



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

May 22, 2025

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination Letter for Raina Killspotted to Serve Subsequent Term as Commissioner of Education

Aaniin. It is with great respect and confidence that I nominate Raina Killspotted to serve as the Band's Commissioner of Education for a term ending June 30, 2029. As the current Commissioner of Education, Raina brings a deep understanding of Ojibwe culture, a passion for education, and extensive experience in tribal government. Her dedication, leadership, and ability to produce meaningful results make her exceptionally qualified to continue serving in this vital role. Raina has led the Department of Education with integrity and vision, fostering educational growth from early childhood through post-secondary levels. Her work has emphasized safe, inclusive, and culturally grounded learning environments for all Band children. All of these make her an outstanding candidate to serve an additional four years.

Already seven months in, Raina's tenure has been marked by key accomplishments that reflect her strong leadership and dedication to education. She secured P.L. 100-297 status for Nay-Ah-Shing Schools Operations and Maintenance, resulting in a grant of more than \$50,000.00 for high school improvements and \$19 million in renovation funding. She also modernized the school transportation fleet, replacing two buses and two vans. To address Early Education staffing shortages, Raina secured a Temporary Change of Scope and increased wages, allowing three classrooms to reopen in Districts 1 and 3. Raina has also revitalized the Ojibwe Language Program by boosting compensation and relaunching the Quiz Bowl, which drew 11 teams from five schools. And she has updated Scholarship Policies to increase awards, expand eligibility to cannabis-related and Ojibwe language degrees, and encourage graduates to return and serve the Band. Finally, she formed a Cultural Workgroup that is rebuilding the Eminence Credentialing Pathway, with a launch expected in FY 2025–2026. Raina's list of accomplishments in such a short period of time is truly remarkable.

Looking ahead to the next four years, Raina has already outlined a clear strategic vision. Her priorities include finalizing a proposed bill amending Title 9 (Education) of Mille Lacs Band Statutes in collaboration with the Office of the Solicitor General and the School Board, with a draft expected by August of this year. She plans to implement a comprehensive Five-Year Strategic Plan that will guide all areas of education, including Nay-Ah-Shing Schools, Early Education, Scholarships, the Ojibwe Language Program, and support for public schools in the

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outer districts. Raina is committed to expanding seasonal cultural education classes and launching summer camps in each district, led by Band members to provide culturally rich learning experiences. She also aims to revitalize the Rutledge Immersion Grounds by establishing an Ojibwe Language Apprenticeship Program, offering 2,000 hours of immersive language learning for future speakers. Additionally, she intends to secure Operations and Maintenance funding for Pine Grove School and work with Community Development to pave the access road, allowing the facility to be added to the school inventory. Finally, Raina will focus on long-term infrastructure improvements that enhance educational access, safety, and capacity across the Band's districts.

Raina is a collaborative, forward-thinking leader who communicates effectively, respects Band values, and delivers results. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the Band's educational sovereignty, language preservation, and student success. For all of these reasons, I fully support Raina Killspotted's nomination and reappointment as Commissioner of Education. Her leadership is essential to continuing the Band's educational progress and upholding our cultural values for future generations. I could not be more excited to have her on board for another four years.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General
Raina Killspotted, Commissioner of Education
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Danielle Smith, Parliamentarian / Clerk of the Band Assembly

Enclosure:

1. Raina Killspotted's Resume

RAINA KILLSPOTTED

As a District 2 Band Member of the Mille Lacs Band, I aspire to continue to serve as the Commissioner of Education within the Chief's cabinet, continuing to contribute my expertise, competencies, and talents to the role.

WORK EXPERIENCES

NOVEMBER 2024 – CURRENT

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

- Management of the Education programs; Nah Ah Shing Schools, Mille lacs Early Education, Scholarships Program and Rutledge Immersion Grounds.
- Attended regularly scheduled meetings of the Nay Ah Shing School Board, Administrative Policy Board, Cabinet, Band Assembly, and the Three Branches.
- Negotiated and executed contracts with funding agencies of the United States and the State of Minnesota for education related matters.
- Exercised the day-to-day administration of all educational activities, including supervisory authority over all Education employees.
- Authorized the expenditure of all education funds under my jurisdiction, provided the Administrative Policy Board with a copy of each budget and notified the Board of all expenditures and budget modifications, and was accountable for the lawful disbursement of such funds.
- Oversight of the employment, discipline, and termination of Education employees according to the policies set forth in the Mille Lacs Band Personnel Policy Manual.
- Opened and closed school sessions for just cause.
- Collaborated with other Mille Lacs Band divisions for common purposes that serve the band membership.
- Initiated the Chief's State of the Band Directives.
- Convened a Cultural Resource Workgroup to guide initiatives within Education.

NOVEMBER 2022 – NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

- Management of the Higher Education and Rutledge Immersion Grounds day to day operations
- Assist with guidance of Head start and Early Head start, Nay Ah Shing School K-12 TCS, and the Ojibwe Language and Culture Programs at Directors discretion
- Collaborate with other divisions of the band for common purposes
- Update policy and procedure as needed
- Execute contracts and process payments
- Participated on the Mille Lacs Band's Project Management on behalf of Education
- Advised as the MLB Representative on the State Mandated TNEC.
- Organized the bi-annual budget preparation for all Education budgets for FY 24 & 25.
- Attend the monthly Nay Ah Shing School Board meetings.

JULY 2018 – DECEMBER 2021

MARCH 2012 – JULY 2014

BUSINESS MANAGER, MINISINAAKWAANG LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- HR responsibilities for 22 ftr and 2 ptr employees
- Report to board of Directors monthly financials
- Prepared contracts for Insurances, SPED services and annual Audit
- Prepared student records for state submissions
- Received training from the State of Minnesota for charter schools annually
- Purchased goods and services for all education programs
- Filled in for Cook for 4 months

JULY 2014 – JULY 2018

DECEMBER 2003 – MARCH 2012

D2 LEGISLATIVE AIDE, DOL DIRECTOR OF CASEMANGEMENT AND PLANNING, VAWA SHELTER MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR, D2 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT, COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR, HOUSING OUTREACH SPECIALIST MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES

- Worked under the legislative branch with the District 2 elected officials on initiatives for constituents – pow wow, committees, public hearings and celebrations
- Worked many years under the Executive Branch at the direction of the Chief and her Administrative Policy Board. In housing I administered a block grant for the rehabilitation of homes for qualified band members.
- In Education I coordinated youth programming providing quality after-school programming for children in the D2 area.
- In Administration the duties of a Program Administrator encompassed the coordination of Executive Branch programs within the district, financial responsibility for the upkeep of the facility and a general liaison with staff and Division Commissioners.
- Within Human Resources involved in every aspect from hiring, orientation, training, job description development, unemployment hearings, employee benefits, employee policy interpretation and investigations.
- Under Health & Human Services the oversight of a domestic violence shelter with 24/7/365 coverage ensuring advocacy duties along with implementation and adherence to resident policies.
- Primary to all positions was customer service to our tribal members. Treating all members respectfully, fairly and with kindness in regards to our program initiatives. Supervising the employees who I supervised with guidance and understanding of policy, procedures, and grant responsibilities for each program.

EDUCATION

CURRENT – GRADUATION MAY 2026

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, FOND DU LAC TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bachelor of Science Degree

DECEMBER 2004

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR, COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA

Graduated Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts Degree

MAY 2000

BUSINESS, FOND DU LAC TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Speaker at Commencement

Associate of Arts Degree

EXPERIENCE

- 2.5 years of experience with BIE – Tribally Controlled School
- 15 years of experience with tribal government
- 8 years of experience with a public charter school
- Infinite Campus data system
- NASIS data report extractions
- MAXIMO – data report updates
- EDIAM – IOWA who assigned roles
- MARSS Submission – EOY and Fall Submissions
- Board member: MLB Head Start Parent Committee, ISD#4 Parent Committee, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy Board of Directors
- Native Nation Rebuilders Co-Hort 8 2017
- Blandin Reservation Community Leaders Alumni 2014
- Lifeskills Center for Leadership I, II, III “Firewalker” 2000
- Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy 2010