

Northern Lights ABC Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 12/09/2025

3:00 pm

NLABC School

PRESENT: Dorissa Martin, Jenny Cabasag, Michael Wuerth, Kristina Wuerth, Kelly DeRouin, Cheryl Holden, Tyler Kobelnyk, Robby Voelker, Elizabeth Congdon-McGee, Andie Kelly, Rosa Hohnstein, Tiffany Voelker, Lucy Matthew, Brittany Gallagher, Terre Kimble, Zoya Stephens

1. Call to Order: 3:03PM - Jenny called to order, Kelly seconded. Motion passed.
2. Approve agenda: Jenny moved to approve agenda, including adding 6th grade being a part of Middle School, or not. Cheryl seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. Meeting Minutes from 11/13/2025
Jenny confirmed that November Meeting Minutes were approved via text & email.
4. Curriculum Update
 - a. Mos Dos:
Mrs. Matthew discusses the standards for Mos Dos: #4 (vocabulary) is not on the list, but should be; #7 (technology & artwork) has larger stories and pictures that they read individually and as a class to discuss; #8 (NA), #9 (informational) history/science is part of informational; #10 (end of year goal). Chapter books need to be added but she likes that there are in depth questions about analytical and literary elements to discuss with the students.

MCLASS testing indicated the overall % of instructional area is going up.

Mr. Redhead was unable to attend the meeting in person but provided Mrs. Martin with his feedback & findings; material is mostly fictional, not as much informational text; doesn't see as many "I can" statements; he feels that there are not clearly defined standards in the teacher guide which has caused some inconsistency in planning, no consistent lesson structure, and it makes it hard for him to identify what to teach on what day; he believes the materials are

missing some writing standards and that some of the specific directions don't align with state standards. PAC comments were that Mr. Redhead's findings were all negative which shows bias. PAC also concerned that in order to have a successful pilot both teachers needed to be able to teach to fidelity and show consistency on how material is taught. We now have two teachers with very differing opinions.

Overall, Mrs. Matthew is favorable and thinks Mos Dos is going well, and based on the feedback shared with Mrs. Martin, Mr. Redhead disagrees; some parents feel like this is not conducive and that he might not be giving the pilot a shot. PAC is also concerned with students receiving packets on Monday and to be turned in on Friday which is similar to 1st grade expectations.

Jenny questioned if we really did need a curriculum for 5th grade. Mrs. Matthew mentioned that 5th grade does not have a teacher mentor where other grades do which brings continuity to ensure all teachers are teaching to fidelity with the curriculum that has been available for several years. Jenny stated that Mrs. Hughes is more than willing to come and do a walk-through with 5th grade teachers and will make herself available as that is historically how NLABC retired staff operate. Mrs. Matthew confirmed that Mrs. Hughes has been a great resource, but believes some of the curriculum was discarded.

Mrs. Martin reminds the group that this is the science behind a pilot program, a collaboration of different opinions and analysis of how the programs improve test scores. The theme of Mos Dos aligns with NLABC but the program was written before some of the standards we use now. Anything that we use needs to be approved by ASD, so after this school year, test scores will be evaluated and then the district & state will approve (*Mrs. Martin is not a part of the decision to continue with Mos Dos program.*)

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to discuss with Mr. Redhead and to ask him to attend the next PAC Meeting in January to speak directly on his findings.

Mrs. Voelker and Mr. Kach meet every week to plan ahead for the week's flow. Mrs. Matthew says that she and Mr. Redhead check-in to see which stories they're both on but feels there's not enough time to sit and plan literature (with five other subjects to plan and grade). She acknowledges how other teachers have mentors to see, "what should this class look like?" but 5th grade teachers do not have a solid core teacher assisting them, so 6th grade would like to collaborate as they will be seeing the 5th grade effects next year.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will utilize PLC to pull-up a story in Mos Dos and talk through after the Holiday Break 5th and 6th Grade can work together on 1/12/2026. Mrs. Matthew also to show items that were not able to be located in the books by Mrs. Martin & Mr. Redhead.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Voelker will continue to collaborate with Mrs. Matthew and Mr. Redhead on teaching the curriculum to set the incoming 6th grade students up for success.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to provide Mr. Redhead's feedback from Mos Dos.

b. Middle School Electives:

Mrs. Martin confirms that electives to be offered in 2nd semester are Business, Law, Yearbook, Biology & Spanish 2. Three elective classes are still building syllabi for the next semester which are Business, Yearbook, and Law. The other elective classes are biology (repeat of semester 1, as it was a highly requested course) and Spanish 2 for 8th graders which currently have a syllabus.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will continue working with Mr. Williams (long term sub) to assist with writing the Law Syllabus.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to follow-up with all teachers to ensure the syllabus for each elective is sent to parents in the beginning of 3rd quarter.

