



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

Date: July 14, 2025

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: Room 300, Northport Public School

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Danielle Percy

Quorum: Yes

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Jake Zimmer, to approve the agenda for the July 14, 2025, regular board meeting.

Vote: Motion carried, 6–0.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- Summer projects are progressing well; primarily small-scale.
- **Legal Policy Providers:**
 - Thrun (current counsel) has a conservative policy framework that is somewhat limiting and lacks an efficient publication process.
 - Neola offers a more robust, user-friendly system for managing and updating policies.
- **Job Postings:**
 - Assistant Secretary position will be posted soon (start date mid-August).

- Actively hiring for the Secondary English teaching position.
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V. Public Comments

- Carrie Wadas shared that she completed 30 hours of curriculum-based continuing education and praised Northport's program alignment with current best practices.
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VI. Consent Agenda

Approved:

- Minutes from the June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing
 - Bills for payment totaling **\$71,797.30**
 - Hiring of **Hannah Smith (Music Teacher)** and **Annabelle Fortine (Fourth Grade Teacher)**
 - Resignation of **Emily Alt (Secondary English Teacher)**
 - 2025–26 membership in the **Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)**
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VII. Action Item

Support Staff Contract

Motion: Moved by Jamie Scripps, supported by Ryan Blessing, to ratify the Master Agreement between the Northport Education Support Personnel Association-MEA/NEA and the Northport Board of Education for the 2025–2028 school years.

Discussion: Negotiations lasted about 1.5 hours and included Miranda Christianson, Dipak Adhikari, and Union Representative Mary McGee. All parties expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

Vote: Motion carried, 6–0.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. NAA Community Mural Tile Project

- Proposal from Northport Arts Association to display a 3x5 foot community mural tile project in the school.
- Board supports the project and requests inclusion of a timeframe and discretion for future relocation in the agreement.

b. Handbook Updates

- Updates to handbooks for elementary, secondary, coaches, and teachers.
- Coach handbook now includes the athletic vision language.
- Other handbooks updated to reflect current grading practices; no policy changes.
- Teacher handbook will be reviewed by staff in the fall.

c. Course Catalog Updates

- Addition of **AP (Advanced Placement) Environmental Science** for three grade levels.
 - Curriculum initiated by Mrs. Sobehrad and Mrs. Scholten.
 - Syllabus will be College Board-approved.
 - The AP exam is optional; no penalty for students who opt out.
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IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

- Jamie Scripps reported she is collaborating with the PTO on a yard sign campaign celebrating Northport students and school spirit.
 - 30 signs to be produced initially, funded externally (no school funds), and provided free to families.
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XI. Superintendent's Comments

None.

XII. Public Comments

None.

XIII. Board Member Comments

- Jamie Scripps praised the school's partnership with **Northport Creek Golf Course** and **Chris McCann** for providing free golf experiences to students.

- Thanks extended to Mr. Morio for his efforts; goal is to build student interest toward potentially forming a school golf team.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Jake Zimmer, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Motion carried, 6–0.

Time: 6:07 P.M.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary