



Regular Meeting Minutes November 11, 2024 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, Michigan, in room 300.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Dan Duffiney
A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Jake Zimmer, to approve the agenda at this November 11, 2024, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Students of the Month

- Elementary: Patrick Goncalves Ribeiro, presented by Corrine Chandler
- Secondary: Carol Alegre Navarro, presented by Carrie Wadas

Superintendent's Report

- Our audit is complete, and each board member has been given a copy. There were two findings that occurred due to our mid-year transition in business managers. The first issue was that we left approximately \$8000 of federal funds on the table because we did not spend it on time. The second issue was that we budgeted too conservatively and ended the year with more than a prudent reserve.
- The school now has a paid subscription (\$20/mo.) for ChatGPT. Paying for the service allows us to create custom bots that save staff considerable amounts of time. Also, the paid subscription keeps our data private.
- Superintendent Wetherbee is continuing to focus on big picture issues like family housing, expanding extra-curricular activities, and building a greater sense of school community. He noted that he wants to create an Alumni Hall of Fame to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff.

Public Comments

- Laura Cavendish updated the Board regarding the PTO meeting last week. The PTO is encouraging families to utilize school technology, including OTUS, PowerSchool, and the school app. They are excited that we are working towards more elementary sports and hope to boost school spirit.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$160,400.02
- Approval of the Resignation of Olivia Messer, Mental Health Specialist
- Approval of the Hiring of Grace Keilty as Mental Health Specialist

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

NHS/NJHS Close Up Trip

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the National Honor Society’s Close Up trip to Washington D.C upon the submission of the Youth Advisory Council grant and a National Honor Society contribution of \$5,000.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Barbara Conley questioned why the school is using this company again and whether other organizations have been considered. Ryan Blessing noted that this company has been doing these tours for decades and has a stellar reputation. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that the school used Close-Up for their D.C. trips when he was a student here.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Quarter & Semester Grades

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the modification of the Secondary Handbook from 40-40-20 final semester grade weighting to 80-20 final semester grade weighting where 80% is course work and 20% is final exam.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Staff Retention

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Tom Wetherbee, that the Northport Board of Education give approval to Superintendent Wetherbee to sign a Letter of Agreement offering a Retention Stipend of no more than \$3,000 per employee to a tax deferred account from the list of NPS approved vendors.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education appoint TaShena Sams as the Northport Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) representative.

DISCUSSION: State law requires every Intermediate School District to have a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. Each district is asked to appoint a representative. Superintendent Wetherbee spoke with parents who qualified and TaShena’s name kept coming up. TaShena has agreed to serve in this capacity. If appointed, she will remain until she resigns, her child graduates, or the Board removes her.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Insurance Letter of Agreement

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement between Northport Public School and the Northport Education Association to offer **MESSA ABC 1 \$1,650/\$3,300, 0% coinsurance, & 3-Tier Rx** and **MESSA ABC 1 \$1,650/\$3,300, 10% coinsurance, & 5-Tier Rx** at Open Enrollment.

DISCUSSION: Offering this additional option does not cost the district anything.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion

Board Policy Updates

Superintendent Wetherbee discussed the proposed board policy updates provided by Thrun Law. Most changes are just cleaning up language and are not substantive. The only real changes are po5500 and po7540.09 that deal with artificial intelligence (AI). These policies appear to try to address the ever changing AI world. The changes to these policies are optional and the Board needs to consider how they want to proceed. Board members and Superintendent Wetherbee discussed the myriad of ways in which AI can be used as a tool by students and the difference between using AI as a tool and using AI to do all of the work.

Potential Vacant Board Seat

Dr. Barb Conley won the race to be the Leelanau Township Supervisor. Unfortunately, that position is incompatible with her membership on this Board. She has submitted her letter of resignation, effective November 20, 2024. The Board will have a month to solicit letters of interest, conduct interviews, and appoint her successor.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent’s Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Laura Cavendish wondered whether the proposed AI policies were additions or replacements. She raised her concern that many of the high school students she knows are using AI to write papers. Mrs. Cavendish also noted that she is interested in filling Dr. Conley’s board term.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Barbara Conley stated that it has been a pleasure serving on this board. She sees the school progressing and getting better. She noted that her fellow members have been great to with and that public comments are usually productive. She also brought up a program called “Grow Your Own,” that works to get young people interested in behavioral health fields.

Ryan Blessing asked if the \$8000 of federal funds that were caught in the audit were gone for good. Superintendent Wetherbee confirmed that, in the shuffle between Business Managers last year, the deadline for spending that money lapsed.

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary