



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent
Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes March 10, 2025 NPS Board of Education

I. Call Meeting to Order by President

Date of Meeting: March 10, 2025, 5:30 P.M.

Place of Meeting: Room 300, Northport Public School

II. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

A quorum is expected to be present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda for the March 10, 2025, regular board meeting. **7-0 approval.**

IV. Students of the Month

- **Elementary:** Polly Piskor-LaFlamme, presented by Corrine Chandler
- **Secondary:** Cassandra Espinoza, presented by Carrie Wadas

V. Superintendent's Report

- **Radio Station Update:** Met with Mike Ryan & Michigan Assoc. of Broadcasters. Exciting opportunity to support the school. Funding available for licenses for at least 1 year. Equipment arriving in August.
- **HS University Visits:** High School students will visit Western Michigan University (WMU) and Kendall College.
- **Close-Up Trip to Washington, D.C.** happening in mid-April.
- **Summer 2025-School Year 2025-26 Planning:** Tentative calendar in rough draft. Planned ceiling tile replacement. Windows 10 devices nearing end of life.
- **Big Gym Audio:** Audio issues in the Big Gym are being worked on.
- **Elementary Literacy Curriculum:** Discussion on new EL curriculum vs. CKL curriculum. Excited for updates with a focus on teacher functionality and the science of reading.

VI. Public Comments

- **Laura Cavendish:** PTO update. Announced a free cooking class for NPS students/families on making sushi. Invited everyone to the housing needs meeting on April 9th.
- **Patty Lesch:** Mentors pleased to work with the kids, who are loving it.
- **Kallie Craker:** Thanked the Board for co-opting with Suttons Bay for sports. Expressed the desire to expand opportunities like bass fishing, rowing, golf, and cross-country without interfering with current sports.
- **Bonnie Shiner:** Concerned about the exodus of students from NPS. Recommended open dialogue with parents to prevent further withdrawals. Praised the LIFT program.
- **Eric Potes:** Apologized for past actions and expressed gratitude for positive changes, particularly around extracurricular activities. Discussed the division around sports and expressed hope for a resolution.

VII. Consent Agenda

- Approval of February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$81,061.99
No objections; approved by consent.

VIII. Action Items

- None

IX. Discussion Items

- **Athletics Mission, Philosophy, and Beliefs Statements:**
 - Superintendent Wetherbee presented visuals of extracurricular activities at NPS, including clubs and sports, to highlight differences in their needs.
 - Suggested revisions for the mission statement and philosophy.
 - **Board suggestions:** Keep mission statement with grammar corrections and replace "skill level" with "potential."
 - **Next steps:** Superintendent Wetherbee will draft an updated document incorporating board suggestions.
- **Athletic Committee – Membership and Charge:**
 - Discussion on forming an athletic committee, consisting of parents, administrators, teachers, coaches, and board members.
 - Ben Purdy expressed concern about establishing a committee if there isn't enough work. Board members agreed to first address policies and mission statements before creating a committee.

X. Old Business

- **PTO Bylaws:** Feedback was provided on the bylaws, and no official board action is needed.

XI. New Business

- None

XIII. Superintendent's Comments

- Superintendent Wetherbee will not attend the April meeting; Principal Peter Morio will step in to facilitate.

XIV. Public Comments

- **Matt Dignan:** Asked how to communicate questions regarding sports. Ben Purdy recommended reaching out to Pete or Neil for answers.
- **Corrine Wetherbee:** Expressed frustration with social media misinformation. Stressed the importance of focusing on the school's primary mission: educating students.
- **Michael Parsons:** Asked for guidance on starting a club at NPS. Inquired about the process and timeline for approval.
- **Eric Potes:** Addressed sports-related divisions and requested the community come together to resolve the issues.
- **Erin Connolly:** Concerned about sports opportunities at NPS based on social media feedback.
- **Bonnie Shiner:** Commended the Board for listening to parents and creating a drama club. Suggested increasing community communication about events.

XV. Board Member Comments

- **Ben Purdy:** Thanked everyone for attending and sharing their thoughts.
- **Ryan Blessing:** Thanked everyone for being advocates and stressed the need for more communication with parents about sports.

XVI. Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Moved by Jake Zimmer, supported by Danielle Percy, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 P.M. **7-0 approval.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary