



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School  
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# Regular Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

*This meeting was held in Room 300.*

## **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Danielle Percy, Jake Zimmer, and Dan Duffiney

**Student Representatives:** Elsie Purdy-Teahen and Ada Wetherbee

**Members Absent:** Dr. Barbara Conley

A quorum was present.

## **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda at this January 9, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

## **Student of the Month**

- Elementary Student of the Month: Student will be announced at February meeting
- Secondary Student of the Month: Cora Speer, presented by Kyle Locke

## **Superintendent's Report**

- We are currently looking to change our secondary ELA curriculum (which was purchased six years ago). Our current curriculum is no longer supported by the manufacturer. We are exploring versions of an open-source curriculum designed by the state of New York. Our ELA teachers will pilot a new version and report back to the Board on what they find.
- The new lightboard for the auditorium is installed and functioning. There are still many upgrades needed for lighting as most of the equipment is over 20 years old. A full lighting upgrade would likely cost around \$200,000. Other upgrades to consider are the boiler system and a generator for the school.
- Our certified staff contract is up this year. After an informal conversation with Jen Evans, Union President, it appears that no major changes will be necessary. There are a few

changes at the State legislature that may alter the amount the school is allowed to contribute to health care costs. If this happens, the Board may need to consider the wording in the contract regarding those costs. We hope to have most of the contract decided by May to create an accurate budget proposal for June's meeting.

- The Children's Center project is still moving forward, albeit at a very slow pace. As the landlord for the building, Northport Public School has completed our checklist.
- In August, Suttons Bay, unilaterally and unannounced, dissolved the North Bay brand. We lost almost all our home games and our students play exclusively under the Norse brand. Our students have access to all sports except 8-man football. While this situation is not ideal, we do not have many options.
- Nadia Hoover, our Business Manager through the ISD, has taken a job in Kingsley. The ISD has committed to fulfilling our contract and providing all business services as they find and train a replacement. We may want to reassess our Business Manager contract next year, though hiring these services independently of the ISD will cost us significantly more.

### **Public Comments**

NONE

### **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of the December 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$109,635.34
- Approval of Hiring Miranda Christianson, Maintenance Staff, as of 10/24/2022

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

### **Action Items**

#### **Authorize Access to Bank Accounts**

**MOTION:** Moved by Dan Duffiney, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education authorize access to school accounts at MILAF and Huntington National Bank to Jack Bancroft, the new accounts manager from Northwest Education Services.

DISCUSSION: NONE

#### **Motion Passed 6-0**

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Landscape Design Draft**

Superintendent Wetherbee presented the landscape design draft created by Betsy Ernst of Peninsula Perennials. She prioritized easy maintenance, deer resistance, and timing of blooms around spring and fall. Prices are subject to change due to vendors' unwillingness to lock costs for more than 30 days. The draft shows approximately \$6,000 in plants. There are also hardscape items needed, including benches and bike racks. Superintendent Wetherbee will bring more detailed information to the February meeting.

**Old Business**

NONE

**New Business**

Board Recognition Month: Board members were presented with a small gift and thank you card for their service to the school.

**Superintendent's Comments**

NONE

**Public Comments**

Karen Trolenberg noted that she would like to see more trees planted on the playground to provide shade for students at recess. She also requested that the landscaper consider visibility when designing the island plot on the East end of the parking lot. She wants to ensure that drivers can see if a child is crossing the parking area.

**Board Member Comments**

Tom Wetherbee welcomed the new Board members and gave general information about training and procedures of the Board.

Jake Zimmer thanked the Board and school for the warm welcome. He is looking forward to taking classes to learn more about School Board procedures.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Ryan Blessing, seconded by Dan Duffiney to adjourn.

**Motion Passed 6-0**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Danielle Percy, Secretary

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Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary