



PEQUOT LAKES

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 21, 2026

To: The School Boards of Aitkin, Crosby-Ironton, McGregor, Pequot Lakes, and Pine River-Backus

From: Mr. Bill Magnuson
Pequot Lakes High School
Activities Director

Re: Dissolution of current Northern Lakes Lightning boys hockey cooperative agreement and creation of a new Northern Lakes Lightning boys hockey cooperative agreement.

After discussions with our Boys Head Hockey coach and McGregor High School activities director, Livia Carlson, the current Northern Lakes Boys Hockey team would like to consider dissolving the cooperative agreement among Aitkin High School, Crosby-Ironton High School, Pine River-Backus High School, and Pequot Lakes High School. We would like to form a new cooperative agreement that would include Aitkin High School, Crosby-Ironton High School, Pine River-Backus High School, Pequot Lakes High School, and McGregor High School.

The reason for the dissolution is:

McGregor High School does not have a boys hockey program. A student has participated in the Northern Lakes Lightning youth program and would like to continue his hockey career by joining the Northern Lakes High School hockey program. This situation allows for a student to continue his playing career and allows another high school (McGregor) to offer another activity for their students.

Information we know:

In a cooperative agreement between schools, the host school's full enrollment is counted, and each other school in the agreement counts as half its enrollment.

Enrollment numbers for 2026-2027 are as follows:

Pequot Lakes (Host School) = 527

Aitkin (291), using half enrollment = 146

Crosby-Ironton (252), using half enrollment = 126

Pine River-Backus (188), using half enrollment = 94

McGregor (112), using half enrollment = 56

Total Enrollment for the Northern Lakes Lightning Boys Hockey team = 949

Class A Boys Hockey enrollment classification: 1187 and below

Last Year's [Cooperative Agreement](#)

*Please click the heading for the current cooperative agreement for the Northern Lakes Lightning. This agreement has been shared with the activities director at McGregor High School. She has informed the host school (Pequot Lakes) that McGregor High School would agree to the terms of the current cooperative agreement.

Action Items for each member's school board:

1. Vote on the dissolution of the current coop agreement between Aitkin, Crosby-Ironton, Pequot Lakes, and Pine River-Backus.

*A designated school representative from each school must sign the dissolution.

2. Vote on a new cooperative agreement for the Northern Lakes Lightning cooperative agreement between Aitkin High School, Crosby-Ironton High School, McGregor High School, Pequot Lakes High School, and Pine River-Backus High School.

*A Board of Education member or designee from each school must sign the application for a cooperative sponsorship.

3. If the dissolution and new cooperative agreement are approved, a designated school representative will need to sign the new [cooperative agreement](#) between the five high schools.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. The paperwork for dissolving our current cooperative agreement and submitting the new cooperative agreement must be submitted to the MSHSL thirty days before the start of a season. The boys' hockey season starts on Monday, November 16th.

Bill Magnuson