

**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, January 16th, 2018**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The Northern Lakes Regional Academy Governance Council of the Rice Lake School District met in regular session at 4:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16th, 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
Absent—Brandon Van Guilder
Others Present—Mark Beise, 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 12-19-17 Minutes:** Dave Armstrong motioned and Karen Chilson seconded to approve minutes. All present voted aye. Motion approved

- V. Budget Update:** The Rube Goldberg Team will no longer need funding from NLRA, Inc. as they are not at a level for competition. The current budget amount is \$1263.82.

- VI. School Updates:**
 - A. Recruitment Updates**—Three informational meetings have been held thus far. Five potential students have shadowed with five more scheduled to shadow.
 - B. 2017-18 Semester Enrollment**—Two students have transferred to the Success program and one to the Connections program. The semester enrollment is 41 students.
 - C. Murder Mystery Showcase Update**—Students have been working very hard putting the final touches on the dinner and show for Thursday, January 18th. Tickets have been sold out since shortly after the Christmas break. Monies raised will provide funding for field trips.

- D. Backpack Program Update**—NLRA has received positive feedback from the community regarding our involvement. Students have done both individual backpack packing as well as unloading semis.
- E. Contract Update**—Mark Beise and Pete Peterson went to the school board to answer questions about the NLRA contract. Overall, the discussion went well; one member asked a question regarding accountability. Because of our small sample size, we are unable to evaluate the high school.
- F. Staffing for 3rd Quarter**—Both Steve Adams and Megan Raether will be at the high school for 1st Hr., arriving at NLRA about 9:45. Pete Peterson will be on paternity leave the entire quarter with Meg Olson taking his place.

VII. Building Goals Update:

- A. Math and ELL Goals Discussed**—The following building goals were set: 95% of students will complete one credit of math for the year. The ELL goal will be to increase students' use of textual evidence.
- B. HOPE Survey**—All students who start and end the school year as an NLRA student will take the HOPE survey twice. Prior to our opening retreat, 43 out of 45 students took the initial survey. This survey measures students' social and emotional health. NLRA students tested high in the areas of flexibility and staff support but lower regarding relationships with peers. Students were assigned a peer buddy.

VIII. NLRA Future Discussions:

- A. In what ways can we better serve both our STEAM focused students as well as those who chose NLRA as an alternative schooling choice because they feel safe in a smaller learning community? Are we spreading out NLRA staff too thin by trying to serve both groups?**
- B. How can we bring the strong STEAM focused activities we are doing at NLRA with many students to more students in the district?**
- C. Is our mission and vision something we are truly able to live out if so many students chose NLRA for a different reason than that mission and vision? How are we missing on serving these kids' needs better by simply counseling them out because the model does not fit them.**
- D. Is simply having a more extensive application process going to attract students because of our STEAM vision, or is a bigger change needed?**
- E. Five years from now, if we are doing roughly the same thing, regardless of location or whether we go down to teaching at a middle school level, will we still be trying to do too much?**
- F. Does it make sense to look into starting a second charter high school program that is a true Science and Engineering Academy located as a school-within-a-school at RLHS? Could we transition NLRA into a true alternative high school better equipped at serving students with needs that a STEAM model is not addressing?**

These questions were addressed randomly. STEAM students may not be attending NLRA because of personal social issues. Originally, the focus was

Project Based Learning. It is felt by teachers that fewer students are self-directed enough to make good choices. There is also the issue of the rigor of a STEAM curriculum vs. the needs of the literacy component.

Many students who are very qualified to attend NLRA don't come because of the social aspect. They may not want to leave friendships behind at the high school. Paradoxically, often students attend because of the size of NLRA where there may be less bullying and they don't feel lost in the crowd.

Youth Apprenticeship might be the best option for many students. Others may not find this successful.

Would the future site of NLRA best serve students if there were a takeover of the Jefferson school? There would need to be massive remodeling for this to take place as it is an old building.

Would it be better to move NLRA into the high school—a school within a school, such as in Appleton or Wausau. A primary drawback would be funding unless the pool referendum also contained an addition to the high school. A factor that would be positive regarding this would be the maintenance of a core group of NLRA students with others floating into the high school curriculum or RLHS students accessing NLRA offerings.

Would an affiliation with UW-Stout give the STEAM program more cache'?

This was an opening discussion into many of the issues facing NLRA at this time. More thought and time will need to be devoted to this.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 4:00.

X. Adjournment: Jean Havenor motioned and Dave Myre seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted aye. Meeting was adjourned at 5:46.

Jean Havenor

Date