



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School  
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# Regular Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022

NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

*This meeting was held in Room 300.*

## **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Tom Wetherbee, Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Jeannette Reynolds

**Members Absent:** Dr. Barbara Conley, Nancy Peterson, and Dan Duffiney

A quorum was present.

## **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Jeannette Reynolds, to approve the agenda at this October 10, 2022, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 4-0

## **Student of the Month**

- Elementary Student of the Month: Jewel Bressette, presented by Corrine Chandler
- Secondary Student of the Month: Camden Clifford, presented by Neil Wetherbee

## **National Honor Society/National Junior Honor Society Presentation**

- Cora Speer, Dean Hulett, Desi Wetherbee, Elsie Purdy-Teahen, Laura Christianson, Jack Scripps, and Ada Wetherbee proposed a trip to Washington, D.C. to the Board. The students discussed the academic and civic opportunities of the trip, as well as their basic budget of approximately \$2000 per student (including airfare).

## **Northwest Education Services Special Education Millage Presentation**

- Carol Greilick, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education for Northwest Education Services, presented information to the Board regarding the upcoming millage and special education services.

## **Superintendent's Report**

- Children's Center Update: We continue to work with the Community Foundation to prepare the Children's Center. They have awarded the school \$17,200 per year for three years for building operation costs. To date we have spent approximately \$1,000 on fencing material, fire extinguisher serving, and other basic updates. Over 150 volunteer hours have been logged this month to get the building up and running.
- Landscaping Update: We are working with Betsy Ernst, a certified landscape designer with Peninsula Perennials, to mockup plans and costs for products. The approximate cost of trees and plants is \$3,000.
- Election: Northport School operating millage on the ballot to levy 13.388 mil. There are also three Board vacancies on the ballot, and only 2 candidates. Without a write-in candidate, the Board will need to solicit letters of interest in December and appoint a new member at the January 2023 meeting.
- Building & Grounds: The pole barn inspection happened today, allowing for interior work to continue. Our new sign and exterior lights are scheduled to be installed this week.
- State Testing: Net percent proficiency changes in state testing show that our school did substantially better than state and regional averages. This indicates that the work we did during the pandemic made a difference. Our students came out of the pandemic, academically, better than they went into it.

## **Committee Reports & Goals**

- NONE

## **Public Comments**

- Kallie Craker requested the percentage of students at Northport who receive special education services. Superintendent Wetherbee answered approximately 17%.

## **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of the September 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$263,774.51

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

## **Action Items**

**NONE**

## **Discussion Items**

### **Children's Center Internet**

Superintendent Wetherbee explained the three options we have for connecting the Children's Center to the internet.

1. Easiest, cheapest (up-front) option is to sign-up for Charter Business at approximately \$200 per month.
2. We could create a wireless bridge linking the school's Wi-Fi to the Center. This is approximately \$7,000 up front, with no real ongoing costs. May need some maintenance. This would allow the school to utilize its content filters, key-fob access, and camera system.

3. We could run a fiber cable from the school to the Center for approximately \$11,000 up front cost, with no foreseeable maintenance or other future costs. This option has all the benefits of #2 plus a weatherproof connection and the ability to create a wireless bridge from the Center to our Outdoor Classroom.

The Board expressed support for the fiber cable option. The upfront cost of this option will be offset with Community Foundation grant money.

### **Old Business**

Ryan Blessing asked about technology club options for students. Superintendent Wetherbee noted that we have a Robotics team with Suttons Bay and that Mrs. Karen Trolenberg runs an after-school science club for 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is also the possibility of an E-Sports option in the future.

### **New Business**

Tom Wetherbee asked the Board for approval to have “ask the expert,” evenings for adults in the school library. Board members expressed support for this idea. Mr. Wetherbee then asked the Board to consider designating Richard Speers as the 1975 Student Athlete of the Year. He explained that the circumstances of that year led to no student being awarded this honor and that Mr. Speers had the accomplishments to qualify. This will be discussed further at the November 2022 meeting.

### **Superintendent’s Comments**

NONE

### **Public Comments**

NONE

### **Board Member Comments**

Jeannette Reynolds asked if the school is open for pickleball yet. Superintendent Wetherbee explained that pickleball is now scheduled for Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:30-5:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings. A walking club was discussed and supported if one individual is responsible for the group.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Jeannette Reynolds, seconded by Tom Wetherbee to adjourn.

**Motion Passed 4-0**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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Jeannette Reynolds, Secretary

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Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary