



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
104 S. Wing St. Northport, MI 49670
p. (231) 386-5153 f. (231) 386-9838
www.northportps.org

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

NPS Board of Education

Board Vice-President, Dr. Barbara Conley, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held in Room 300.

Roll Call

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

Student Representatives: Elsie Purdy-Teahen & Ada Wetherbee

Members Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Dr. Barbara Conley, to approve the agenda at this March 13, 2023, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Student of the Month

- Elementary: Ivy Garces, presented by Jackie Tropf
- Secondary: Desiree Wetherbee, presented by Kyle Locke

Superintendent's Report

- Landscaping plans are taking longer than expected due to a lack of installation bids. We hope to receive more bids as spring approaches.
- The certified staff contract is up this year. The Personnel and Finance Committee will meet with union representatives to renegotiate soon.
- There are two primary schools of thought for grading students. The traditional approach is based on point gathering through homework, tests, participation, etc. Standards based grading is based on student mastery level of content expectations. Standards based grading has been used for years in our elementary grades, but not for our secondary students. Both approaches have benefits and restrictions. There may be a way to create a hybrid model that more accurately reflects a student's growth and content mastery.

Public Comments

Kelsey Wabanimkee, parent of a former NPS student, requested that the Board provide clarification on what activities homeschool students can participate in at the school. She noted that her son attended NPS until a few months ago, when they decided to homeschool him. Even though he is not enrolled, she would like him to continue to be a part of the NPS community and take advantage of the valuable opportunities the school provides.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$179,280.00

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Accept the Juul Settlement Resolution

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve the resolution accepting the settlement of the lawsuit against Juul Labs, Inc. as presented.

DISCUSSION: The settlement amount is suppressed under court order and cannot be announced publicly. The settlement is only for the Juul portion of the class action suit, not the other defendants. The funds are unrestricted, so the school may use them as they see fit. Our attorneys at Thrun Law have recommended that we accept this settlement.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Approve Summit Fire System Proposal

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Daniel Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the fire system upgrade proposal from Summit Fire Protection.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 7-0

Discussion Items

HIV/STI & Sex Education Curriculum

Superintendent Wetherbee discussed the State requirements for sex education in public schools. NPS currently provides the mandated HIV/STI curriculum to students but does not have a comprehensive sex education program. To expand our current offering, the School Board would need to follow a myriad of legal steps before any additional sex education could be taught. This decision is solely at the discretion of the Board.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Kelsey Wabanimkee clarified that she wanted to know, specifically, whether her son could participate in sports teams and other school-sponsored events as a homeschooled student. Board President, Ben Purdy, requested that Ms. Wabanimkee email specific requests to Superintendent Wetherbee prior to the April meeting so they can be added to the agenda.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Barbara Conley noted that she will not be present at the April 10, 2023, meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Daniel Duffiney, seconded by Jake Zimmer to adjourn.

Motion Passed 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary