



Regular Meeting Minutes

December 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, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy, and Dr. Barbara Conley

Members Absent: Dan Duffiney
A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Danielle Percy, supported by Dr. Barbara Conley, to approve the agenda at this December 11, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Student of the Month

- Elementary: Patrick Goncalves-Ribeiro, presented by Beth Stowe
- Secondary: Desi Wetherbee, presented by Carrie Wadas

Superintendent's Report

- The State is posting updates to the My School Data page this week. I have received the data in advance and there is an error in our graduation rates. We are working to correct the information with the State.
- The Enterprise is running an article this week regarding how local schools celebrate Christmas.
- The State of Michigan, as a whole, has low performance data for students in special education. As a result, the State is planning to audit schools to determine if students are being placed in the 'least restrictive environment (LRE),' to receive their special education services. Providing students an opportunity to learn in the LRE typically requires more staffing hours. In addition to the audit, our special education caseload is rising, and we require additional staffing to meet that need. I am meeting with a highly qualified applicant next week and am hopeful that we will have two special education teachers soon.

- We are looking into replacing the school's boilers. Jim Fortin reached out to a mechanical engineering company that has worked on our system before. They submitted a proposal to manage the project, with an estimated cost of \$13,000. While that is a hefty price tag for project management, the overall cost of the project will be around \$500,000 and will involve lots of electrical and piping upgrades throughout the building. The current boilers need repair work about every two months and the new boilers would be much more efficient.

Public Comments

- Mike McMillan: Thanked Superintendent Wetherbee, Adam Houdek, and Jim Fortin for their help with pickleball. He noted that Adam has been a great communicator, and that the open gym time is as popular as ever, with over 75 people on their email list.
- Karen Trolenberg: Applauded the school for its efforts working with students in Special Education. She noted that she is the mother of a child who received such services twenty years ago and she is very impressed with the services the school currently provides.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of November 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$64,676.58
- Amend the October 2023 Minutes to Correct Student of the Month Recipients

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Superintendent Evaluation

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the 2023 Evaluation for Superintendent Wetherbee, reflecting a rating of effective.

DISCUSSION: NONE

Motion Carried 5-0-1 with Tom Wetherbee Abstaining

Bids for Replacement Network Switches

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Tom Wetherbee, that the Northport Board of Education approve the bid from Sehi Computer Products, Inc., in the amount of \$28,710.00, to replace network switches.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Wetherbee discussed this at least month's meeting. The eRate grant funds will reimburse \$25,000.

Roll Call Vote

Jake Zimmer: Y

Ryan Blessing: Y

Danielle Percy: Y

Ben Purdy: Y

Dr. Barbara Conley: Y

Tom Wetherbee: Y

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Bus Driver Agreement

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve the letter of agreement between the Northport Education Support Personnel Association-MEA/NEA and the Northport Board of Education, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Wetherbee explained that this letter of agreement is necessary due to a recent driver's injury and subsequent absence from duty for the next three months. While this driver recuperates, another driver is needed to take the Special Education route each day. Occasionally, neither student rides the Special Education bus, thus shortening the hours for that driver. This letter of agreement guarantees that the driver who volunteers to take the Special Education route will be compensated for the hours of his/her regular route if the Special Education route has no riders.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Policy Updates

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the updates to the following Board policies:

- po1540 Administrative Staff Reductions/Recalls
- po2370.01 Online/Blended Learning Program
- po7217 Weapons
- po7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use & Safety
- po8305 Information Security
- po8531 Free & Reduced -Price Meals

DISCUSSION: These policies were discussed at last month's meeting; most are clerical changes.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion Items

31aa Public Input

31aa is another type of State categorical funding for the school. All 31 categoricals generally have to do with health and safety; 31o pays for our School Nurse, 31n covers 80% of our Mental Health Specialist, etc. 31aa funds are a new pot of money that is earmarked for mental health and school security. Northport Public School is set to receive about \$30,000 for this school year and is proposing to use the funds to pay for the remaining 20% of the Mental Health Specialist's compensation and utilize the remainder for updates and/additions to our security camera's and door locks. Superintendent Wetherbee opened the floor for any public comment on this topic. No public comments were offered.

January Organization Meeting & Officer Elections

Board members discussed the upcoming organizational meeting in January and the necessary election of Board Officers. Superintendent Wetherbee requested that Trustees consider their current roles and their willingness to serve as Officers next year.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

Ryan Blessing: A bus driver approached him with a concern about ice coming from the roof near where students get on the bus at dismissal. He requested that something be done to the roof to prevent this type of thing in the future.

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

Ben Purdy asked for an update on the new Mental Health Specialist, Olivia Messer.

Superintendent Wetherbee reported that she is doing well and getting to know the kids.

Dr. Barbara Conley inquired about the childcare center. Superintendent Wetherbee reported that from our perspective, things have been running smoothly except for a few hiccups with internet access.

Danielle Percy noted that she had been approached by a community member who raved about how well Peter Morio was doing as Principal this year.

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary