

Northern Lights ABC Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 1/13/2026

3:00 pm

NLABC School

PRESENT: Dorissa Martin, Jenny Cabasag, Michael Wuerth, Kristina Wuerth, Kelly DeRouin, Cheryl Holden, Rosa Hohnstein, Bernadette Wright, Tiffany Voelker, Lucy Matthew, Jackie Morris, Greta Gionet, Zoya Stephens

1. Call to Order: 3:05PM - Jenny called to order.
2. Approve agenda: Mike moved to approve agenda. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.
3. Meeting Minutes from 12/09/2025
Jenny confirmed that December Meeting Minutes were not approved via text & email. Jenny asks for a motion to approve minutes. Mike moved to approved meeting minutes. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.
4. Curriculum Update
 - a. Mos Dos:
Mrs. Matthew indicates there aren't many updates but is curious if we are moving forward with adopting the program. If grants are available, we should decide soon, as the last quarter is historically for budgeting and hiring for the next school year. Mrs. Matthew is concerned that the topic of adopting the Mos Dos program may get pushed off until fall.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will reach out to Clare to determine the next steps to adopt MosDos with the district and will follow up with the PAC.

Jenny asks if we feel like both teachers want to adopt the program. Mrs. Matthew says that she wants to, and Mr. Redhead does not want to and states that they both have their reasons. Mrs. Martin reiterates that before we make any decisions, we need to know the steps to move

forward. Jenny requests that Mr. Redhead attend the February PAC Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin requests Mr. Redhead to attend February PAC Meeting on 2/10

b. Middle School Electives:

Mrs. Wright states that all syllabi have gone out. Mrs. Martin confirms that the Law syllabus is developed, but she hasn't sent it out until the new teacher is able to review it.

Business - Mrs. Martin confirmed syllabi have been sent to families by Mr. Cullings.

Yearbook - Mrs. Martin confirms they are looking at a platform for students to use for formatting. As this class will not go until the end of the school year, they are currently evaluating what the students will do after this class is complete.

5. Follow-up Items – Mike Wuerth

a. Middle School Department:

Mrs. Hohnstein said that in the past, they were removing students from being eligible because of reasons they did not earn it (detention, etc.). They have since reversed this and are now using the Character-Building Blocks and each student who's selected will have a paragraph from the nominating teacher stating why they earned the award; it will not be academically earned, but character and behavior. Mrs. Wright confirms that there will be 8 total students selected, 2 per teacher. Mrs. Hohnstein confirms that detention is an automatic disqualification. Jenny confirms that the handbook states 20% of Middle School Attendance. Mrs. Martin suggests 12 students nominated, 3 per teacher. PAC agreed.

6. PTA Comments

Winter Carnival is scheduled for 2/13. We need volunteers. There will be no auctions this year. Mrs. Martin will be bringing the games.

The next Middle School dance is in April & is line-dance theme.

Alternative School Expo is 2/21 @ 12pm-4pm at Begich Middle School. Contact Zoya if you are interested in attending to talk about NLABC to prospective families.

7. Middle School Dress Code – Special Events

Zoya brings up that there was no leniency allowed for the dance and many girls needed to wear their coats. Jenny asks if we should adopt new dress codes for graduation since that is also a more formal event. Members discuss back and forth whether shoulders being seen is acceptable, and it's decided that as long as no undergarments/bras can be seen, shoulders are okay. Members unanimously decide that absolutely no cleavage is appropriate, and that skirts and dresses need to be at least the length to the fingertips, and if they're any shorter, then

students are required to wear tights or leggings (not sheer or see through tights). Jenny asks if open-toe shoes are acceptable for MS dances and Graduation and it is unanimous to allow them.

ACTION ITEM: Jenny will draft a Middle School Dance and Graduation dress code and send it to Mrs. Martin for review.

ACTION ITEM: Jenny & Mrs. Martin to add no fake eyelashes to the dress code for the 26/27 school year.

8. Philosophical Corner

Jenny asked for ideas for the Philosophical corner topic ideas from the group. It was decided to discuss ethics pertaining to homework.

ACTION ITEM: Jenny to send a statement from the PAC to be included in the next Tiger Tracks.

9. Committees

a. Nomination Committee

Cheryl volunteers to be the Chair.

School Lottery opens on 2/1/2026. Mrs. Martin has training on Thurs 1/15 and will meet with Jenny & Cheryl to discuss the new process. Siblings are still automatically allowed in; the front desk staff scan all of the applicants to make sure siblings get priority approval.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to discuss the new Lottery Enrollment Process at the next PAC meeting on 2/10/2026.

b. Lost & Found Committee

Shoutout to Nurse Natasha for organizing all of the lost items.

ACTION ITEM: PAC to remind everyone at the next assembly to go through the lost & found items before they are donated.

