



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School  
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# Regular Meeting Minutes

October 9, 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

**Members Absent:** Dr. Barbara Conley and Dan Duffiney

A quorum was present.

## Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Moved by Danielle Percy, supported by Tom Wetherbee, to approve the agenda at this October 9, 2023, regular board meeting, with the addition of Student of the Month.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

## Student of the Month

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

## Superintendent's Report

- Count Day was October 4. We currently have 126 students in the district. We have been losing 2-3 students a year, on average, since 2003. This is relatively stable enrollment, but a sizable change over time. One contributing factor is the skyrocketing cost of housing. The median home price in our district is now over 1 million.
- A group of local Catholics have requested permission to pray for our students and staff on school property. We do not grant or deny permission for these purposes.
- Our transportation department is on track to be fully staffed within the month. We currently have a driver in training who is doing well. Also, the State just changed the law about retirees returning to work at schools, which will allow a retired driver to return as a sub.
- We have interviewed a potential candidate for the mental health position. We will have the second interview this week. This position will be funded by a 31n grant from the State and matching funds from our general budget.

- There have been some informal conversations regarding a fishing club after school. We are moving forward slowly and have a staff member who has some bass fishing expertise.
- Homecoming happened two weeks ago, the same Saturday as Leelanau Uncaged. There were some complaints about the timing, but participation in Homecoming events was higher than it has been in years.
- This year is starting out well. It feels like a lot of improvement since COVID began.

### **Public Comments**

- Carrie Wadas commented that Homecoming felt great this year, very cohesive and professional. She also noted that the atmosphere in the school this year is better. She feels that all of the school's work on Habits of Character is helping.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of September 11, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$94,971.54

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

### **Action Items**

NONE

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Altria Settlement**

Altria (Phillip Morris) has settled the class action lawsuit regarding e-cigarettes. The settlement is about a third of what we received from the Juul settlement. Funds from the Juul settlement have been used to purchase vape detectors for our bathrooms. If we do not accept this settlement amount, the school will have to pursue the suit individually against Altria. We have until mid-November to accept or decline the settlement offer.

#### **Professional Learning Plan**

For the last two years, the bulk of our professional development budget has been spent on direct, in-person support from EL Education. This work is ongoing, but we no longer require direct support, which increased funding for other professional development opportunities. This year, teachers can apply to attend national workshops and training that they find relevant and exciting. So far, about a third of our teachers have expressed interest in this sort of travel. We estimate a cost of approximately \$2,500 per teacher. Board members expressed support for this initiative and interest in hearing from teachers and/or Neil about these experiences.

### **Old Business**

NONE

### **New Business**

NONE

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Superintendent Wetherbee reminded the Board that parent teacher conferences are next week.

**Public Comments**

NONE

**Board Member Comments**

President Ben Purdy requested that the school begin the process of replacing the boilers, given the difficulty we have had getting vendors for other projects. He noted that another replacement priority is the halogen can light fixtures in the auditorium.

Tom Wetherbee noted that the climbing wall will open tomorrow for the season. Climbing is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. He also mentioned that he and his wife have been working with the high school collaboration class to teach them about climbing. These lessons will culminate with a field trip to Elev8 Climbing in Traverse City.

Ryan Blessing thanked Neil for his consistent email updates to the Board.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Ryan Blessing to adjourn.

**Motion Passed 5-0**

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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Danielle Percy, Secretary

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Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary