



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023
NPS Board of Education

Board Vice-President, Dr. Barbara Conley, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was held in Room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Danielle Percy, Jake Zimmer, Dr. Barbara Conley, and Dan Duffiney

Student Representatives: Elsie Purdy-Teahen

Members Absent: Ben Purdy

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Daniel Duffiney, to approve the agenda at this February 13, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Student of the Month

- Elementary: Savannah Potes (January), presented by Alex Post & Hanley Ball (February), presented by Donna Wilson
- Secondary: Jay Craker, presented by Donna Wilson

Superintendent's Report

- NWEA testing report: Because we are operating under a COVID learning plan (having accepted Federal COVID relief funds two years ago), we are required to report on student testing and progress multiple times a year. Our goal is for all students to show growth on their NWEA tests each year. We are midway through the year and already have 75% of students exhibiting growth. A full report will be presented at the June meeting.
- 31n funding was rolled out a few years ago (for mental health). We did not pursue it at that time for a few reasons, including lack of qualified workers and a 20% matching requirement. Northwest Ed has approached us to reconsider for next year because there is now another funding source for the matching portion. Also, the requirement for level of qualification has become more flexible. This grant could provide up to a full-time person in the building to

provide mental health support for our students. The grant funding appears stable and has bipartisan support.

- On bad weather days, the decision to close or not starts around 4:15am. The main consideration is whether we will be able to get students to and from school safely. If we have school and our attendance rate is below 75%, the State will not count that as a day of instruction, so that is taken into account as well.
- The '23-'24 school year calendar draft is in progress. This, along with the master schedule of classes, takes many hours for multiple employees to complete due to the myriad of variables that have to be considered. Much of the calendar is beyond our local control, as we must follow State rules and match the regional calendar.

Public Comments

Karen Trolenberg, Science Club Teacher and substitute lunch aide, noted that she sees a vast need for additional mental health support for our students. She also noted that Tuesday, February 28 is National Science Day. The Science Club will have an open house that night from 5-6pm with student displays and interactive activities.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$275,271.52

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Approve January Organizational Meeting Minutes

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dan Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the January 9, 2023, Organizational Meeting Minutes as presented.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Select Candidate for the 2023 MASB Board of Education

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Tom Wetherbee, that the Northport Board of Education approve the ballot selection of Nicolette Brown to serve as their representative on the Michigan Association of School Board's Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Approval of the Agreement for the Summer Collection of School Property Taxes

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dan Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the Agreement for Summer Collection of School Property Taxes for 2023.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion Items

Summit Fire System Proposal

Superintendent Wetherbee presented the proposal to update the school's fire alarm system. The school's current system was last updated in 2001 and the technology is so old there is no one left who can service it. To fully upgrade to the most advanced systems, including voice alarms, would cost upwards of \$100,000. Summit Fire's proposal is an intermediate step to update the system to meet code and prepare for the next steps in case they become mandatory. The price of this update is about \$14,000. We have a 60-day lock on this estimate and, once approved, will not be billed until our next fiscal year. The upgrades would be completed over the summer.

Old Business

Ryan Blessing asked about a diesel tank for our buses. The school's current agreement with Bayshore Oil & Gas is in question. The school is researching alternatives.

Dr. Barbara Conley asked about the progress on landscaping for the school. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that installation quotes have been difficult to obtain and that he hopes to bring the estimates to the March regular meeting.

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

The parking lot drainage project is still moving forward. The project should go out for bid in the next few weeks.

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary