

Northwestern Michigan College
State of Michigan

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, was held in the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107, Traverse City, Michigan, on April 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: OBLINGER, WEAVER, BOTT, BISHOP, WARNER

ABSENT: MARSH, ROBITSER

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR ANNEXATION OF
BENZIE COUNTY INTO NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Northwestern Michigan College ("the College") is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities to transform lives and enrich our communities;

WHEREAS, the College Board of Trustees recognizes the significant benefits of lifelong learning and workforce development for all residents within the College's service area; and

WHEREAS, the College recognizes the growing demand for skilled workers and higher education opportunities throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Benzie County have expressed a strong interest in expanding their access to affordable higher education options;

WHEREAS, a well-educated citizenry is essential for a thriving economy and a strong democracy;

WHEREAS, a ballot proposal will be presented to voters in Benzie County on November 5, 2024, that would annex Benzie County into the College's district;

WHEREAS, annexation would allow residents of Benzie County to directly benefit from the College's educational programs and services;

WHEREAS, if the annexation proposal is approved by the State and the voters, the College has proposed to invest approximately \$2 million per year of additional millage revenues to establish local satellite College locations in Benzie County and offer various programming to Benzie County including employee and job training programs in conjunction with local employers and college and job skill training programs for high school students in conjunction with local school districts;

WHEREAS, annexation would provide Benzie County residents with a direct voice in the College's governance through representation on the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, annexation would allow residents of Benzie County greater access to the College's comprehensive range of programs and services, including:

- Associate degree and certificate programs
- Workforce training and development opportunities
- Continuing education and lifelong learning courses
- Affordable tuition and financial aid options

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College strongly supports the ballot proposal for the annexation of Benzie County into the College's district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board believes that annexation would be mutually beneficial for both the College and the residents of Benzie County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages all registered voters in Benzie County to participate in the upcoming election and to vote in favor of the annexation proposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes and supports the College administration to:

- Pursue the steps necessary to place the proposal on the November 5, 2024, ballot in Benzie County; and
- Develop and implement a comprehensive outreach and communication plan to inform residents of Benzie County about annexation and the upcoming ballot proposal.

AYES : OBLINGER, WEAVER, BOTI, BISHOP, WARNER

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Chris M. Bott
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Northwestern Michigan College

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting on April 22, 2024, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act 267.

Chris M. Bott
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Northwestern Michigan College