



Regular Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023

NPS Board of Education

Board Vice-President, Dr. Barbara Conley, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

This meeting was held in Room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Wetherbee, Dr. Barbara Conley, Ryan Blessing, Dan Duffiney, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy, Ben Purdy (arrived at 5:51pm)

Members Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Daniel Duffiney, to approve the agenda at this July 10, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Superintendent's Report

- Our landscaping project is coming along well, with only a few trees left to plant. The parking lot project is set to begin July 24 and scheduled to take approximately three weeks. There will be no cost to the school for this resurfacing and installation of a large infiltration system to handle water run-off.
- We have hired three teachers. Jacob Fryer will teach social studies, Chuck Schuba will teach PE, and Mollie Brendel will teach Kindergarten. We have other teaching positions we are still working to fill, all with interested candidates.
- The Spanish teacher position is still open, but we have had a few teachers indicate their willingness to fill in on a part-time basis to cover the hours we need.
- No one has applied for the mental health counselor/social worker position that we have 31n grant funding for. We would be willing to have a half-time to full-time person in this position.

Public Comments

- Carrie Wadas thanked the Board for their efforts to improve the exterior of the building and landscaping. She believes it helps the outside reflect all of the good things that happen on the inside of the school.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of June 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$121,197.26
- Approval for the Hiring of Jacob Fryer and Chuck Schuba as Secondary Teachers and Mollie Brendel as Kindergarten Teacher.

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

School of Choice Class Size Limits

MOTION: Moved by Thomas Wetherbee, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve the class size limit of 18 for grades K-12. This cap will only affect new students who are out-of-district.”

DISCUSSION: This is the same limit we set last year.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Discussion Items

Board Policy Update

The Board updates all fall under three categories; tech updates (which have been vetted by our Director of Technology), minor tobacco policy changes, and a few general policy wording alterations. No substantial changes.

Dress Code

Last year the Board revised and streamlined the dress code which relaxed some of the restrictions. This issue is up for discussion now because of public comments from last month. Board members discussed the difficulties of creating a strict dress code, including potential legal concerns. Members agreed that a stricter code could create more issues than they would solve.

Sex Education/HIV

The Board has been discussing options for sex education curriculum over the last few months because our PE teacher was interested in making a change. Now that we have a new PE teacher, the Board expressed interest in hearing the new teachers perspective before moving forward.

Old Business

Dr. Barbara Conley asked about the Student Representatives to the Board. She would like to see more student involvement.

Ryan Blessing inquired about plans for the outdoor classroom this fall. Superintendent Wetherbee assured him that the process is ongoing, and more work will continue next school year.

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

Tom Wetherbee explained that we recently had a problem with the lighting controller (not the new panel) and had to have a loaner sent up from Grand Rapids. He believes we need to have someone who is responsible for maintaining the auditorium systems. There are upgrades that need to be made soon.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley to adjourn.

Motion Passed 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary