

**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, May 15, 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, May 15, 2018 at the Northern Lakes Regional Academy, 33 Ann Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, with Andrew Mommsen, President, presiding.
- II. Roll Call:** Present—Cindy Cragg, Jean Havenor, James Kiffmeyer, Andrew Mommsen, Pete Peterson, Sue Pederson, Brandon Van Guilder  
Absent—Dave Armstrong, Karen Chilson, Dave Myre  
Others Present—Curt Pacholke, April Owen, Lisa Dennis, Patsy Taylor, Bill Duerkop, Jim Wishall
- 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, Curt Pacholke. 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 4-24-18 Minutes:** Cindy Cragg motioned and Sue Pederson seconded to approve minutes. All present approved.
- V. Open Floor for Guests to Share Concerns/Questions:** All parents present spoke about what NLRA has meant to their sons/daughters. These are highlights. The concept of NLRA should not disappear or become diluted with a move to the Jefferson site.  
The district must keep the kids in mind.  
It seems as if the general public isn't aware that NLRA even exists.  
"My child was frustrated because regular school wasn't working for him. NLRA has improved his confidence—it gave him a chance to dream.  
"Were students in the class of 2018 who left NLRA given an exit interview?"  
"My son loves STEAM and project based learning. I didn't know he was capable of doing some of the things that he is."  
"What can parents do to help in the planning phase?"  
Bullying was often a major factor in choosing to come to NLRA.  
"I will do anything to help keep this school going."

NLRA needs some hard-care recruitment.

Students need to learn to the soft skills that NLRA fosters.

Learning to work independently is an asset for the future.

Is a program for the gifted and talented turning into a program for special needs?

- VI. Recap of May 3 Townhall Meeting:** Pete Peterson shared information regarding this night. Both parents and community members were in attendance. People were unprepared for the e-mail and letter stating that no freshmen would be admitted for the 2018-19 school year and that NLRA would be closing following next year. Parents shared how important the school was to their children. Parents felt that the survey given earlier was leading—that the decision to close had already been made. Staff has been struggling to meet the needs of students as the mission of the school has become less about STEAM and more on Project Based Learning as well as providing a culture that helps students with social and emotional needs. Money was not a factor in the decision to close. It was a very emotional meeting.
- VII. Discussion of Initial Plans for Programming Move:** Curt spoke to the group encouraging parents to be part of the planning. Information will be asked of all parents for what a new model will entail. The school will move to an alternative site, probably the former Jefferson School. The governance council commitment will need to be determined so adequate time and thought is necessary. It is essential that soft skills continue to be stressed. Next year will be very busy as the staff looks ahead to the 2019-20 school year.
- VIII. Budget Update:** Sue Pederson reported the balance at the end of March was \$1253.82. There was a \$275 debit to the IRS to reinstate the 501(c)3 status and two purchases from Amazon to bring the balance to \$906.21. Pete Peterson questioned the Amazon purchases. He will investigate these purchases.
- IX. School Updates:**
- A. Community Service Day (May 2)**—A student made plaques for Pioneer Village and a number of students worked there and at the Lumbering Hall of Fame. Numerous students worked on the school garden and constructed a water barrel system for watering while seniors painted their class mural.
  - B. Staffing Updates**—Megan Raether has accepted a position at Wildlands Charter School in Augusta, WI. A team of teachers and administrators will begin the interview process for her replacement soon.
  - C. Literacy Goal Update**—NLRA achieved its goal of improving each student's writing assessment by at least one point over the school year. The math goal will not be finalized until the end of the year. Also, the HOPE survey will be administered before school concludes.
  - D. Senior Defense**—Twelve judges will preside over the Senior Defense on Tuesday, May 22. Four seniors will be judged on their presentations.

- E. Maker Palooza**—The final showcase of the year will take place on Thursday, May 24 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Students will share the highlights of their projects using a Pecha Kucha format of fifteen to twenty slides each timed at twenty seconds. Academic awards will be given out prior to the showcase.
- F. Senior Graduation**—Four seniors will graduate from NLRA on Thursday, May 31. Families and Governance Council members are invited to attend this ceremony at Lehman’s beginning at 5:30.
- X. Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 4:00 pm.
- XI. Adjournment:** Jean Havenor motioned and Pete Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:59.

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Jean Havenor

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Date