5. Follow-up Items – Mike Wuerth

a. Debate Syllabus:

Mrs. Martin confirmed all Middle School syllabi have all been distributed; debate was posted on canvas and is available to see. However, not all families have access to Canvas and it needs to be sent to parents via email.

b. Crosswalk update:

Shoutout to Mrs. C and Mrs. Kelly who have been out front, volunteering, a lot!

Mrs. Martin has noticed a pattern with the lower temperatures and parents sitting in the parking lot with their kids until the first bell rings, causing a long line for drop off and making it difficult to keep cars moving.

ACTION ITEM: Tyler is going to create a brochure document about parking lot etiquette, as there are many safety concerns lately, as well as people not following the traffic flow

c. Tardy Letter:

Mrs. Martin states that the Tardy Letter is a district letter which is generated in Q and printed by the Front Office on NLABC letterhead. Confirmed removed language pertaining to removal of zone exemption.

d. Middle School Department:

Mrs. Hohnstein confirms that the Middle School Department meeting was postponed due to the ice-days, but has been rescheduled for next week.

6. PTA Comments

Winter Carnival is scheduled for 2/13.

Spirit Week is next week: Monday- dress in winter sports gear, Tuesday – Holiday pajama day, Wednesday – Grinch and Santa day, Thursday – Ugly Holiday sweater day (Friday is an in-service day, for end of quarter/semester). A flier has been sent to staff and will be posted to social media groups.

Cheryl asks about years past when there were Holiday Sing-Alongs; Mrs. Martin confirms that Mrs. Congdon is willing to do this next year, but not this year because not all of the students know the songs, and we can put this on the calendar for next year.

7. 6th Grade Discussion – Should it be a part of Middle School?

As stated in the opening of this meeting, Jenny has asked that we table this discussion until 6th grade teachers can be present, as Mrs. Voelker could not stay for the entire meeting.

Mrs. Hohnstein wonders what lunch/recess would look like with 6th-8th grade.

Terre requests to clarify if it's just athletics that are different from other ASD 6th grades (as we still have band/orchestra/choir). Mrs. Martin confirms that if our (NLABC) 6th graders want to attend Middle School sports that we do not offer, the student is able to attend their designated ASD Neighborhood School and enroll into their sports league.

8. Thanksgiving Feast

a. What went well?

Brittany will be updating the binder with historical information and traditions.

Asking students to bring their water bottles didn't go well this time, many were left behind and some didn't make it back to the students and ended up in the Lost & Found.

Experimented with rotating 5th/6th graders between rooms in groups; students didn't prefer it, but the teachers and volunteers thought it went very well.

It was suggested that students who are not in costume can wear all black, so they feel like they are more a part of the parade. Mrs. Martin inquired about having only those in costume participate, and having the others stay back in their classrooms. PAC and Staff members thought that would not be a good idea because we do not want to make it feel like they're being punished for not dressing up. Another suggestion was for teachers to assist those not in costume to make paper hats.

Everyone liked how the music was coordinated to play in all rooms so they could hear, and the flute players being in the front of the parade was a great touch because they led the parade.

b. What could have gone better?

Behavior issues during the hour recess; hitting, tackling, and bigger kids being mean to the younger kids. Noon duties were notified but did not enforce discipline; wondering if we can break into 2 recesses next year.

Mrs. Martin recommended taking photos of the ASD tables & chairs when they first arrive, next time, as they got mixed-up with the NLABC tables & chairs and it was confusing for the volunteer cleanup crew. This should assist with an easier transition when ASD comes to retrieve their equipment. Brittany suggested that the front desk staff snap pictures of how the equipment arrives since they will be there and see it before anyone else. Mrs. Hohnstein volunteers as a Middle School teacher to stand next to the racks during clean up to ensure equipment is put back appropriately.

Cheryl suggests serving two plates at a time to help expedite the time it takes to serve meals and keep the line moving.

c. Middle School roles (7th & 8th grade):

Middle School has historically had 7th grade serve the meal, and 8th grade cleanup; Communication was not as clear this year and was thought to be 8th grade serve and 7th cleanup. After discussion and deliberation during today's PAC meeting, Cheryl made a motion to have 7th grade serve and 8th grade clean up. Robby 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

ACTION ITEM: Brittany to update the documents to ensure the procedure is 7th grade serve and 8th grade clean up, as well as do a 10-minute walk through with students ahead of time so everyone is aware of their roles, and that the front desk will take a picture of the ASD equipment and MS faculty will make sure the racks are only loaded with ASD tables & chairs.

d. Could Middle School contribute to the MC role?

Jenny makes a motion for the Middle School Student Advisory to MC (read script & pass-off microphone); these students will be nominated by teachers. Cheryl 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

ACTION ITEM: Brittany to update the documents to reflect MS Student Advisory Students to MC.

9. Philosophical Corner - Due to time limitations we did not have time to discuss.

10. Committees

We will table this until the January PAC Meeting. Mrs. Martin would like to discuss a Lost & Found committee if possible.

11. Parent Comments – Open Forum

12. Primary Teacher Rep Comments

Mrs. Gionet was wondering why not all students were called to the stage to recognize passing phonograms. It was decided that moving forward, phonograms will be called out by grade so all students have an opportunity to stand on stage for recognition.

13. Secondary Teacher Rep comments

Mrs. Voelker just wants to acknowledge that 6th grade teachers will be working more closely with 5th grade teachers.

14. Middle School Teacher Rep comments

Mrs. Hohnstein discusses many exciting things going on through the rest of the month until Holiday Break for Middle School including: field trip to Alaska Native Heritage Center, Student Advisory making a video for the next ASD Board meeting in January (they will be confirming with the front office to confirm whose pictures can/cannot be in the video), Krispy Kreme Fundraiser, end of semester potluck, and an ugly sweater competition.

15. Principal comments:

Reading scores for MAP Testing are complete; while there are always variables, every grade level and every class are expected to achieve 50% growth, or more. Mike asked if we can see the data collected for the MAP Testing & Mrs. Martin confirmed that she would need to coordinate with Chris Opitz to get comparisons so we are careful not to share confidential information and not able to determine individual student's scores.

Mrs. Martin notifies everyone that if a student is expecting to have 10+ consecutive days of absence, she will temporarily withdraw their enrollment and re-enroll when they return so the school's attendance rates are not reflected negatively. This includes when students are on an excused/pre-approved vacation if it is scheduled for more than 10 consecutive school days in a row.

Math Assessment scheduled for Wed 12/10 for 3rd-8th grade.

MClass retesting for K-3 & 4th-5th for students who hit below 40% growth.

Tabling for now, but Mrs. Martin would like a formal document created of approved dress codes for events (due to some particular reoccurring violations at the recent Middle School dance).

ACTION ITEM: Jenny to add Middle School dress code for special events to January agenda.

Mrs. Martin would like to have parent representation for the sign-in table at assemblies.

Mrs. Martin stated that ASD Board member brought in dictionaries for our school.

Please encourage students to visit the Lost & Found to see if they have any gear that belongs to them; anything remaining at the end of day Thurs 12/18 will be donated. Cheryl suggests having tables set up at the School Store for students to look at the Lost & Found.

Volleyball girls won 1st in their pool and 2nd overall! YAY!

11 attendees are currently signed up for Spaulding Training in Jan-Apr (ASD is covering fees) and then we will have over 80% of K-6th Faculty trained (including Mrs. Martin). As this training is 4 hours after school for 4 weeks of independent study, some faculty are unable to register. Mrs. Matthew inquires about opportunities for this training in the Summer; Mrs. Martin will check with Clare.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to coordinate with Chris Opitz to see what data can be shared from Fall/Winter MAP Testing Scores along with trending data for the last 3-4 years. Present results at next PAC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Cheryl set up a table with Lost & Found gear at the next School Store so students can browse and make sure they grab anything that belongs to them.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin confirm with Clare if Spaulding Training Opportunities are available in the Summer for Faculty (& have ASD pay)

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to provide names of teachers enrolled in the Spaulding training to send a thank you for their commitment to our school.

16. Celebrating Successes & Positive Wins

Middle School dance was great!

Thanksgiving feast went well; Parents & staff have noticed more participation in all activities and functions.

Spaulding training for teachers & Mrs. Martin will be completed by April 1, 2026.

NLABC Facebook & Instagram page followers continue to increase.

17. Adjournment: Jenny motioned to adjourn at 5:40pm; Robby seconded. Motion passed.