

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 106/107**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE—The Oath of Office as recited by newly appointed trustee Bill Marsh for a term that expires December 31, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Laura J. Oblinger, Andrew K. Robitshek, Chris M. Bott, Kenneth E. Warner, Bill F. Marsh, Kennard R. Weaver

Trustees absent: Douglas S. Bishop

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Hollie DeWalt, Lisa Baldyga, Jason Slade, Glenn Wolff, Molly Norville, Alex Bloye, Nicco Pandolfi, Chris Hanna, Lindsey Lipke, Carly McCall, Nancy Schulte, Julie Clark

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS—Mid-Year Recap on Strategic Initiatives—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, summarized progress made on the five strategies at the mid-way point for year two. Highlights of success include: The Experiential Learning Institute; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives; Extended Education Services’ workforce development; and the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. Year three planning is in an initial development phase, beginning with FY25 departmental budgets. Slade also discussed projects underway with loose ties to the current strategic plan, such as the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC) and the Office of Possibilities (OOPs), which is formally part of the NMC Foundation’s strategic plan.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: Career & Employment Fair—The 18th annual Career and Employment fair, scheduled for March 7, is open to students and the community. This year, twelve business sponsors have covered the expense to host the event. Lindsey Dickinson, Director of Student Success and Retention, thanked Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications, and the NMC Foundation for their work in supporting and marketing the event. Lisa Baldyga, Employment Readiness Specialist, described how she prepares students ahead of the fair by facilitating workshops and visiting classrooms. It was noted the fair is also an opportunity for community members and potential students to learn about NMC.

Faculty Report: AI and its Impact on Higher Education—Nicco Pandolfi, Librarian, presented on the impact of generative artificial intelligence (also known as “GenAI” or “AI”) on teaching and learning in higher education. Pandolfi shared guiding assumptions, areas of promise, and areas of concern.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President’s Update—President Nick Nissley elaborated on a few topics from his mid-month update (included in the meeting packet), including on the governor’s education budget, Benzie annexation, and enrollment trends. Nissley also highlighted upcoming events such as the Taste of Success and the AquaHacking the Great Lakes Challenge.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger emphasized potential educational reinvestment in Benzie County if residents do vote in support of annexation into the NMC district. Any expenditures of the tax revenue must have an “educational nexus.” Oblinger applauded President Nissley and college executive staff for the work being done to develop a voluntary separation program for faculty as a part of the “rightsizing” charge set forth by the Board.

CONSENT ITEMS—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Chris Bott, the following items were approved by a unanimous vote as a group without discussion:

- K. Minutes of the January 22, 2024, regular meeting
- L. Minutes of the February 1, 2024, study session
- M. Minutes of the February 13, 2024, special meeting
- N. Minutes of the February 19, 2024, special meeting
- O. Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies
- P. Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Q. PRMC—Diana Fairbanks, Assoc. V.P. of Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications
- R. Foundation Report—Carly McCall, Director of Alumni Engagement
- S. Executive Committee—Laura Oblinger, Chair
- T. Building and Site Committee—Ken Warner, Committee Chair

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution of Appreciation—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Ken Warner the Board adopted a resolution of appreciation for Rachel A. Johnson in recognition of her dedicated service and significant contributions to the Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

TART Trail Easement—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, authorizing administration to grant an easement to the City of Traverse City allowing the installation and maintenance of a recreational trail through the southern portion of the Great Lakes Campus property. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Avigilon Security System Upgrade and Rebuild—On a motion by Chris Bott seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board authorized for administration to enter into a contract with People Driven Technology to upgrade and rebuild the electronic door access control system at a cost of \$67,000. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

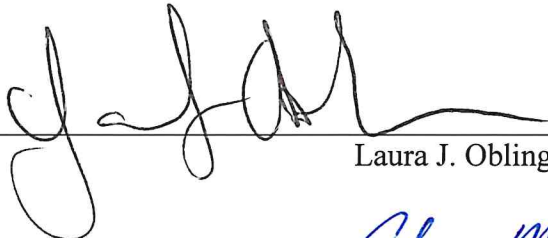
Special Liquor License—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Andy Robitshek, the Board adopted a resolution authorizing the organization, through its duly authorized officers, make application to the Liquor Control Commission for a special events tasting and wine auction license to be in effect on Friday, April 26, 2024, for the Taste of Success event held at the Northwestern Michigan College Hagerty Center. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Aircraft Engine Purchase—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Andy Robitshek, the Board authorized administration to purchase three (3) Lycoming aircraft engines totaling \$248,253 from Air Power, Inc. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS—Confirmed there were no requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations.

SIGNED  _____
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Chris M. Bott, Secretary