



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023
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: Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy, Dr. Barbara Conley, and Dan Duffiney

Members Absent: NONE

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda at this November 13, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Student of the Month

- Elementary: Savannah Potes, presented by Danielle Wheelock
- Secondary: Mackenzie Scott, presented by Jen Evans

Superintendent's Report

- We are currently applying for funding through the FCC's E-Rate program. The E-Rate program is set up to make telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools. We are eligible every five years for approximately \$25,000. We plan to use this funding to replace our network switches, which are overdue for an upgrade. Our bids for this project are coming in around \$50,000. We will have more information for discussion at the December meeting.
- The school is fully staffed for the first time in years.
- Our diesel tank is up and running and working well.
- Our financial audit is complete and included in the Board packet. The only concern of consequence was our student activity fund. Our new business manager mistakenly did not leave enough of a buffer in the budget. We will prevent this mistake this year.
- Some of our 5th grade parents have approached the school about forming a Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). We will survey teachers and families soon to assess interest.

Public Comments

- Carrie Wadas informed the Board that Blue Lake was here today to audition all 30 of our band students. She noted that the students have worked very hard in preparation for their audition, and they did well. The representative from Blue Lake was very impressed, even with our beginning band students. She also thanked the Board for their support of increased piano instruction, noting that all 1st-5th grades students have begun playing piano regularly. She reminded the Board that the Winter Concert is on December 13.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of October 10, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$160,287.79
- Approval of Hiring John Sobehrad as Bus Driver
- Approval of Hiring Olivia Messer as Mental Health Specialist
- Approval of Hiring Corey Hess as Custodian

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Altria Settlement

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve the Altria Settlement Resolution, as presented.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Summer Tax Resolution

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the Annual Summer Tax Resolution, as presented, permitting Leelanau Township to collect the summer tax levy for 2024.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Discussion Items

Policy Updates

Policy updates were discussed by the Board. The only substantial change was the addition of policy number 7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use & Safety, which addresses AI in school. This policy will likely be updated frequently to deal with constant changes in AI technology.

Superintendent Evaluation

Superintendent Wetherbee presented data for each domain of his evaluation, including staff survey results and student growth charts. Superintendent Wetherbee recommended a rating of *effective* for his 2023 evaluation.

Old Business

Ben Purdy reported that the new community group, including members from the library, township, village, and Northport Public School, is meeting on November 16. Mr. Purdy will attend this meeting as a representative of the school. The group wants to assess available community resources and spaces. They will also investigate the possibility of sharing a grant writer.

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Carrie Wadas expressed her gratitude for working for such a highly effective educational institution.

Karen Trolenberg noted that students love the free flow of Science Club where they can just explore and have fun without any tests.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Barbara Conley thanked all Northport teachers for the work they are doing. She also noted that, as a volunteer with Leelanau Investing For Teens (LIFT), she overheard a student from another school talk about not eating all day due to the quality of the food. She sent kudos to our kitchen staff for the excellent options they provide.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Jake Zimmer to adjourn.

Motion Passed 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary