



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent
Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes January 13, 2025 NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

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

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy, Jamie Scripps, and Dan Duffiney

Members Absent: NONE

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Dan Duffiney, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda at this January 13, 2025, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Board Appreciation Month

January is Board Member Appreciation Month. On behalf of Northport Public School administration and staff, Recording Secretary Elizabeth Schwind expressed sincere gratitude to Board Members for their dedicated service over the last year.

Superintendent's Report

- PowerSchool has had a nationwide security breach, and some data has been compromised. There is nothing the school could have done to prevent this; it happened in another state. PowerSchool is handling the problem and communicating with schools in piecemeal. Hopefully it will be resolved soon.
- Mandatory water sampling was completed in December and results were clean and below the limits for contamination.
- This is the final week of the first semester. It marks the culmination of our work around standards-referenced grading and where we may experience hiccups. Teachers and students are more focused on learning instead of grades. As exams approach it is nice to see them focusing on learning goals and what areas they need to work on.
- This month is filled with work on compliance documentation for the State and Federal funds we receive. We are reporting on our Title 1 and ESSER funds, taking up significant administrative time.

- Changes in Lansing have left some issues up in the air for schools. Nine bills passed during the Lame Duck session were not properly reported to the Governor for consideration and are now stuck in limbo, including the bill on PA 152, the hard cap set for insurance payments for state employees.

Public Comments

Laura Cavendish gave an update on the PTO. The PTO would like to expand to at least a 5-member Board. The group will begin creating a budget next month. The recent PTO-sponsored pool party was a huge success, with 18 students and at least as many parents in attendance. The Winter Family dance is this coming weekend and a middle school Snowball Dance is planned for February.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$227,144.79

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Board Policy Updates

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve updates to the following policies (discussed at the November regular meeting), as presented:

- Po1130/3113/4113 – Conflict of Interest
- Po 6110 – Grant Funds (Uniform Grant Guidance)
- Po 6111 – Internal Controls
- Po 6112 – Cash Management of Grants
- Po 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
- Po 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds
- Po 6550 – Travel Payment & Reimbursement
- Po 7310 – Disposition of Surplus Property
- Po 7450 – Property Inventory.

DISCUSSION: These were discussed at the November meeting and inadvertently left off the December agenda.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Superintendent Evaluation

MOTION: Moved by Ben Purdy, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the rating of “effective,” for the evaluation of Superintendent Neil Wetherbee.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Wetherbee presented information about his progress at the December regular meeting. There are only three rating options: effective, developing, and needing support. The Board expressed appreciation for Superintendent Wetherbee’s hard work and dedication.

Discussion Items

Facility Usage

Superintendent Wetherbee noted the difficulties the school faced with hosting so many outside groups and their activities outside of school hours. He highlighted some of the security and communication difficulties that we navigate to facilitate these groups. He also presented ideas for improving security and making communication more efficient, but these changes would require some new hardware and cost. Superintendent Wetherbee asked the Board to consider what changes, if any, they would like to implement.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Wetherbee reminded the Board that the school has three main contracts with staff: certified staff, support staff, and superintendent. The support staff contract expires on June 30 this year. The certified staff and superintendent contracts are up in June 2026. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that he is open to early negotiations if the Board would like to avoid two at the same time.

Public Comments

Laura Cavendish thanked the Board for celebrating Arya as Student of the Month. She also noted that she liked the idea of charging for a key fob for outside groups and would support a higher than nominal fee.

Kali Dignan inquired about the length of time doors stay open around scheduled events and that the boy’s elementary basketball team has had trouble with the doors locking too soon.

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Ryan Jake Zimmer, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary