



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

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

Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

June 10, 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, MI in room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Dan Duffiney, Tom Wetherbee, Ben Purdy, Dr. Barbara Conley, Jake Zimmer, and Danielle Percy

Members Absent: Ryan Blessing

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Jake Zimmer, to approve the agenda at this June 10, 2024, budget hearing & regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Truth-In-Taxation Budget Hearing on Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

Braxton Platt, Business Manager, presented the final 2023-2024 budgets for the general fund, food service fund, and student activities fund. He also detailed the proposed 2024-2025 budgets for the general fund, food service fund, and student activities fund. He noted that the financial state of Northport Public School is strong and that there is a healthy public improvement fund to facilitate upgrades and replacements as needed. Mr. Platt noted that the millage requested to be levied July 1 is 13.3880 (no change from the previous year).

Budget Hearing Public Comments

Jim Fancher, township resident, questioned the Board regarding the transportation budget. He asked about potentially using smaller buses or downsizing the bus fleet as a cost saving measure.

Budget Hearing Public Comments

Motion: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Danielle Percy, to close the budget hearing.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Superintendent's Report

- The newly founded Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has been active since they formed this semester. PTO volunteers helped with our elementary Field Day and provided a last day teacher appreciation surprise. They also have many things planned already for this upcoming year. There has been great feedback from parents and staff regarding the PTO so far.
- The old boilers have been removed and new equipment is scheduled to arrive shortly. The project is running ahead of schedule.
- The former Children's Center is transitioning again. Betsy Shiner is taking over and championing childcare in the building. Ms. Shiner plans to open as soon as the licensing process is complete.
- We are shifting the grade placement of some of our elementary teachers. This is an effort to be intentional in our grade assignments and best match the needs of our students to the skill sets of our teachers.
- Per the discussion at last month's meeting, the work to shift towards standards reference grading is well underway. Staff is somewhat apprehensive, but overall the rollout has been well received.

Public Comments

NONE

Consent Agenda

- Approval of May 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$153,485.18
- Acceptance of the Resignation of Donna Wilson
- Approval of the 2024-25 Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Membership

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Operating Millage

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the operating millage as detailed on the L4029 form.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Amended 2023-24 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve the amendment to the 2023-24 General Fund budget, Food Service budget, and Student Activity Fund budget.

DISCUSSION: NONE

Roll Call Vote:

Jake Zimmer: Aye
Daniel Duffiney: Aye
Dr. Barbara Conely: Aye
Danielle Percy: Aye
Tom Wetherbee: Aye
Ben Purdy: Aye

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Proposed 2024-25 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Daniel Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the proposed 2024-25 General Fund budget, Food Service budget, and Student Activity Fund budget as presented at the Budget Hearing.

DISCUSSION: NONE

Roll Call Vote:

Tom Wetherbee: Aye
Danielle Percy: Aye
Dr. Barbara Conley: Aye
Daniel Duffiney: Aye
Jake Zimmer: Aye
Ben Purdy: Aye

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Truth in Taxation Proposal

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve the truth in taxation proposal as presented in the budget hearing.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion Items

Secondary Science Curriculum

Superintendent Wetherbee introduced the recommended curriculum change for secondary science. Michigan adopted new science standards in 2015. Our current textbooks are from 2012 and do not align fully with those standards. The recommended curriculum, Stemsscopes, would align with state standards, be used for grades 6 to 12, and is focused on hands-on learning. Stemsscopes would cost the district approximately \$6,000 for the first year and about \$4,000 per year for consumables and online portal access.



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Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Wendy Frank, stepparent and grandparent of students at NPS, shared her concerns about a particular student and their behavior this year. She requested that this student not be allowed to return to NPS next year. Ms. Frank detailed specific accounts of this student's behavior that she believed made the student unsafe for other students to be around. Ms. Frank also noted her concern about a general lack of respect from students for teachers, other students, and staff at school.

Dan Frank, parent and grandparent of students at NPS, quoted sections of the student handbook regarding bullying and behavior. He also asked that this specific student not be allowed to return to school in the fall. He stated that if the situation continues, he will continue to contact law enforcement when he believes his child is being threatened.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Barbara Conley responded to the concerns mentioned during public comments. She noted that there are strict privacy laws that limit what the school and the Board can share regarding student behavior and discipline. She also explained that there is a legal process that must be followed to expel a student.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Daniel Duffiney, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary