



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent
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Regular Meeting Minutes August 11, 2025 NPS Board of Education

Date: August 11, 2025

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: Room 300, Northport Public School

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President at 5:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Jamie Scripps, Dan Duffiney, Ryan Blessing, Danielle Percy, Tom Wetherbee

Members Absent: Ben Purdy

A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda for the August 11, 2025, regular board meeting.

Vote: 5-0, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- Pending board approval of new hires, the district is fully staffed.
- Summer projects are progressing well: completed numerous cleaning and small improvement projects, upgraded servers, installed new clocks in the gym, and purchased a new compressor for the walk-in freezer and refrigerator.
- Staff return in two weeks; All Staff Workday on Monday, August 25; Back to School Picnic on Wednesday, August 27.
- A new board member will be appointed this evening due to Jake Zimmer's resignation following the last meeting. Appointment must occur by Wednesday, August 13, 2025, or the ISD will appoint. The appointed member will serve until November 2026 and may choose to run for the remainder of the term. Future vacancies will be better advertised via the district website, with a permanent form for interested candidates.

V. Public Comment

- **Laura Cavendish:** Learned of the vacancy tonight; interested but unavailable due to other commitments.
- **Eric Potes:** Submitted a letter of interest and resume. Encouraged broader communication about openings. Expressed respect for other applicant and willingness to serve.
- **Karen Trolenburg:** Suggested adding a website link to petition process for running for the board.

VI. Consent Agenda

- Approval of July 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment — \$289,518.91
- Approval of Hire — Tracy Denoyer, Kindergarten Teacher
- Approval of Hire — Eric Wynn, Secondary English Teacher

Approved by consent.

VII. Action Items

a. Handbook Updates

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the updated teacher, coach, elementary student, and secondary student handbooks as presented.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

b. Course Catalog Updates

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Daniel Duffiney, to approve the updated course catalog as presented.

Discussion: Date on front cover to be corrected to 2025–26.

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

c. New NPS Board of Education Member Appointment

Candidates: Eric Potes and Ben Hale

Candidate Statements:

- **Eric Potes:** Three children in the district; committed to maintaining small-school environment; concerned about district's future; passionate about athletics; wants to help solve challenges.
- **Ben Hale:** Two children in the district; values community dynamics; wants to expand resources, sports, and arts opportunities; concerned about families transferring out; wants to make NPS competitive with other districts.

Written Ballot Vote:

- Ryan Blessing — Ben Hale
- Tom Wetherbee — Ben Hale
- Danielle Percy — Ben Hale
- Daniel Duffiney — Eric Potes
- Jamie Scripps — Eric Potes

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Danielle Percy, to appoint Ben Hale to the Northport Board of Education to replace Jake Zimmer.

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

Swearing-In Ceremony:

Following the vote, Ben Hale was sworn in as a member of the Northport Board of Education. The Oath of Office was administered by the Board Recording Secretary, and Mr. Hale took his seat at the board table.

VIII. Discussion Items

None.

IX. Old Business

- Jamie Scripps reported new NPS yard signs are available; thanked Erin Connolly and Eric Potes for leading the project.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Upcoming Events

- August 25 — All Staff Workday
- August 27 — Back to School Night (4:30–6:30 P.M.)
- September 2 — First Day of School
- September 8 — Regular Board Meeting

XII. Superintendent's Comments

- Continuing work on finite goals aligned with long-term vision. While goals for academics and facilities have been met, increasing enrollment remains a challenge. Efforts are underway to better showcase district strengths, including exploring specialized educational marketing services.

XIII. Public Comments

- **Kali Dignan:** Stepping down as PTO Vice-President; hopes to improve school–PTO collaboration; asked about immediate plans for parent communication and enrollment growth; encouraged the school to utilize PTO support for events.
- **Eric Potes:** Noted loss of some 5th grade students, resulting in no 5/6th grade girls basketball team; looking forward to younger girls' team.
- **Karen Trolenburg:** Thanked Eric and others involved in sign-making.

XIV. Board Member Comments

- **Ben Hale:** Thanked the board for the opportunity to serve.
- **Tom Wetherbee:** Thanked Ben for stepping up.
- **Jamie Scripps:** Thanked both Ben and Eric for their willingness to serve; looks forward to collaborating with the board and superintendent; appreciates engaged parents and community feedback.

XV. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Daniel Duffiney, supported by Danielle Percy, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 5-0, motion carried.

Time: 6:08 P.M.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary