

**Rice Lake Area School District
Northern Lakes Regional Academy
Red Cedar School
33 Ann Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
Northern Lakes Regional Academy Governance Council
Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The Northern Lakes Regional Academy Governance Council of the Rice Lake School District met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Northern Lakes Regional Academy, 33 Ann Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, with Andrew Mommsen, President presiding.
- II. Roll Call:** Present—Dave Armstrong, Karen Chilson, Cindy Cragg, Jean Havenor, James, Kiffmeyer, Andrew Mommsen, Dave Myre, Sue Pederson, Pete Peterson, Brandon VanGuilder
Absent—None
Others Present—Randy Drost, Curt Pacholke
- III. Notice of Posting:** Pete Peterson announced the following: The Council hereby finds communication and public notice of the open meeting, as required by section 19.84 of the Wisconsin Statutes, had been properly given by the presiding officer's designee, Pete Peterson. Such a notice and agenda to the official newspaper, the Rice Lake Chronotype, to the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, the school district website, and to radio stations WJMC and WAQE, indicating the date, time and place of the meeting and such notice was given more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- IV. Approval of 3-20-18 Minutes:** Dave Armstrong motioned and James Kiffmeyer seconded to approve minutes. All present voted aye. Motion carried
- V. District Decision Regarding NLRA:** Randy Drost and Curt Pacholke reported on the district's decision to close NLRA following the 2018-19 school year. The school has not attracted the numbers of students committed to the mission and vision. The time invested by the co-lead teachers, Pete Peterson and Mark Beise, is intense and ultimately, unsustainable. Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year is at a low: two students. There are a number of issues regarding the decision to close.
- A.** The Fab Lab will be moved to the high school to make it available to more high school students and the community. An engineering pathway will be instituted and NLRA students who are currently dedicated to the STEAM vision will be encouraged to follow this route. Dave Armstrong noted that opportunities for Youth Apprenticeships may be increased.
- B.** NLRA has created a culture of cohesiveness and has been an outstanding model of education. Rigor and relevance has always been a hallmark of this space.

- C. Bringing in a new freshman class of only two students would create more difficulties than benefits. Additionally, the economics of that situation would be fraught with problems.
- D. 2018-2019 will be a year of transition. NLRA will continue to be open, servicing sophomores through seniors.
- E. There will be a town hall meeting for students on April 26 at 2:20. A parent meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3 at 6:00 to answer questions.
- F. In calling a new charter school “alternative” we must be careful as there are several connotations to that word

VI. Future of Governance Council: The current Governance Council will serve through the next school year, perhaps opting to meet quarterly rather than monthly. The majority of school issues will come from the development of the new schools. There will be a need for a future advisory board to deal with issues surrounding the Fab Lab as well as a new governance council, which could be made up of the current council, to work on issues pertaining to a new charter high school.

VII. NLRA Inc. 501(c)3 Status: A notice was mailed to Pete Peterson in late March from the IRS stating that NLRA had lost its 501(c)3 status. There is a Form 990N postcard which must be filed by November 15 of each year to maintain this status; no notifications had been sent to indicate this needed to be done. Pete filed a Form 1023 EZ for retroactive reinstatement along with a \$275 fee. The status should be renewed in six to eight weeks.

VIII. School Updates:

A. Community Service Day—This will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd. NLRA students will be working in the school garden, at the Lumbering Hall of Fame, Pioneer Village and on the senior class mural.

B. Senior Defense and Volunteers—Senior Defense will take place on Tuesday, May 22 from 12:45 to 2:30 pm. Dave Myre, Karen Chilson, Andrew Mommsen and Curt Pacholke volunteered to work at this event.

C. MakerPalooza Student Showcase—This final showcase of the year will be on Thursday, May 24 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. A Pecha Kucha format will be utilized allowing each student to present 16 slides each running 20 seconds. It is hoped that this will significantly streamline the presentation time. The showcase will be preceded by the presentation of academic awards.

D. Senior Graduation—Graduation for four seniors will be on Thursday, May 31 at Lehman’s from 5:30 until 7:30. Governance members are encouraged to attend if possible.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 4:00.

X. Adjournment: Jean Havenor motioned and Cindy Cragg seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted aye. Meeting was adjourned at 5:16.

Jean Havenor

Date