



MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Crookston, MN – April 4, 2025

Board Members Present: In Person: Jason Carlson, Aaron Cook, Drew Kjono, Sarah Kjono, Karla Langaas, Shauna Reitmeier, Jordan Spaeth. Via Zoom: Jim Guetter, Kayla Jore, Tom Loberg, Chris Mills, Fran Tougas, Shawn Yates. **Board Members Absent:** Brittney Bimler, Maureen Hams, Kristi Nelson, **Others Present:** Faye Auchenpaugh, Colleen MacRae

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Aaron Cook, chairman.

Agenda: **M/S/C** (Kjono/Langaas) to approve the agenda.

Minutes: **M/S/C** (Carlson, Reitmeier) to approve minutes of the March 7, 2025 meeting.

Financials and Bills: **M/S/C** (Guetter/Langaas) to approve payment of the March 2025 facilitator invoice.

Guest: Kristin Anderson, Northwest Minnesota Foundation

In line with our March meeting decision to research area foundations to see what they might want to put their money towards, Carlson invited Kristin Anderson to address the board at our April meeting.

Kristin spoke about the foundation's "Thriving Together" initiative that began about two years ago to look at shifting demographics, workforce needs, aging, new Americans, addressing needs of the under-represented, and the importance of access to financial, social, civic, and other rural changes including persistent rural challenges. Last spring, several partners were given grants under this initiative: Advance Thief River, Downtown Crookston Development Partnership, Crookston Housing and Economic Development Authority, Roseau Convention and Visitors Bureau in cooperation with LifeCare Medical Center, Peacemaker Resources, and the Pride Support Network in Bemidji.

Grant Opportunities and Reports:

- **BJA's STOP School Violence** – Auchenpaugh reported that several schools are signed up for the Responsive Classroom training and it looks like we will be spending most of the balance in this grant by September 30th.
- **Youth Substance Abuse Prevention** – Tri-Valley Opportunity Council has submitted a Letter of Intent to apply.

Retirements: Jeff Bisek, Mahnomen superintendent, and Jim Guetter, Red Lake County Central and Red Lake Falls superintendent, have announced their retirements as of June 30, 2025. They have both been faithful members of our Governing Board and we will recognize their contributions in June.

Motion to Adjourn: **M/S/C** (Carlson/Kjono) at 10:45 am.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 2, 2025.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Facilitator