

	Regular School Board Meeting	
	Date: February 10, 2026	
	Location: Circle of Life Academy	Time: 5:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Time: _5:02_ 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

Yes ▾ Fawn Roy (virtual)

- b. Others Present

i. Seth Houglum

ii. Vince Olson

iii. Bardie Skjonsberg

- c. Quorum Present? **Yes** ▾

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾

- b. Second: Loretta Solmon ▾

- c. In Favor:3

- d. Opposed:0

5. RECOGNITIONS - STAFF OR STUDENT

- Jen Yost stepping up to assist while another staff member is out.
- Susie Ballot and Thomas Mason for stepping up as well.
- Officer Pete Drift Sr. graduated from the DARE program and will be beginning

instruction in the near future.

-Ryan Majerus for revitalizing the healthy concessions and by bolstering the student council account.

-The four COLA Paraprofessionals that have decided to take part in the “Grow Your Own” Program through MDE to earn their BS Degrees in Elementary Education to become certified teachers.

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

No Visitors

7. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

No presentations

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 - [January 12, 2026](#)

b. **Student Enrollment Update**

As of 2/10/26	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	0	1
9th	10	0	8
10th	5	0	9
11th	0	0	4
12th	5	0	7

TOTAL	71	3	43
		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.

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

- i. No new hires

d. **SPED Report**

- i. [Report Link](#)
- ii. Second Link on OT - See Principal's Report below

e. **Facilities Report**

- i. [Report Link](#)

f. **NASIS and Transportation Report**

- i. [Report Link](#)

g. **Any expenditures** previously discussed

- i. N/A

Approval of Consent Agenda

- ii. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾
- iii. Second: Dorothy Zima ▾
- iv. In Favor:4
- v. 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.

OLD BUSINESS

a. [Policy 300-08: IDEA Disciplinary Actions](#)

Discussion: Bardie developed this policy shortly after we finished up the majority of the COLA Student Handbook. It does not have an approval date. Please review for approval.

- i. Motion: Dorothy Zima ▾
- ii. Second: Loretta Solmon ▾

- iii. In Favor:4
- iv. Opposed:0

b. Revision of Policy 500:06: Visitors

Discussion: The following was added to the Visitors Policy. Please review for approval. "Any individual or group visiting 3 or more days, consecutive or non-consecutive, and/or having direct one-on-one contact with students will require a background check prior to admittance. Group presentations are considered indirect contact due to the presenter not having direct, one-on-one or interactive engagement with every student/participant."

- i. Motion: Chris VanWert ▾
- ii. Second: Loretta Solmon ▾
- iii. In Favor:4
- iv. Opposed:0

NEW BUSINESS

None

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Principal Report

- i. [Report Link](#)
 - 1. [Athletic Director Link](#); [Seasonal Coaches Link](#)
 - 2. [Cost comparison for on-site vs. virtual OT services Link \(Bardie\)](#)
- ii.

b. Student Data & Assessment Report

- i. Testing started last week and is finishing up
- ii. Full report to be presented at the March board meeting

c. Culture & Language Dept Report

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

d. Finance Report

- i. Official report still in transition phase
- ii. Job posted, but no applicants as of 2/3/26
- iii. Meeting with Tribal HR on next steps on 2/10/26

e. BIE Expanding Educational Opportunities Grant

- i. Grant was approved by RBC and submitted on Friday, January 30th
- ii. If we're successful, we'll be notified on February 27, 2026

f. Parent Survey Results - January 29, 2026

- i. [Link](#)
- ii. When we have an opportunity to survey more parents, we can add the data to the existing form
- iii. What stands out?

g. Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Program 2026-2031

- i. Trista emailed out a link for the Leadership Team and Board to register, if possible, and view the information
- ii. Is this something we want to pursue?

11. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- a. *Great on Their Behalf: Why School Boards Fail, How Yours Can Become Effective* Book Study
 - i. Report on Step 1 & 2 - What stood out? Any action items coming to mind?
 - 1. Student outcomes
 - 2. It is our responsibility to ask questions to expose the true issue
 - 3. Goal examples on page 122
- b. IT meeting with Monte Bellanger - Thursday, February 5th at 1pm -
- c. 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. Also sent out an email to all Board members on 1/07/26.
- d. Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) [training](#) - January 14-16, 2026
 - i. Recap: highlights of training?
 - ii. Turn in your receipts for parking!
- e. Following up on wild rice donation request
- f. Drafting proposed Vision Statement and school values. Bring your drafts of proposed Vision Statements.
- g. Programmatic & Fiscal Review visit - March 23-26, 2026. The Board will need to be prepared for interviews.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

- a. Agenda Items
 - i. Approval of SY25-26 COLA Budget pending SY24-25 rollover funding
 - 1. Budget was submitted to the BIE after finalizing details in December and January
 - ii. Principal's Eval due in April
 - 1. The principal will need to complete self-evaluation prior to final evaluation by the Board. Will send him the information asap.
- b. Meeting Schedule:
 - i. February: 10th
 - ii. March: 9th
 - iii. April: 14th
 - iv. May: 12th
 - v. June: TBD
 - vi. Summer Board Retreat: TBD

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Time: __7:36__ PM ▾