



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent
Northport Public School
104 S. Wing St. Northport, MI 49670
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www.northportps.org

Regular Meeting Minutes NPS Board of Education

Date: October 13, 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, Ben Purdy, at 5:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Danielle Percy, Ben Purdy, Jamie Scripps, Dan Duffiney, Ben Hale (arrived at 5:32 P.M., after agenda approval).

Members Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda for the October 13, 2025, regular board meeting.

Vote: 6–0, motion carried.

IV. Students of the Month

- Elementary: Faith Shananaquet (presented by Jackie Tropsf)
- Secondary: Hazel Wetherbee (presented by Carrie Wadas)

V. Superintendent's Report

- Discussion of Board Vacancy Policy Update – development of a Board Member Onboarding Handbook and inclusion of resignation best practices. Contacted area schools for examples.
- Presented overview of school funding in light of recent state budget events. Reviewed Proposal A (1994) and explained local, state, and federal funding sources. Local revenue comes primarily from non-homestead property taxes (approximately \$4.7 million annually). State funding decreased by about \$14,000; federal funding totals approximately \$164,000, for a total revenue of about \$6 million per year.

VI. Public Comments

Letters were received from Kali Dignan and Peter Morio.

- Laura Cavendish: PTO update—October 25 Twisted Trail and Trunk or Treat at Bramen



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Hill; winter clothing drive planned. Appreciated the updated school Facebook presence.

- Eric Potes: Thanked staff for a strong school start; praised online presence and energy; encouraged full funding of the LIFT program; recognized Mr. Fortine; encouraged unity and collaboration.

VII. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of Bills for Payment — \$112,291.79
 - c. Approval of Resignation — Dipak Adhikari (effective October 25, 2025)
 - d. Approval of Board Policy 0115 Update (removing P.O. Box 188 from official address)
- Approved by consent.

VIII. Action Items

- a. Amendment to Policy 0142.5 – Filling a Board Vacancy

Motion: Moved by Jamie Scripps, supported by Dan Duffiney, to approve the amendment as presented.

Vote: 7–0, motion carried.

- b. Research & Brand Services

Motion: Moved by Dan Duffiney, supported by Jamie Scripps, to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a service agreement for custom research and branding services, not to exceed \$70,000.

Discussion: Ryan Blessing asked about long-term benefits; Superintendent noted this will provide baseline data and insight into family and taxpayer priorities. Jamie Scripps supported continued progress while awaiting data.

Vote: 7–0, motion carried.

- c. Promise Saves Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Ryan Blessing, to approve the MOU between the Northport Promise, TBA Credit Union, and Northport Public School to implement the Promise Saves program.

Vote: 7–0, motion carried.

- d. Annual Summer Tax Resolution

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the annual summer tax resolution imposing a 100% summer tax levy.

Discussion: Only summer collection applies.

Vote: 7–0, motion carried.



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Promise Saves Presentation: Rebecca Teahen (Northport Promise Board) introduced the Promise Saves program, supported by a \$180,000 state grant. Northport is the first district in Michigan able to provide \$100 per student per year retroactively for each year of attendance. Program aims to increase higher education attendance rates.

IX. Discussion Items

None.

X. Old Business

- Ben Purdy: Inquired about LIFT funding; supports continuing for this year. Superintendent met with LIFT to create an MOU.
- Dan Duffiney: Suggested exploring an in-house program for greater oversight.
- Jamie Scripps: Noted LIFT's county-wide structure enables broader programming and summer opportunities.
- Ben Hale: Highlighted LIFT's established network and systems.

XI. New Business

None.

XIII. Superintendent's Comments

None.

XIV. Public Comments

- Carrie Wadas: Praised school programs, student support systems, and unique opportunities. Thanked staff and board.
- Alex Post: Thanked the board and parents; expressed appreciation for working at NPS.
- TaShena Sams: Recognized Indigenous People's Day; expressed appreciation for cultural recognition and school support. Hopes for greater involvement in Native American History Month activities. Spoke positively about LIFT.
- Karen Trolenberg: Shared interest in identifying grants and funding sources for the school.

XV. Board Member Comments

- Ryan Blessing: Appreciated meeting positivity; thanked Promise Saves leaders; encouraged open communication.
- Jamie Scripps: Thanked Elizabeth Conley for positive Facebook updates.
- Ben Hale: Reflected on PTO's founding purpose and challenges with engagement; encouraged openness between board, administration, and parents.



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XVI. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Danielle Percy, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7-0, motion carried.

Time: 6:30 P.M.