10. Parent Comments – Open Forum

Kelly brings up how frustrating it is when unhealthy people (teachers and students) come to school and share germs. The sickness this year is running rampant, and everyone just keeps “sharing” and recycling the illness. Several teachers mention that they send their students to the nurse when they do not look well, and they’re often sent home due to high fevers. While it’s not always convenient due to work schedules and/or childcare, parents need to keep their children home when they know they are ill.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will add tiger tracks to families about “What’s Too Sick for School?”

Kristina expresses concern that her students are able to use ChromeBooks for “Fun Friday” and are not being monitored by the teachers. Mrs. Martin confirms that families fill out waivers at the beginning of each school year that indicates whether their students can use the internet or not; if it is flagged then they’re not allowed & the students can only use it for testing. Mrs. Morris is choosing to send papers home with her students to confirm if her students are allowed to use ChromeBooks for fun Friday or not.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to send out the teachers weekly news to have limited computer time.

Middle School choir, band, and/or orchestra electives have syllabi and grade expectations, but the grades do not count toward GPA. Mrs. Martin confirms that Queue runs a GPA report and cannot determine which classes are assigned per student (elective + 4 cores). Jenny confirms that other Middle Schools do not require Art, Health, and PE; additionally, while NLABC handbook states that any D’s or F’s will automatically disqualify a student from Department eligibility and Honor Roll, but (electives) still don’t count toward GPA. Jenny proposes that band/orchestra and choir count towards GPA.

ACTION ITEM: Jenny will write-up a proposal for Middle School that band/orchestra and choir count towards GPA and send to Mrs. Martin.

Jenny inquires about the trending data for MAP Scores from Chris Opitz.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will acquire this data for the February Meeting.

11. Primary Teacher Rep Comments

Mrs. Gionet inquired about the topic of SPED accommodations, as new students are applying for the lottery, “are IEPs and Assessments for Success disclosed?” As she is concerned with the current individualized support services available, some students might not have as much success in the rigorous program. Mrs. Martin acknowledged a huge discrepancy throughout the entire district for assistance with SPED programs and confirmed that when parents apply for the lottery for their children, it is only names that are shown, not any IEPs or Assessments for Success, and how it’s particularly challenging to gauge for new Kindergarteners.

12. Secondary Teacher Rep comments

Mrs. Voelker confirmed that the Dress Code was sent to 6th grade parents before Winter Break. If students receive dress code violation warnings, they will be sent to Mrs. Martin. If anyone has inquiries about the dress code, it is available on the NLABC website : [NLABC Dress Code - Revised 2025](#)

13. Middle School Teacher Rep comments

Mrs. Hohnstein is excited for Spirit Week for Valentines week and has a door decorating contest. She would like for the PAC members to vote on their door designs at the next meeting, Tues 2/10.

ACTION ITEM: Jenny will add door voting to the February Agenda.

The Student Advisory Council made an NLABC video, and they'll get to see it next week.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Hohnstein will send the video to Jenny so she can use it at the School Tours

14. Principal comments:

Mrs. Martin confirmed we have experienced a drop in enrollment to 598 students; 4 are out of state and 1 is in state.

Nine staff members, including Mrs. Martin, are scheduled to start Spaulding training. This includes: Mrs. Martin, Ms. Gionet, Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Ireland, Mrs. Voelker, Ms. Hohnstein, Mrs. Matthew, Ms. Zhu & Mrs. Hammond.

MCLASS Assessments are taking place and only 24 students showed "well below" which is barely 8% of the K-3rd population.

Four teachers received mid-year accolades based on their mid-year scores; Mrs. Farrens, Mrs. Means, Mrs. Kaas, and Mrs. Morris.

A parent, Mr. Rushiti, volunteered to plow the lot yesterday. HUGE THANK YOU!

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin send his contact information to Jenny & Zoya

iReady Assessments are taking place until 1/23

Migrant Ed Tutoring will start next week: Monday & Thursday; detention is Tues & Friday

Budget has been submitted for 26/27 school year

ASD Maintenance has taken care of Laurel Street and acknowledged it's very icy and have granted us a second gravel bin for our campus. Mrs. Wright asks if we can get snow removed from the teacher parking lot, as we've lost at least ten spaces due to heavy snowfall.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin will submit a work ticket to maintenance regarding snow removal in the teacher lot.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin would like to follow up with Tyler regarding the parking lot pamphlet

Indoor lineup due to extreme cold weather: no one is currently monitoring doors on Laurel because teachers are inside; on indoor days, one teacher will be designated to monitor D-Hall outside doors

15. Celebrating Successes & Positive Wins

School Store will take place on Fri 1/30.

Zoya confirms that a work order has been submitted for the new digital reader sign out front.

16. Adjournment: Jenny motioned to adjourn at 4:58pm; Kelly seconded. Motion passed.