



Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023

NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held in Room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Wetherbee, Dr. Barbara Conley, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jake Zimmer, Danielle Percy (arrived at 5:37pm)

Members Absent: Dan Duffiney

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Ryan Blessing, to approve the agenda at this June 12, 2023, budget hearing & regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Truth-In-Taxation Budget Hearing on Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Braxton Platt, Business Manager through Northwest Educational Services, presented the proposed 2023-2024 budgets for the General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Student Activity Fund. Jack Bancroft, Business Manager through Northwest Educational Services, also reviewed the 2022-2023 final budgets for General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Student Activity Fund.

Budget Hearing Public Comments

- NONE

Budget Hearing Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, supported by Jake Zimmer, to close the budget hearing.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Close-Up Trip Student Presentation

National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society students presented a video about their experiences on their Close-Up trip to Washington, D.C. Students thanked the Board for their support of this educational opportunity and described what they had learned. Advisor Corrine Wetherbee noted that the students were able to raise just under \$10,000 in a single year for this trip. The Honor Societies would like to make this a bi-annual tradition.

Superintendent's Report

- Leelanau County Sheriff Borkovich has rescinded his request to use our facilities for SWAT training. They have secured other premises.
- Our school buses currently fill their diesel tanks at Bayshore Oil in Omena. The tank is on their property but owned by the school. Bayshore Oil's new ownership has requested that we remove our tank from their premises due to a new inspector and increased liability concerns. The best option is for us to install a new, above-ground tank in our upper parking lot. The cost will be approximately \$10,000. A finalized proposal will be presented at the July regular meeting.
- Standardized testing season is wrapping up. MSTEP results are embargoed by the State, so we cannot share the results in a public meeting. Our NWEA data, however, shows that our students are statistically more likely to have shown growth over this year than the average student nationwide. Our students achieved 135% of their projected growth.
- We are seeking to hire people for several open positions for the 2023-24 school year. The process is going well, and we have at least one applicant for each open position, except for bus drivers. We are reaching a critical level of bus drivers, with another one retiring this year.
- The State recognizes a difference between grades and credit for a class. This is rarely an issue, but we did have a few students who failed a class while earning close to 80% on the final. The final exam grade shows mastery of the subject, which is required to award credit for the class. The State requires that we offer a test-out option for credit, which means that while the students failed in their letter grade, they may still be eligible to receive credit in that class. Superintendent Wetherbee will investigate how other area schools handle this situation and present those options to the Board.

Public Comments

- Sarah Hoskins, parent of an elementary student, noted that her son would like to see Spanish taught again at the elementary level. She also asked if we have exit interviews for staff who are leaving and whether there is anything more that can be done to attract and retain teachers.
- Amanda Kruk, parent of a high school student, expressed concerns about the number of teachers quitting. She questioned why the school can't retain staff, would also like exit interviews, and would like to know what is going on. She also noted that 9th grade students at Northport receive no art or music education for the year. She doesn't understand this and would like it to change.
- Board President Ben Purdy, with the consent of the Board, responded to these parent concerns. He noted that Northport actually has higher retention rates than other area schools and that the Board has just ratified a new contract with a compensation package that is among the top 5 in the State.

- Superintendent Wetherbee, also addressing parent concerns, explained that no teacher has left to take a teaching position within 100 miles. The reasons given by those exiting teachers have not been a reflection of the school. He also noted that the State of Michigan has strict graduation requirements that limit our flexibility of offerings for 9th graders. Students have greater flexibility in their 10-12 grade years.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of May 15, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$98,512.69
- Accept the Resignations of Kristi Holmstrom, Quinn Doyle, and Larry Busby
- Approval for the Hiring of Peter Morio as Principal
- Approval of the 2023-24 Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Membership

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

2023-2024 School Calendar

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the 2023-24 School Calendar, as presented.”

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Vape Detection System

MOTION: Moved by Jake Zimmer, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of vape detection systems in school bathrooms, with a budget not to exceed \$12,000.

DISCUSSION: Our proceeds from the Juul Lawsuit outcome cover most of this installation.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Operating Millage

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Jake Zimmer, that the Northport Board of Education approve the amendment to the 2022-23 General Fund budget, Food Service budget, and Student Activity Fund budget.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Amended 2022-23 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Ryan Blessing, that the Northport Board of Education approve the amendment to the 2022-23 General Fund budget, Food Service budget, and Student Activity Fund budget.

DISCUSSION: NONE

Roll Call Vote

Jake Zimmer: Aye
Ryan Blessing: Aye
Dr. Barbara Conley: Aye
Danielle Percy: Aye
Tom Wetherbee: Aye
Ben Purdy: Aye
Motion Carried 6-0

Proposed 2023-24 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Dr. Barbara Conley, that the Northport Board of Education approve proposed 2023-24 General Fund budget, Food Service budget, and Student Activity Fund budget as presented at the Budget Hearing.

DISCUSSION: NONE

Roll Call Vote

Ben Purdy: Aye
Tom Wetherbee: Aye
Danielle Percy: Aye
Dr. Barbara Conley: Aye
Ryan Blessing: Aye
Jake Zimmer: Aye
Motion Carried 6-0

Truth-in-Taxation Proposal

MOTION: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, seconded by Danielle Percy, that the Northport Board of Education approve the Truth-in-Taxation proposal as presented in the budget hearing.

DISCUSSION: NONE

All Ayes

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion Items

NONE

Old Business

Dr. Barbara Conley asked if there was any movement in the discussion regarding sex education curriculum. Superintendent Wetherbee answered that this would be addressed in his next comments.

New Business

Ryan Blessing asked if we had anyone to replace Peter Morio (previously kindergarten teacher and newly hired as principal). Superintendent Wetherbee expressed no concerns about filling his position and said he expects high quality candidates to apply.

Superintendent's Comments

- Mental Health is a consistent theme of discussion for our students right now. Three of our seniors chose the topic for their Senior Project. One student surveyed her classmates and gathered information on ACES and how to cope with trauma.
- Board minutes cannot be posted to our school website until they have been approved by the Board at the following meeting. The May minutes will be posted tomorrow.
- The Board has discussed and reviewed sex education curriculum options this year. The topic will be back up on the agenda for next school year. If the Board decides to expand beyond the mandatory STI/HIV curriculum we currently use, we will need to create a sex ed advisory board. Creating such a board includes very specific legal requirements for membership, including clergy, parents, and staff members.

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

NONE

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Danielle Percy, seconded by Jake Zimmer to adjourn.

Motion Passed 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary