



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

Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Band Assembly
Re: Nomination of Raina Killspotted to Serve Subsequent Term as Commissioner of Education
May 22, 2025
Page 2 of 2

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