



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent  
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## Regular Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025 NPS Board of Education

### I. Call Meeting to Order by President

- **Date of Meeting:** April 14, 2025, 5:30 P.M.
- **Place of Meeting:** Room 300, Northport Public School

### II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Danielle Percy, Daniel Duffiney, Jamie Scripps

**Members Absent:** Jake Zimmer

A quorum was present.

### III. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda for the April 14, 2025, regular board meeting.

**Vote:** 6-0, motion carried.

### IV. Students of the Month

**Elementary:** Vesper Cavendish, presented by Carrie Wadas

### V. LIFT Presentation

General overview of the LIFT program. Discussion included third-party funding contributions and the importance of the program's role in the community. LIFT asked the Board for financial support for next year.

### VI. Principal's Report

- **Professional Development – Teacher Clarity**
  - Focus on learning intentions and success criteria in each lesson
  - Increase student awareness of the “why” of a lesson
  - Attended Learning & The Brain Conference featuring John Almaroad
- **Curriculum**
  - Adoption of CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) for Grades K-5
- **Athletics**
  - **Elementary Track:** 6–8 students participating; 4–5 meets scheduled. Coaches: Mr. Schuba & Mr. Fryer
  - **Future Plans:** Introducing Middle School Cross Country and Track as MHSAA sports in 2025–26

- **Middle School Golf:** Program in development with support from Chris McCann (Northport Creek) and Leon Chimosky
- **Swim Lessons**
  - All K–5 students participating
  - 13 middle school students enrolled
  - 5 sessions (30 minutes each) at The Highlands, every Thursday in May

## **VII. Public Comments**

Community members expressed strong support for the LIFT program and after-school activities. Additional topics included:

- Praise for staff and teachers (especially Ms. Alt and Mr. Fryer)
- Advocacy for middle school sports
- Calls for better communication from administration
- Recognition of community engagement through PTO and mentoring programs
- Feedback regarding website updates and student programming initiatives

Speakers included:

Karen Trolenberg, Emily Alt, Laura Cavendish, Matt Dignan, John Meskin and spouse, Kali Dignan, Eric Potes, Ben Hale, Melissa Hale, and others.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Approval of March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$90,000.50
  - Approval of the Hiring of Heidi Hammond as Assistant Office Manager
- No objections; approved by consent.

## **IX. Action Items**

### **Electoral Body Representative Designation**

**MOTION:** Moved by Jamie Scripps, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the Resolution to Designate Electoral Body Representative for the June 2, 2025, Biennial Election for the Northwest Education Services Board, as presented, with Jake Zimmer as the designated representative and Tom Wetherbee as alternate.

**Vote:** 6-0, motion carried.

## **X. Discussion Items**

- **2025-2026 School Calendar**
  - The draft 25-26 school calendar was presented to the Board. The calendar still needs approval by the Certified Staff Union.
- **ISD General Fund Budget**
  - The ISD General Fund budget was presented to the Board. A vote on the budget will be held at the May meeting.

## **XI. Old Business**

NONE

## **XII. New Business**

NONE

## **XIII. Principal's Comments**

- Principal Morio expressed appreciation for the Board's support, highlighting the impact of PD initiatives and national conferences. Recognized staff efforts in grading reform and instructional clarity.
- Ben Purdy acknowledged and thanked Mr. Morio for his work.

## **XIV. Public Comments**

Comments continued in support of LIFT and other school programs.

- John (last name not captured): Inquired about federal funding cuts and the planetarium program
- Ben Purdy clarified that the primary funding loss, so far, was for the school nursing program
- Additional comments shared by Laura Cavendish, Meg Jean, Emily Alt, Melissa Hale, and others emphasized enthusiasm for LIFT, student progress, and positive community involvement

## **XV. Board Member Comments**

- Jamie Scripps shared heartfelt appreciation for the LIFT program and staff, especially acknowledging Meg Jean's unique contributions and the strong community support witnessed during the meeting.

## **XVI. Adjournment**

- **MOTION:** Moved by Daniel Duffiney, supported by Ryan Blessing, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M. **6-0 approval.**

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Danielle Percy, Secretary

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Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary