



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 September 9, 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, and Ryan Blessing

Members Absent: Dan Duffiney and Danielle Percy
A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Jake Zimmer, to approve the agenda at this September 9, 2024, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Superintendent's Report

- We are on the fifth day of school this year and it is going well. We are fully staffed with the hiring of two teachers, transitioning Emily Miller to Food Service Director, and hiring Amanda Brown as a lunch aide.
- The boilers are fully installed and working. The sprinklers are working, and the playground is still green this late in the year.
- Our enrollment is flat this year. This is the best first week I have had since I was hired. Our secondary teachers are on the same page and the students have noticed the consistency.

Public Comments

- Bradley Price, community member, brought his frustrations to the Board. He commented that he had written a letter to Superintendent Wetherbee, in reference to a school Newsletter, and Superintendent Wetherbee did not respond to his letter. He also described a phone call to the Superintendent that he felt was unsatisfactory. Mr. Price further presented 3 ideas to the Board for consideration: bullying shouldn't exist in a school this small, all Northport graduates should be bilingual, and that the school should utilize the myriad of experts in the community to help students meet their individualized educational plan.
- Dipak Adhikari, staff member, noted that our small size should mean that we focus deeply on each student's needs and wants.

- Karen Trolenberg, staff member, stated that Northport is different, that we do a lot of unique activities, including the NASA club. She encouraged people to get to know all of the things we are doing.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of August 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$291,151.55
- Approval of the Hiring of Emily Miller as Food Service Director, Tracy Denoyer as Assistant Secretary, and Amanda Brown as a Food Service Employee
- Approval of the Resignation of Brittany Adams

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Student Group Sponsorship Process

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley that the Northport Board of Education approve the creation of a student group sponsorship process, as described.

DISCUSSION: This is a timely action because we are currently working on creating an elementary cross-country team. This process aligns with Board policy and addresses all of our concerns around club formation.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Michigan Liquid Asset Sinking Fund Account Closure

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the closing of the Michigan Liquid Asset Sinking Fund Account, as recommended by the school’s financial auditor.

DISCUSSION: This is cleaning up our books and closing an account that is no longer in use.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Presentations

Leelanau Investing For Teens (LIFT)

Rebekah Tenbrink, Executive Director and Founder, and Audrey Luksch, Associate Director of LIFT provided the Board an overview of LIFT’s involvement at Northport Public School last year. LIFT held 67 after-school activities which attracted 223 attendees. Cost of programming for Northport students was \$66,700. Activities included bowling at the Northport Pub & Grille, rock grinding at The Trading Post, paintballing, and art activities at the Northport Arts Association. Larger events included skiing at Boyne Mountain, traveling to Art Prize in Grand Rapids, and a trip to Mackinaw Island. LIFT also offered summer programming three days a week. LIFT provides transportation to and from their activities as needed.

This year, LIFT has hired a new Northport Coordinator, Meg Jean, who will be expanding services to high school students in addition to middle school students. She will be in the school three days a week and host after-school activities here in Northport. LIFT asked the Board to consider

contributing to the Northport LIFT budget this year. They noted that Suttons Bay and Glen Lake schools both contribute. LIFT did not ask for a specific amount, but rather any amount up to the full cost of \$66,700.

Board members expressed gratitude for all the work LIFT has done with Northport students.

NASA Trip Report

Karen Trolenberg, Mission Commander for the National NASA Student Challenge, presented information to the Board regarding the groups recent trip to Kennedy Space Center. Our team consisted of 6 students who were responsible for completing 8 mission objectives set-out by NASA. Our students completed all 8 objectives, which is rare. Completing the objectives put them in the running for an all-expenses paid trip to Kennedy Space Station, which they won. Only 14 teams from across the country were included in this trip, and we were the only one's from Michigan. Our students were wonderful representatives of the school and were very respectful to other teams and NASA staff. Several of the 14 groups in attendance were from schools that are categorized as STEM schools and many of the students had been to Space Camp. Our kids felt some trepidation at first, but then found that they could keep up with these peers, including winning the final trivia contest. Karen noted that she would like to continue the program this year for 7th & 8th graders, with two returning students as leaders. Each team is limited to 6 students, but if there is greater interest, Karen would be willing to have 2 teams.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

Dr. Barbara Conley noted that she is running for Township Supervisor. If she wins, she will have to resign the School Board due to State law.

Superintendent's Comments

NONE

Public Comments

Carrie Wadas, teacher, expressed amazement at all of the things LIFT does and applauded them for having the courage to ask for funding. Mrs. Wadas then explained her concerns about granting funding to this group and what precedent it might set.

Dipak Adhikari, staff member, expressed his support for funding LIFT.

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary