

	Regular School Board Meeting	
	Date: December 9, 2025	
	Location: Circle of Life Academy	Time: 3:00pm

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER:</p> <p>Time: <u>3:08</u> PM - <i>Note: RBC closed for inclement weather</i></p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>3. ROLL CALL:</p> <p>a. Board Members Present:</p> <p>Yes - Trista Ayers, Chair</p> <p>Yes - Loretta Solmon, Vice Chair - Logged in at 3:50pm</p> <p>Yes - Chris VanWert, Secretary</p> <p>Yes - Dorothy Zima</p> <p>Yes - Fawn Roy</p> <p>b. Others Present</p> <p>i. Seth Houglum</p> <p>ii. Vince Olson</p> <p>iii.</p> <p>c. Quorum Present? Yes -</p>
<p>4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>a. Motion: Chris VanWert -</p> <p>b. Second: Dorothy Zima -</p> <p>c. In Favor: 4</p> <p>d. Opposed: 0</p>
<p>5. RECOGNITIONS - STAFF OR STUDENT</p> <p>a. Carol Zortman! Chii miigwech Carol for trusting yourself into making sure our finances are in order during a transitional period and during a programmatic and fiscal rebuild.</p> <p>b. Candace Potter! Chii miigwech Candace for stepping up and making sure that</p>

instruction does not suffer while Ronda has had to tend to her health.

- c. Lindsey and Ryan Madigan! Chii miigwech fellas for how well you handled this seasonal transition on the facilities end!
- d. Nicole Dewey! Chii miigwech and welcome to COLA! Nicole is our part time cook and kitchen support.
- e. Kris Manning! Chii miigwech Kris for staying on top of our social media and building your unique classroom. Also, she is still looking for donations for the Xmas store.
- f. Rachelle, Dave and Vince! Chii miigwech for making sure our piano lessons and student transportation (after contract hours) has come to fruition!

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

- a. No written requests rec'd as of 12/02/2025

7. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

- a. N/A

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 - [November 18, 2025](#)
- b. **Student Enrollment Update**

As of 12/05/25	Currently Enrolled	Wait List	Transferred Out
KG	2	0	0
1st	8	0	1
2nd	6	0	0
3rd	4	1	0
4th	3	0	4
5th	7	0	1
6th	9	0	1
7th	5	0	4
8th	5	0	1
9th	10	0	7
10th	5	2	5

11th	0	0	4
12th	8	2	4
TOTAL	72	5	32
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 continue to receive student applications and is staying vigilant with reviewing and accepting applicants thoroughly.

- c. **HR / New Hires Report:**
 - i. Nicole Dewey - .5 Position (KitchenAssistant)
- d. [SPED Report](#)
- e. [Facilities Report](#)
- f. **Board to begin review** of 25-26 COLA Handbook/Policies
 - i. Will start this process during Winter Break
- g. **Any expenditures** previously discussed - N/A

Approval of Consent Agenda

- i. Motion: Dorothy Zima -
- ii. Second: Chris VanWert -
- iii. In Favor: 4
- iv. Opposed: 0

9. **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.

- a. No action items this month

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a. [Principal Report](#)
 - i. COLA budgets are currently being finalized by BIE, WE Finance, and COLA staff. Board will review and approve after completion. Work Agreements have been completed and assigned to appropriate staff. These need to be shared with the Board. Staffing - loss of KG teacher and HS ELA.
- b. [Student Data & Assessment Report](#)
 - i. Board requests that assessment data is rec'd continuously and in a format that tracks student progress as we move forward (BOY-MOY-EOY).

- c. Culture & Language Dept Report - Vince Olsen to present
 - i. End of October we rec'd a donation of two deer. HS students processed them and took meat home with them and made tacos at school. Have two harvest permits left to utilize. Would like to get two students out into the woods to experience the hunt. Language classes have been solid. Reevaluating for 2nd semester. Jim is working with K-2. Lacking with 5-6 grade but readjusting for next semester. Jim, Sandy, Jen Yost, and Tim McMichael using board to make calendar with notecards. Shared fish (from netting) with community members. Will be storytelling with the kids. Working on snow-snakes. Partnering with B&G for winter activities. Looking to partner with area schools for virtual language tables.
- d. Finance Report - See Principal Report
- e. BIE Grant Opportunity for ALC type programs
 - i. Would like to look at this grant for other program options for our students
 - ii. Grant is due in January
 - iii. Keep our minds, hearts open, remembering what the mission of our school is
 - iv. Look at the failures we have as teachers, should be no reason why a senior has failed history 4 years in a row
 - v. How do we better teach and work with students?
 - vi. Explore work-based, project-based, ALC

11. UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- a. *Great on Their Behalf: Why School Boards Fail, How Yours Can Become Effective* Book Study
- b. 105(l) meeting with Nakoa Graff - Wednesday, December 10th at 2:30pm
- c. IT meeting with Monte Bellanger - Thursday, December 11th at 1pm
- d. COLA Holiday Celebration - Wednesday, December 17th. Program at 10am, Lunch at 11am.
- e. BIE is offering **New Board Member Training** (online) starting in January. They also offer monthly Lunch & Learn sessions. Here is the [schedule](#) and registration links.
- f. Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) [training](#) - January 14-16, 2026 w/travel day on January 13th (afternoon/evening)
- g. Following up on wild rice donation request - waiting for response from RBC

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

- a. Agenda Items
 - i. Approval of SY25-26 COLA Budget pending SY24-25 rollover funding
 - ii. Adoption of Board [Public Participation in School Board Mtg Policy](#)
 - iii. Review of Mission Statement
 - iv. Drafting of Vision Statement and school values
 - v. Approval of SY25-26 School Policies
- b. Work Session: Proposing a work day/session during Winter Break to review the handbook and work on the mission & vision statement.

i. Winter Break work session - Trista will send out a few dates for consideration via email

c. Meeting Schedule:

- i. January: 13th
- ii. February: 10th
- iii. March:
- iv. April:
- v. May:

13. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion: Loretta Solmon ▾
- b. Second: Dorothy Zima ▾
- c. In Favor:4
- d. Opposed:0

Time: _4:59__ PM ▾