

Northern Lights ABC Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, 8/13/2026
3:00 pm
NLABC School

PRESENT: Dorissa Martin, Greta Gionet, Theresa Castellanos, Ashley Borden, Jenny Cabasag, Debbie Maestas, Kristina Wuerth, Michael Wuerth, Elizabeth Congdon-McGee, Corey Tiedeman, Lisa Ernest, Tyler Kobelnyk, Jackie Morris

1. Call to Order: 3:04PM - Jenny called to order, Mike seconded. Motion passed.
2. Approve agenda: Mrs. Martin asked to add the safety patrol to the agenda. Mike motioned to approve the agenda. Kristina seconded. Motion passed.
3. Meeting Minutes from 05/19/2026: Jenny asked for a motion to approve minutes. Jenny asks if any changes are needed, and Mrs. Martin states she has some changes, and will submit to Jenny at a later time. Minutes to be voted on 09/08/2026.
4. New PAC Member - Lisa Ernest - Vote Required:
Lisa introduced herself, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and teaches at UAA Nursing Department with 2 kids in the program and 1 graduate of the program.

Kristina motioned to join the PAC, Corey seconded. Motion passed.
5. Follow-Up Items:
 - a. Ice Cream Social
 - i. Ashley present for Brittany stated that phonograms and writing strips will be on sale, no additional help is needed. PTA & PAC tables will be present. Mrs. Martin stated only first names will be placed on the wall next to the classroom. Parents will be able to access Parent Connect to find their students' teacher and an email will go out to families at 3pm the day of the Ice Cream Social with teacher assignments.
 - b. Middle School Math Placements
 - i. As discussed in the 7/31/26 collaboration session, Corey asked what factors contributed to so many students failing Pre-Algebra in the 26/26 school year. Mrs. Martin stated that 9 students failed Pre-Algebra in 7th grade, and 17

received a GPA in math of 2.5 or lower, and/or were below the 70th percentile. For information, Mrs. Martin went on to say that in non-alternative ASD schools, 8th grade is Pre-Algebra but at NLABC it is for 7th graders. Algebra is considered an advanced class for 8th grade per ASD standards. Out of the 26 students who were asked to retake Pre-Algebra in 8th grade, 5 families opted out and asked to be enrolled in Algebra. Mrs. Congdon-McGee did add that Algebra is the #1 class that failed in high school and is a graduation requirement. At this time there will be (2) Algebra classes for 8th grade, (1) Pre-Algebra, (1) Math 7.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Martin to collaborate with 6th grade and middle school to monitor placement for next school year. Teachers will discuss, look at grades, contact parents and determine next steps (could lead to an IEP). **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs. Martin will monitor grades in Q and contact parents as necessary. Will also send out surveys to teachers to help bring attention to students who need additional support and require teachers keep her in the loop. Corey asked if this was the first time this has occurred and is there data to support the issue? Mrs. Martin stated the issue could be rooted from COVID but does not have any readily available data for this fact. Mrs. Martin stated there will be (1) Algebra class that will have more advanced students and (1) Algebra class with more average students. PAC advised that we would rather they commingle as that will build mentorship and a little competition.

- c. Behavior Matrix
 - i. It is completed but not visible and requires edits. The matrix will outline common behaviors and common consequences for actions. Jenny offered to provide assistance if needed.
 - d. Curriculum Mapping
 - i. Mrs. Martin stated this not ready to be shared, still requires some edits
 - e. Rules Assembly
 - i. Mrs. Martin is conducting them both in classes and as a group at the beginning of the school year.
 - f. Final Teacher Allocations
 - i. See Principal Comments
 - g. PAC Teacher Representatives
 - i. See Principal Comments
6. Middle School Electives: Mrs. Martin stated that these will be ready at Open House on 9/2/2026. **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs. Martin to share copies with PAC on or before 9/2/2026 The Committee expressed gratitude for Cheryl & Terre's commitment to NLABC philosophy and spending countless hours supporting not only the PAC but the PTA as well.
7. PTA Comments:
Reminder for Ice Cream Social is on 8/17/2026, Jog-A-Thon is on 9/11/2026, Picture Day is 9/10/2026 and first RWB Assemblies will be in October.

8. Parent Comments – No comments

9. Primary Teacher Rep Comments:

Mrs. Gionet states that Spalding learning resources are available to parents online, and teacher handbooks are to be handed out to teachers. Ms. Maestas asked if Kindergarten is included in Open house? Mrs. Martin stated that per contract teachers can either attend open house or meet your teacher and cannot do both. Kindergarten has their one on one with parents so no need to be at Open House on 9/2/2026

10. Secondary Teacher Rep comments:

Mrs. Voelker, not in attendance, confirmed that there is a 6th grade specific Open House which will be on 8/25/2026.

11. Middle School Teacher Rep comments: No Middle School Representative

12. Principal comments:

a. Back to School Family Documents

Mrs. Martin shared a packet of information which included a new Parking Lot Family Expectations that requires parents signature along with license plate numbers to complement the brochure. Mike asked how we would enforce it. Mrs. Martin stated that they are expectations and hope it is a step forward to a safer more mindful community. Philosophical Agreement and Plagiarism Policy will continue to be sent to families for signature.

b. Dress Code Changes

i. Nail Polish - PAC votes to continue with wording as currently read on the Dress Code.

ii. Fake Eyelashes - PAC unanimously votes to add fake eyelashes as prohibited items in the dress code. **ACTION ITEM:** Jenny to email Mrs. Freeman with changes.

c. Middle School Electives

i. 7th grade will have Biology & Debate, 8th grade will have Business & Graphic Novel/Podcasting. At semester they will switch to the elective they did not have in the 1st semester. Question from Lisa, will NLABC receive language back? Mrs. Martin stated not with the current PTR mandated by ASD.

d. Middle School Social Studies Book

i. **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs. Martin to follow-up with the teacher and bring any information to the next meeting.

e. Staffing

i. 23 classroom teachers (4 middle school)

1. Includes Mrs. Means to come back to teach 2nd grade and a new unnamed 4th grade teacher. Only 2 Kindergarten classes. K = Maestas,

Gionet, 1st = Gionet, Kelly, Heinz, 2nd = Farrens, Pugh, Means, 3rd = Popek, Morris, Ireland 4th = Son, Kaas, New, 5th = Mayer, Redhead, Matthew, 6th = Kach, Voelker MS = Shasby, Frazier, Wright, Cullings

- ii. No Combo Classes
 - iii. Increase by 2 ELL tutors
 - iv. Increase SPED resources
 - v. Concerns expressed for duty (lunch and noon). Mrs. Martin appealed for Ms. Allen to come back as she cannot assign ELL to duty and SPED resources can only be present in these areas if they are supporting kids with needs. Cannot hire noon duties only volunteers.
- f. Current Enrollment and Numbers
- i. Mrs. Martin continues to appeal to ASD that the PTR needs to be dropped. All parties were encouraged to attend school board meetings to advocate.
 - ii. 620 total students. **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs. Martin to find the acceptable capacity for each classroom and building blue prints and compare to fire regulations.
- g. Safety Patrol
- i. Student volunteers would only include 7th & 8th graders who have had department. The starting goal is to have 12 students patrol in the morning and 12 in the afternoon. They will rotate between designated stations. Mr. Kach will be the sponsoring teacher and students will be pulled from electives 1-2 times per week to provide mentorship. There will always be an adult advisor for students to escalate issues to. If there is no adult there will be no patrol. The school assembly will introduce the students as “people movers”. They will not be in the parking lot, just on the sidewalks and the back of the school. The morning shift will be 20 minutes before the bell (7:30) and the afternoon shift will leave class 5 minutes early and stay until 2:50pm. **ACTION ITEM:** Mrs. Martin to determine student to patrol ratio, purchase belts and arrange for reflective gear. Corey offered to partner to assist with making this a success.
VOTE REQUIRED: 6-YES; 2-NO - Motion passes on a trial basis

13. Celebrating Successes & Positive Wins

Mrs. Martin stated a win was no combo classes for NLABC.

14. Adjournment: Jenny motioned to adjourn at 5:49pm; Kristina seconded. Motion passed.