



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes

September 11, 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, Dr. Barbara Conley, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy, Dan Duffiney

Members Absent: NONE

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Dr. Barbara Conley, to approve the agenda at this September 11, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Superintendent's Report

- The school is fully staffed this year. We are excited to welcome our new teachers and grateful to the community who stepped in to help find housing for the new hires.
- Homecoming will be September 30. This is the same day as Leelanau Uncaged. This is a great opportunity to partner with this popular community event. We are coordinating events with the Board of Uncaged.
- NWEA testing results indicate our students are achieving high levels of growth throughout the year. Our students also score above average nationally, ranking in the 65th percentile of students taking NWEA across the country.
- The Grand Traverse Regional Foundation has begun a Youth Wellness Initiative. They are utilizing experts from across the region and polled students from all area high schools. 40% of students in our area experience moderate to severe anxiety and 24% experience moderate to severe depression. The surveys identified 11 recommendations to help students with their mental well-being. Northport is already doing many of the things recommended and will work to expand those services.

Public Comments

- Karen Trolenberg asked if NWEA data was posted online for the public. Superintendent Wetherbee stated that it is on our website under Transparency Reporting.
- Kallie Craker identified herself as a parent of a middle school student who is not interested in taking band. She noted that her daughter is passionate about art and would like to take that as an elective instead of band. She asked the Board to exempt her daughter from the mandatory middle school band participation.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$173,504.54
- Approval of the Course Catalog Updates

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Nancy Peterson Memorial Resolution

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Tom Wetherbee, that the Northport Board of Education approve the following memorial resolution for Nancy Peterson:

Whereas the Northport Board of Education and the Northport School community lost a valued member and leader on August 25, 2023, with the death of Nancy Ann Ka'imilani Peterson;

Whereas Nancy A.K. Peterson was a tireless advocate for public school education and educators;

Whereas Nancy A.K. Peterson served as a Northport Board of Education trustee for twelve years, from 2010 to 2022;

Whereas her contagious laughter and enthusiasm for music, poetry, and education inspired Board policies in support of such pursuits; and

Whereas Nancy's true legacy lies in her profound love of life and commitment to her community and the impact she had on countless people, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Northport Board of Education, on behalf of its trustees

- 1. recognizes the significant contributions of Nancy A.K. Peterson over the course of her distinguished service and honors her memory;*
- 2. expresses its appreciation and gratitude for her service;*
- 3. dedicates a Yoshino Cherry tree, located on the grounds of Northport Public School, in her honor; and*

extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family across the globe."

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Discussion Items

NONE

Old Business

Dr. Barbara Conley inquired about our progress on finding additional options, such as those mentioned by Trustee Blessing last meeting, for after-school programming. She mentioned that this might be done by LIFT (Leelanau Investing for Teens), which has programming now in Northport, Suttons Bay, Leland, and Glen Lake. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that LIFT is expanding its offerings in Northport and will provide an array of opportunities for our middle and high school students.

New Business

Dr. Barbara Conley noted that Ty Wessel spoke with her about adding an additional curb cut in front of the main entrance. Tom Wetherbee responded that Mr. Wessel has been requesting this for years, but the curb cut requested would run perpendicular to the path of travel for students and present a tripping hazard.

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Wetherbee reminded the Board that they are welcome to bring any topics of concern or interest to him to be added to a meeting agenda.

Public Comments

Kallie Craker asked about Homecoming events and timelines.

Erika Humphrey inquired about becoming a substitute teacher and asked about the consistency of LIFT's presence in the school. She also commended the school for their all-school Crew gatherings throughout the year. She believes that they create a positive atmosphere in the school.

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Danielle Percy to adjourn.

Motion Passed 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary