



Neil Wetherbee , Superintendent

Northport Public School

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Regular Meeting Minutes NPS Board of Education

Date of Meeting: August 10, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Room 300, Northport Public School

I. Call to Order

President Ben Purdy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in Room 300, Northport Public School.

II. Roll Call

Present: Tom Wetherbee, Carrie Wadas, Danielle Percy, Ryan Blessing, Dan Duffiney, and Ben Purdy

Absent: Ben Hale

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Carrie Wadas, supported by Ryan Blessing, to approve the agenda for the August 10, 2026, regular board meeting. Vote: 6–0 Motion Carried.

IV. Public Comment

- **Karen Trolenberg:** Invited the Board to attend the school open house and visit Room 214 to learn about the STEM Lab and Science Club.
- **Laura Cavendish:** Provided a PTO update regarding assistance with Back to School Night, the commencement of Open Gym in the fall, and upcoming Homecoming festivities.
- **Eric Potes:** Expressed gratitude for the education provided to his children and his time coaching. He raised concerns about kindergarten class sizes, suggested combining grades, and requested that meetings be recorded. He also expressed frustration regarding the lack of a formal response to complaints about student-led conferences.

V. Written Correspondence

President Ben Purdy acknowledged receipt of an email from Eric Potes on August 10.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Neil Wetherbee reported on the following items:

- Leelanau Investing for Teens (LIFT) asked the district to sponsor their grant to the Grand Traverse Band (GTB) for approximately \$40,000, which will be used to purchase a van for the LIFT program. GTB has awarded this grant.
- Interviews for the 3rd-grade teacher vacancy are scheduled for this week. The Health Department has reported that they no longer have staff to fill the school nurse position.
- Hanover Research has completed a series of data collection and surveys. Hanover will work on creating the final report for the Board.
- A rough draft for the auditorium lights capital project has been received from the consultant. An RFP is being prepared to solicit bids and will include various upgrade options.
- Students will return for the new school year following a post-Labor Day start on September 8.

VII. Consent Agenda

The following items were approved by consent with no discussion:

- Approval of July 13, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$270,112.62
- 2026-27 Course Catalog

VIII. Action Items

None.

IX. Discussion Items

- a. Resolution to Explore Interdistrict Cooperative Programming & Shared Educational Opportunities

The Board discussed a proposed resolution to explore expanded educational opportunities through collaboration with the Leland and Suttons Bay districts. This initiative, currently being championed by Suttons Bay, aims to cast a wide net to explore all viable options for cooperation. Superintendent Wetherbee expressed support for the proposal, noting that a

"community-neutral" rebranding strategy would be utilized to ensure the partnership benefits all participating districts equitably.

The Board expressed formal interest in pursuing discussions regarding cooperative programming.

X. Old Business / XI. New Business

None.

XII. Public Comment

- **Karen Trolenberg:** Noted that class sizes are not yet final due to last-minute registrations and highlighted existing collaboration between classes in music, Crew, and the STEM Lab.
- **Laura Cavendish:** Requested that correspondence be summarized or included in the public record. She expressed skepticism about the feasibility of combining robotics programs and thanked Eric Potes for his coaching.
- **Kalli Dignan:** Advocated for recording and videotaping meetings, citing high viewership of unofficial videos. She thanked the Board for exploring the co-op with Suttons Bay.
- **XIV. Superintendent's Comments**
- None.

XIII. Board Member Comments

- **Carrie Wadas:** Acknowledged the need for continuous improvement while highlighting the school's index score of over 96, which ranks at the top of the county and near the top of the state. She encouraged a focus on the district's broad achievements.
- **Ryan Blessing:** Commended the administration and staff for their dedication to students. He provided an update that the transition to video recording meetings is in progress. He voiced concerns regarding the spread of misinformation on social media and emphasized the Board's commitment to supporting the school.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Carrie Wadas, supported by Danielle Percy, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 6–0 Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.