

	Regular School Board Meeting	
	Date: April 13, 2026	
	Location: Circle of Life Academy	Time: 5:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Time: 5:00 PM ▾

2. **MISSION STATEMENT:** Our Circle of Life Academy is immersed in Anishinaabe Mino-Bimaadiziwin for our children and community while providing the highest quality of education.

3. ROLL CALL:

- a. Board Members Present:

Yes ▾ Trista Ayers, Chair

Yes ▾ Loretta Solmon, Vice Chair

Yes ▾ Chris VanWert, Secretary

Yes ▾ Dorothy Zima

No ▾ Fawn Roy

- b. Others Present

i. Seth Houglum

- c. Quorum Present? **Yes** ▾

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾

- b. Second: Dorothy Zima ▾

- c. In Favor:3

- d. Opposed:0

5. RECOGNITIONS - STAFF OR STUDENT

- a. Darin Carstens is diligently working on securing a functional weight room for our students! Set to be available Fall 2026!

- b. Kris Manning for establishing the COLA Closet! The closet has received numerous donations as well as a check for \$1,500 from the Moorhead Lions Club.

i. How many kids are using the closet?

- c. Rachelle Tribunalo and Jenifer Mesias for putting together the upcoming Spring Program and Auction event. April 23rd starting at 2:30.
 - i. Planting activity will also be happening.
- d. Taylor Winter, our new school nurse. She has changed the atmosphere and has contributed in so many ways in just a short time!
 - i. Also bringing in other professionals for conferences.
- e. Our Seniors for working hard and finishing the year strong! Graduation is just around the corner! Howah!
 - i. Four seniors on track for graduation!

6. COMMENTS OR REQUESTS FROM VISITORS *(limit of 5 minutes per person)*

- a. No requests to the principal as of 4/9/26

7. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

- a. None today

8. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action is requested on the following items of the consent agenda. Consent agenda items are typically adopted without discussion of the individual items because they are routine or ordinary in action. Board members are asked to preview documents prior to the scheduled meeting. Any consent agenda item may be removed for further discussion and deliberation by any member of the board.

a. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes -**

- i. Regular Meeting - [March 9, 2026](#)

b. **HR / New Hires Report:**

- i. No new hires
- ii. HR reports to resume in May now that Carol has returned.

c. **Facilities Report**

- i. [Report Link](#)
 1. Gathering information from GSA on a new pickup. Should have some information in May.
 2. Cummins contract is up for renewal.
 3. 30 fire extinguishers were flagged and replaced this month.
 4. Lightning rods on grounds were questioned as necessary or not? Should we check with blueprints or architect?

d. **NASIS and Transportation Report**

- i. No NASIS report for this month
- ii. Heidi Harstad is working on a transportation report to be shared in the near future before the May meeting as we navigate rebuilding COLA transportation as a whole.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- iii. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾
- iv. Second: Loretta Solmon ▾
- v. In Favor:3
- vi. Opposed:0

9. STUDENT DATA & ACHIEVEMENT

a. Student Enrollment Update

As of 4/12/26	Currently Enrolled	Wait List	Transferred Out
KG	2	0	0
1st	8	0	1
2nd	7	0	1
3rd	3	0	2
4th	3	1	4
5th	8	0	1
6th	9	2	1
7th	6	0	4
8th	5	2	1
9th	9	1	8
10th	5	0	7
11th	0	0	4
12th	5	2	7
TOTAL	70	8	41
Mar 9, 2026			72
Feb 10, 2026			71
Jan 7, 2026			72
Dec 9, 2025			72
Nov 10, 2025			81
Oct 8, 2025			83
Sep 16, 2025			72

Discussion: Enrollment continues to fluctuate. Students are leaving the district due to personal reasons and need for alternative/flexible programs. COLA

continues to receive student applications and is staying vigilant with reviewing and accepting applicants thoroughly.

COLA is receiving more student applications and continues meeting with families. Applications are being held for the 2026-27 school year.

b. SPED Report

i. [Report Link](#)

1. SpEd Director is continuing to survey families (required by BIE) and collecting input from families

c. Student Data & Assessment Report

i. [Report Link](#)

1. Wifi issues causing issues with student testing

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Principal Report

i. [Report Link](#)

1. DARE Graduation - May 12th
2. Vehicle Inspections - May 20th
3. Review proposed 26-27 SY Calendar

b. Culture & Language Dept Report

i. Vince in Person with report [-Link](#)

c. Finance Report

- i. Interview process was held on 4/9/26 for Financial Coordinator. Awaiting approval from Deputy Director.
- ii. ARPA Budget Revisions may be completed at a later date

11. **ACTION ITEMS:** Action items receive individual attention because of the nature of the issues, the need to discuss or review the information prior to taking action, or the specific kind of action required for the action.

OLD BUSINESS

Review Ojibwe Language & Culture [Policy](#)

Discussion: Reviewed the draft policy again. Agreed to approve the policy as-is.

- i. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾
- ii. Second: Loretta Solmon ▾
- iii. In Favor:3
- iv. Opposed:0

12. DISCUSSION TOPICS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

- a. **Book Study:** *Great on Their Behalf: Why School Boards Fail, How Yours Can Become Effective*
 - i. Draft Goals (3-5): Will bring suggestions next month
- b. **Update: IT meeting** with Monte Bellanger - Still no update on the social media issue.
- c. **Update:** Discussion regarding Senior Portraits and how to fund them. Check with Jennifer S. (finance). - Seth will check on this
- d. **Graduation & Awards Banquet: Graduation is May 21st Time: _____ Senior Honors Night is May 13 at 5pm**
- e. **COLA Powwow:** May 15th - Time: _____
- f. **Ojibwe Language Camp:** Planned for June 9-10 from 10am - 6pm; will add June 11th if St John's/St Ben's is successful with videography grant. Will be a family-focused event with multiple activities happening simultaneously at various stations. Draft flyer will be reviewed at Wednesday's planning meeting.
- g. **KG Round-up/Open Houses-** Thursday, April 23rd, Wed., May 27th, Wed., June 24th, Wed., July 29th, Wed., August 26th.
 - i. Kari and Seth will team up to cover KG classroom during Round-Up
- h. Drafting proposed **Vision Statement and school values.** Bring your drafts of proposed Vision Statements.

Empowering students, through Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being, to learn, lead, and live without boundaries.

School values: Do we start with the 7 Grandfathers? They might be a good starting point since most are familiar with them.
- i. **Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Program 2026-2031**
 - i. The deadline for this grant was the end of March. No feedback was rec'd so this grant was not applied for.
- j. **5k sponsored by Public Health**
 - i. Any discussion needed?

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

- a. Agenda Items
 - i. Principal's Eval due in April
 1. Seth submitted his packet via Google
 2. The Board will begin review and Eval

b. Meeting Schedule: **Moved to the 2nd Monday of each month**

- i. April: 13th
- ii. May: 11th
- iii. June: TBD
- iv. Summer Board Retreat: TBD

14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion: Loretta Solmon ▾
- b. Second: Dorothy Zima ▾
- c. In Favor: 3
- d. Opposed: 0

Time: 7:01 PM ▾