



Regular Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

NPS Board of Education

Board Trustee, Tom Wetherbee, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held at 104 S Wing St. Northport, MI in room 300.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Ben Purdy and Dr. Barbara Conley
A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ryan Blessing, supported by Danielle Percy, to approve the agenda at this April 8, 2024, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Students of the Month

- Elementary: Taryn Kelley, presented by Jackie Tropf
- Secondary: Jack Scripps, presented by Carrie Wadas

Superintendent's Report

- Little Acorn, the childcare center currently occupying the old Children's Center building, is losing its current leadership. They are facing some of the same challenges that previous childcare centers experienced. The Governor is proposing universal pre-kindergarten. If Little Acorn is unable to find appropriate leadership, it may be worth considering NPS running a preschool/pre-kindergarten program.
- Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) was hit last week with a network outage due to a security issue. The FBI is involved, and no details have been released. The district was forced to close school for two days because of this issue. These sorts of cyber-attacks have been happening more frequently across the country. NPS has many protections in place but if we have an attack, we will likely have to shut down for a few days as well.
- Technology Director, Adam Houdek and Superintendent Wetherbee are attending a conference next week that addresses the link between artificial intelligence and anxiety.

Parent Teach Organization Update

Laura Cavendish and Melissa Hale represented the PTO and discussed upcoming meeting plans. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 6pm. They will go over bylaws, officer elections, and end-of-the-year teacher recognition activities.

Public Comments

Laura Cavendish noted that if NPS were hit with a cyberattack like TCAPS, she would not want her students to attend a building where cameras, door locks, and other systems were not working properly.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of March 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$140,778.02
- Approval of the Hiring of Dipak Adhikari as Custodian

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

Boiler Project Bids

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Dan Duffiney, that the Northport Board of Education approve the bid from John E. Green, for the boiler replacement project, in the amount of \$317,747, per the recommendation of Nealis Engineering.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Wetherbee noted that three contractors submitted bids for this project. Nealis Engineering reviewed the bids and made their recommendation. John Green is a very large company out of the downstate area. Nealis Engineering recommends the John E. Green company bid, not just because it was the cheapest, but because the bid included high quality materials.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Additional Capital Improvement Fund

MOTION: Moved by Dan Duffiney, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the resolution to create and establish a Capital Improvement Fund, as presented.

DISCUSSION: The issue here is with the new prevailing wage law. We do not disagree with this in theory, but the law changed in the middle of the process for the bidding process, and it would delay the project significantly.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Discussion Items

2024-2025 Academic Calendar

The only issue still in question are the dates of the professional development in August. This will not affect the student calendar, so we can finalize those dates later.

Board Policy Updates

Superintendent Wetherbee described updates to board policies being recommended by Thrun Law. Most changes are wording issues and not substantive. These policies have updates recommended:

- po1240
- po2410
- po2414
- po2418
- po3220
- po6320
- po6321
- po6325
- po6350
- po6520
- po8390
- po8800

Old Business

Ryan Blessing asked about progress with a Senior who had emailed the Board around Spring Break. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that the issues from the email have been addressed, but little progress has been made.

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Wetherbee relayed Dr. Barbara Conley's inquiries about postsecondary education/trade preparations for students. She also requested updates regarding our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that he has these topics in the queue for future meetings with light agendas.

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Dan Duffiney, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary