

Moose Lake School Board
January 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the Moose Lake School Board was called to order by Chair Steven Blondo at 5:05 pm. Board members present include Steven Blondo, Brenda Heikkila, Lisa Anderson-Reed, and Julie Peterson. Absent: Ben Anderson Also present: Superintendent Billie Jo Steen, Business Manager Garret Hultgren, Principals Kraig Konietzko and Eric Butche, Education MN Representative Lee Stephenson, and teachers/counselor.

Motion by Anderson-Reed, second by Heikkila to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Blondo, second by Peterson to approve the December 18, 2023 regular board meeting minutes and the January 8, 2024 Reorganization board meeting minutes; approve the December 29, 2023 payroll: checks #70749-70758 for \$8,300.85, electronic transfer of \$94,391.36, and direct deposit of \$147,362.06 for a total payroll of \$250,054.27; the December 29, 2023 supplemental payroll: electronic transfer of \$65.60, direct deposit of \$366.74 for a total payroll of \$432.34; the January 10, 2024 retro (back pay) payroll: electronic transfer of \$15,618.12, check #70759 for \$38.51 and direct deposit of \$33,971.98 for a total payroll of \$49,628.61; and the January 12, 2024 payroll: checks #70760-70768 for \$30,507.77, electronic transfer of \$88,807.65 and direct deposit of \$131,989.97 for a total payroll of \$251,305.39; approve the December 27, 2023 bill list: checks #69058-69087 for \$28,090.13 and wire of \$81.54 for a total of \$28,171.67; the January 5, 2024 bill list: checks #69088-69120 for \$49,400.22; the January 11, 2024 bill list: checks #69121-69122 for \$10,250.00; and the January 22, 2024 bill list: checks #69123-69189 for \$110,939.44 and wire of \$45,037.71 for a total of \$155,977.15; approve the hiring of Amanda Bloom (Bookkeeper) effective January 2, 2024; approve the re-hiring of Rajeania Crider (Paraprofessional) effective January 16, 2024; accept the resignation of Nathan Nielsen (Teacher) effective at the end of school year 2023-2024 with appreciation for his service to the school district; approve the winter coaching contract for John "Pat" Dewey (C-team Boys Basketball); accept the resignation of Carrie Sanda (Science Teacher) effective immediately with appreciation for her service to the school district; approve the 2024-2027 contract for Superintendent Billie Jo Steen; and approve the 2023-2025 contract for Vicki Radzak (Community Ed Coordinator). Motion passed unanimously.

Good Things Happening:

1. Commissioner of Education, Willie Jett, will be visiting Moose Lake Community School on January 24. We welcome him to our school community and are thankful for his time and support.
2. Governor Walz has proclaimed the week of January 21-27, 2024 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Thank you to our paraprofessional staff for your commitment to our school and students.

3. February 5-9 is National School Counseling Week. Thank you to Jillian Smith and Pam Litsey for your outstanding service to our students and their families.
4. February is School Board Recognition Month. Thank you to our current and past board members for their service to our school and community.
5. February 28 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Thank you to all of our bus and van drivers and coordinators who safely transport students to school and back home.
6. Congratulations to the 2024 Moose Lake Wall of Fame Inductees: Walt Lower II and George E. Lund, who will receive the award posthumously. The Wall of Fame Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20.

Presentations:**MLES Student Leadership Team (SLT):**

Members from the Elementary Student Leadership Team (Macy Fett, Harper Danelski, Johnathan Rhodes, Lanie Westmoreland, and Alexis Cisar) along with Shelly Olson, Charley Borak, and Jillian Smith presented to the board the activities they've worked on this school year. They include:

- Leaves of Kindness for Kindness Week
- ASK (Appropriate, Safe, Kind) T-shirt fundraiser to raise funds to purchase a moose mascot
- Food drive for the Moose Lake Food Shelf (collecting more than 1800 items!)
- Monthly Kick-Offs (elementary assemblies)
- Help with concerts and other events
- Helping with the Legacy's February Read-a-Thon
- General "extra" help as needed in the elementary

Social Studies Department by Becky Carlson and Lee Stephenson on new Social Studies standards and Moose Lake teachers shift back to more tangible resources.

Reports:**Superintendent Report:**

Facilities: We have a recommendation from the facilities and finance committee for work on the baseball field this spring.

READ Act Update: We had curriculum committee meetings this morning and discussed the approved curriculum list that MDE sent out January 10. We implemented UFLI this fall K-2 and that is on the approved list from MDE which is eligible for reimbursement. We will be looking at piloting at least two of the programs on MDEs curriculum list.

Transportation: We continue to have a need for substitute drivers in our transportation department. Jason, our transportation director, is working on increasing our pool of drivers.

Elementary Principal Report:

1. My third Parent Engagement session is tonight at 6:00pm in the Elementary Library. Agenda is as follows:

- *Parent/Teacher Conferences - Opportunity to share celebrations and any concerns
- *Follow up on SBG Report Cards - The improved format began this fall
- *Restorative Practices Update - Classroom “circles” and “Circles for Harm”
- *READ Act - Legislative changes coming to reading starting next year
- *Jillian Smith - MLE School Counselor - Jillian will join our session to speak about her role and the counseling services she provides to students individually, in group, and in the classrooms.
- *Discussion on Upcoming Events:
- *Commissioner Visit to MLCS on Wednesday, January 24
- *Overnight Field Trip to Osprey Wilds (Environmental Learning) - Grade 6 - (March 25-27)
- *MCA Testing for student in grades 3-5 (Reading: April 16-19, Math: April 23-26, Science (Grade 5 only): April 30
- *February 19 - No School - Teacher Inservice
- *February 29 - End of Trimester Two
- *March 1 - No School for students: Teacher Inservice/Workday
- *Spring Break: March 4-8 (Likely changing next year)
- *Trimester Three Begins on March 11 (School resumes for students)

2. Today was a curriculum inservice morning along with Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:30 - 7:30pm)

3. Thank you to Pam Erickson and Charlie Borak for organizing our Gathering of Great Minds Inservice on Monday, January 15.

4. This week is Paraprofessional Week in the state of Minnesota. I want to thank and recognize these support staff for the excellent job they do working with our students.

High School Principal Report:

January 22nd Teacher inservice and parent teacher conference

- Teacher inservice will focus on curriculum cycle
 - Industrial teach looking at curriculum and course offerings
 - New Social Studies Standards
 - Changes to English offerings (previously present by Mr. Cummins)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, January 22nd from 12:30 - 7:30.
 - FAFSA : We will be hosting a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) informational/ completion event on the evening of January 22nd for students and parents. The FAFSA application process has been completely revamped and this will help navigate families through these changes.

We will again be rewarding students with no missing assignments with an activity period January 26th and giving those students with missing work an opportunity to get caught up with the assistance of an instructor.

One Act Play: The Moose Lake / Willow River co-op for drama will compete in the One Act Play competition at Aitkin H.S. on Saturday, Jan. 27. They will be performing a cutting of “The Miracle Worker.” This play is based on the autobiography of Helen Keller.

- They will be performing for MLHS during our Recognition Day on January 26th.
- They will host a public showing that evening at 6 pm.

Snow Days will be held January 29th to February 2nd. Our student council is currently working with Willow River to coordinate activities.

- Willow River will be attending a pep fest and activities at Moose Lake.

Work continues with the Mickelson Group on Restorative Practices and a student ambassador program. A meeting of advisors was held on January 18th to review next steps and how programing looks in other schools. It will also help determine how this will look at Moose Lake but the process has been started and we are hopeful this will be a great addition to our restorative practices we are already practicing at Moose Lake.

The Moose Lake Cube Club put on our 3rd Annual Cube Off before Christmas Break. This event has grown in goofiness and excitement over the last 3 years with this year being no different. Mr. Niedzielski mc'd the occasion with Mrs. Miller bringing the full atmosphere with a wonderful playlist of walk-up and performance music. Competitors this year included:

7th graders: Aila Johnson, Charlie Cummins, and Trygger Leino

8th graders: Melanie Niedzielski, Willard Wasche, Nathan Ellingson

11th graders: Jacob Stanley, Reece Bode, Max Petry, Elliott Wasche, Kaiden Eilens

Teacher: Mr. Nielsen

This year Jacob Stanley took home the top prize of fastest fingers in the Land by beating past champions Elliott and Willard Wasche. Since the competition, the interest has hit a bit of a fever pitch. Jacob Stanley has broken the all-time Moose Lake speed record by setting the new bar at 13.593 seconds and is now consistently solving under 20 seconds per solve. The Cube Club has also put together their first mural of the year, hoping that it will help bring a bit more snow to our area this year.

Board Committee Reports:

-Finance by Blondo

Legacy of Excellence:

-Readathon kick-off is on February 2nd. The Legacy is doing a reading Bingo Board this year and changing up the prizes and reporting system. They are excited for dress up days during "I Love to Read" month!

-Gearing up for the Moose Run on Saturday, May 4. They would love day-of volunteers!!

-looking into sponsoring, along with Agate Encore, a family friendly comedian. More to come!

Discussion:

MLCS Strategic Plan 2021-2026: Reviewed and will further discuss updates/adjustments at a Working Meeting.

Board position opening: A Special Meeting will be scheduled to either appoint [if just one applicant] or do interviews [if more than one applicant]. Letter of Interest to Blondo due at the end of the day on 2/2/24.

Computer Science Education: MLCS does have offerings in Coding, STEM, and Robotics. Integrating Computer Science into the curriculum is very important and should be a priority.

Action Items:

Motion by Peterson, second by Heikkila to adopt policies 102, 413, 414, 418, 419, 424, 425, 506, 507, 509, 513, 514, 515, 516.5, 524, 532, 534, 601, 602, 603, 604, 606.5, 613, 616, 617, 618, 620, 621, 624, 708, 709, 802, 806, 906. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION
TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS
IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS
THEREFORE.**

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and

WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditures and decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 97, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures and, as a result of a reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Blondo and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Blondo, Heikkila, Anderson-Reed, Peterson Absent: Anderson Vacant: 1

and the following voted against the same: None

Motion by Peterson, second by Anderson-Reed to approve the 2024 School Board Committee assignments and appointing the new Board Member to open committee assignments left vacant by recent Board Member resignation . Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Blondo, second by Heikkila to approve the 2024-25 School Calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Blondo, second by Peterson to approve estimate #1555 with Country Care Lawn Service for work on the baseball field. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting/Event Dates:

Regular Board Meeting	February 26	5:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting	March 18	5:00 p.m.
Athletic Liaison Committee	January 25	5:00 p.m. - ML Board Room
Special Meeting -	February 13	5:00 p.m.
[Board Candidate Interviews and Strategic Planning Discussion]		
Finance Committee Mtg	TBD	

Motion by Blondo, second by Heikkila to adjourn at 6:28 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Steven Blondo, Chairperson

Lisa Anderson-Reed, Clerk