Superintendent

### **Call to order**

*The Organizational and Regular Meeting of the School Board of Northern Lights Academy, was called to order by Board Chair A. Fischer at 9:03am.*

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Motion to approve Organizational and Regular Board agenda by Superintendent N. Libbon. Seconded by Superintendent M. Cary. Motion carried.*

### **Election of Board Officers (Attachment A1)**

Chair Fischer called for nominations for the 2024 Officers for the Northern Lights Academy Board.

- **Chair-** *N. Libbon made a motion to nominate A. Fischer as Board Chair. Aaron Fischer was the only candidate nominated which declared him elected by acclamation.*
- **Vice Chair-** *N. Libbon made a motion to nominate M. Cary as Vice Chair. Michael Cary was the only candidate nominated which declared him elected by acclamation.*
- **Clerk-** *B. Peel made a motion to nominate W. Whitwam as Board Clerk. W. Whitwam was the only candidate nominated which declared him elected by acclamation.*
- **Treasurer-** *N. Libbon made a motion to nominate K. Juntunen as Board Treasurer. K. Juntunen was the only candidate nominated which declared him elected by acclamation.*

### **Designation of 2024 Committee Assignments**

- **Programming:** Jeff Pesta, Billie Jo Steen, Wayne Whitwam, along with Jessa and Barb.
- **Facilities:** Jay Belcastro, Bill Peel, Donita Stepan, along with Jessa and Barb.
- **Finance:** Brad Johnson, Nathan Libbon, Kerry Juntunen, along with Jessa, Barb and Dawn.
- **Personnel:** Michael Cary, Aaron Fischer, along with Jessa, Barb and Dawn.  
*Motion to designate and approve the 2024 Subcommittees list for NLA Cooperative was made by J. Pesta. Second by B. Steen. Motion carried.*

### **Designate Official Newspaper (Attachment A2 and A3)**

*Motion to Designate and approve the Pine Knot as the official newspaper for 2024 NLA*

*Cooperative was made by B. Johnson. Seconded by: B. Peel. Motion carried.*

**Designate District Legal Counsel**

*Motion to Designate and approve Rupp, Anderson, Squires and Waldsburger as the attorney for the NLA Special Education Cooperative for 2024 was made by K.Juntunen. Seconded by W. Whitwam. Motion carried.*

**Designate Official Insurance Broker**

*Motion to designate and approve Reliable Insurance as the continued insurance broker for 2024 for the NLA Special Education Cooperative was made by K. Scarbrough. Seconded by J. Pesta. Motion carried.*

**Designate Official Depository**

*Motion to designate and approve US Bank as the continued local depository for 2024 for the NLA Special Education Cooperative was made by K. Scarbrough. Seconded by N. Libbon. Motion carried.*

**Designate Authority with Official Depository**

*Motion to designate the NLA board chair and treasurer as the authorities for the official depository for 2024 the NLA Special Education Cooperative was made by B. Peel. Seconded by B. Johnson. Motion carried.*

**Designate Official Auditor**

*Motion to designate and approve BerganKDV as the continued auditor for 2024 for the NLA Special Education Cooperative was made by J. Pesta. Seconded by K. Juntunen. Motion carried.*

**Resolution Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signatures**

*Motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signatures for 2024 for the NLA Special Education Cooperative was made by B. Steen. Seconded by N. Libbon. Motion carried.*

**Authorize the Director of Special Education to Execute Business Affairs of NLA for 2024**

*Motion to approve the authorization of the Director of Special Education to execute business affairs for 2024 for Northern Lights Academy Special Education Cooperative was made by B. Steen.. Seconded by B. Peel. Motion carried.*

**Approve 2024 Proposed Regular Board Meetings**

*Motion to approve the proposed NLA regular board meeting dates as listed for 2024 was made by B. Johnson. Seconded by B. Peel. Motion carried.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Board Minutes

- Regular Board Meeting December 5, 2023 (**Attachment B**)
- Payment of Bills and Treasurer Report (**Attachment C**)
  - NLA- \$418,672.82                      NLSEC-\$35,601.56

*Motion to approve Consent Agenda items by Superintendent K. Juntunen. Second by Superintendent B. Steen. Motion carried.*

## **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Facilities** (J. Belcastro, Stepan, Peel)
  - Approval / Signature of continued contract with Jeff Anderson for FY25
  - Land tour and discussion
  - Tours of Carlton Site and Meetings held with legislators - Dec 15th with Senator Rarick, Dec 19th with Representatives Zeleznikar, Skraba and Dotseth
- **Programming** (J. Pesta, Steen, Whitwam)-Has not met. Next meeting – Jan 22, 2024.
- **Finance** (Libbon, Johnson, Juntunen)-Has not met. Next meeting – January 31, 2024
- **Personnel** (Fischer, Cary)-Met Dec 18th to discuss Day Treatment and online learning.

## **Directors' Report - Barb Mackey, Jessica Cook**

**Celebrations** – Received official award letter Grant for Sped Pipeline. We will be working with SWMSU in Marshall, MN.

**Student Enrollment - (Attachment F)** 45 students enrolled as of Dec 31, 2023.

**Staffing Updates (Attachment G)**

## **Future Meeting Dates**

Friday **February 2, 2024**-10:30 a.m. NLSEC Conference Room, Esko, MN (NLSEC meeting at 9am)

Friday **March 1, 2024**-9a.m. Google Hangout

Thursday **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 B. Steen. Seconded by D. Stepan. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.*