

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 14 (Lower Level)**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: Douglas S. Bishop

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Scott Eldridge, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Jason Slade, Todd Neibauer, Marcus Bennett, Molly Norville, Stephen Siciliano, Nicole Long

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

DISCUSSION: Benzie County Annexation—Chair Oblinger provided a summary of the past discussions and development of potential annexation of Benzie County to join the NMC community college district. Oblinger shared her full support for inviting the November 2024 ballot proposals, citing the benefit for Benzie County, mission of the college, and future of community colleges in Michigan. President Nissley reminded trustees of how the initiative started and what was heard and learned from over 25 listening sessions in Benzie County. At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 22, 2024, trustees will consider adopting a resolution formally proposing annexation of Benzie County into the district. Oblinger stated the goal of the study session discussion was to inform all trustees of the history, next steps, and determine any questions that need resolution prior to the April 22 meeting.

While the in-district value proposition was initially believed to be the most beneficial to Benzie County residents, through listening sessions attend by President Nissley, trustees, and other NMC executive staff, Benzie County residents voiced desire for a portion of the tax dollars to be reinvested into Benzie County.

In reviewing challenges, President Nissley emphasized three: 1) polling is about to begin to give an initial sense of Benzie County registered voter sentiment; 2) there is uncertainty about what other proposals will be on the November ballot; and 3) complications and confusion that could arise depending on implementation of Governor Whitmer’s Community College guarantee.

There was discussion regarding the challenge of communicating the value proposition, particularly related to developments of the governor’s Community College guarantee.

ACTION ITEMS

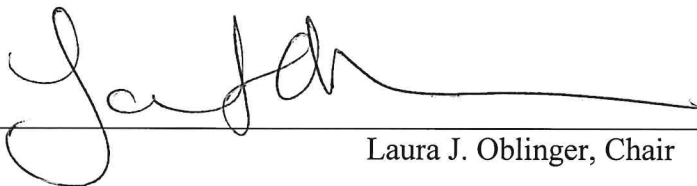
Closed Session—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, to

consider one privileged legal memo prepared by the college's outside counsel, Miller Canfield, PLC, which are materials exempt from discussion or disclosure under state or federal statute as written attorney-client communications in connection with Section 13(1)(g) of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.243(1)(g). The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Bill Marsh, Ken Warner, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 4:48 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Meeting—Chris Bott made a motion by, seconded by Ken Warner, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Andy Robitshek, Bill Marsh, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board reconvened in regular open session at 5:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 5:46 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