



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
104 S. Wing St. Northport, MI 49670
p. (231) 386-5153 f. (231) 386-9838
www.northportps.org

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2024

NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held at 104 S Wing St. Northport, Michigan, in room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Dan Duffiney, Tom Wetherbee, Ben Purdy, Dr. Barbara Conley, and Ryan Blessing

Members Absent: Jake Zimmer and Danielle Percy

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Tom Wetherbee, to approve the agenda at this August 12, 2024, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Superintendent's Report

- The new boilers are online and just need some fine tuning. We have completed the installation of underground irrigation, and our maintenance crew is finalizing the building deep clean.
- We are hiring an assistant secretary. Lately, we seem to have more qualified but fewer applicants for each job posting. We are also hiring a Food Service Director because Dave Ruszel is retiring. Emily Miller is set to take over the position, having worked in the kitchen for the last few years. Emily will be in tomorrow to finalize the negotiation. This will leave one less person in the kitchen, but not a full FTE, as we have been slightly over-staffed for a while. We are excited to have Emily take over with her enthusiasm for kids and healthy eating.

Public Comments

NONE

Consent Agenda

- Approval of July 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$346,184.82
- Approval of the Resignations of Dave Ruszel, Beth Stowe, and Markie Zimmer
- Approval of the Hiring of Emily Alt as Secondary ELA Teacher and Jessica Ball as Kindergarten Teacher

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Revised Student Handbook

MOTION: Moved by Ryan Blessing, seconded by Dan Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the revised Elementary and Secondary Student Handbooks.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Policy Updates

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve the updates to po2264 and po2266, regarding new Title IX regulations, as presented.

DISCUSSION: These policies reflect the Federal changes to Title IX and sex-based discrimination in schools and keep us in line with State law.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Discussion Items

Michigan Liquid Asset Sinking Fund Account Closure

Our financial auditors have recommended closing the Michigan Liquid Asset Sinking Fund Account. This fund has not been in use in years and our new Business Manager, Lisa Hankins, is cleaning up our accounts.

Student Group Sponsorship Process

Superintendent Wetherbee noted that we have had student groups started in the past as one thing and morph into another. He would like to be proactive and avoid confusion and discontent by creating a formal process for group creation and policy around paying for group leaders. Board members expressed support for this idea but were cautious about creating too much of a bureaucratic burden to create groups. They do not want the process to limit the creativity of staff and volunteers. Board members discussed finding proper funding paths and how to navigate positions for union and non-union staff. Superintendent Wetherbee stated he would put together a draft proposal for the Board to consider at the September meeting.

LIFT Funding

Leelanau Investing for Teens (LIFT) has approached the school requesting support for their programming at Northport Public School. The organization logged approximately 160 hours with Northport students last year at a cost of about \$67,000. Suttons Bay and Glen Lake funnel some funding to LIFT for the work in their schools. We do not currently have funding for them in our budget. Board members indicated support for funding LIFT and asked to hear more from the organization about what they do and what they hope to accomplish this year.

Mastery Transcript Consortium Follow-Up

Superintendent Wetherbee continued discussion about Northport Public School's transition reference-based grading. He noted three main considerations: best practices (what has been proven to be effective across the country), parent and student expectations, and teacher adaptability to change. The school is moving forward with breaking up a class great to separately measure academic and non-academic achievement. Superintendent Wetherbee acknowledged that this will be a tough transition for everyone. He stated that it would be *easier* not to make these changes, but it would be *better* for students.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Carrie Wadas noted that she believes in Superintendent Wetherbee's vision for grading and understands that, while it will be a tough change, it is the right move.

Board Member Comments

Ben Purdy thanked Superintendent Wetherbee with his work on the Master Transcript Consortium and help with The Northport Promise.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Ryan Blessing, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary