

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Laura J. Oblinger, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Douglas S. Bishop,
Kenneth E. Warner

Trustees absent: Andrew K. Robitshek

Trustees remote: Rachel A. Johnson (via Zoom from Grand Traverse County, MI)

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Marcus Bennett, Jason Slade, Diana Fairbanks, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Mark Liebling, Jennifer Hricik, Troy Kierczynski, Scott Eldridge, Jim Crowley

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Laura Oblinger reminded everyone of the discussions at the Board Retreat in February 2023. As the BEST Benzie County Educational Network is interested in annexing Benzie County into the college's district, the Board discussed and explored the Benzie County Annexation possibility to consider both how and whether to process. President Nick Nissley provided an overview of the opportunity. Vice President of Student Services and Technologies Todd Neibauer summarized both the informal and formal segments of the process. Stephen Siciliano, Vice President for Educational Services, shared historical context from primary resources on the successful 1995 millage renewal, unsuccessful multi-county millage that same year, successful 1999 bond election, and unsuccessful 2013 Headlee rollback. Reviewing the impact of a potential Benzie County millage, Vice President of Finance and Administration shared estimated tuition and tax revenue, as well as the value proposition to Benzie County residents. Of those present, there is currently overwhelming support by individual trustees to pursue this opportunity.

ACTION ITEMS

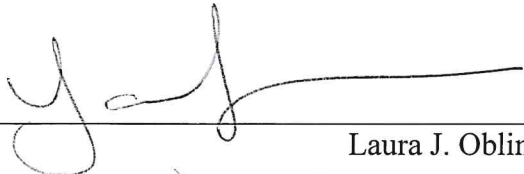
Closed Session—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, to consider one privileged legal memo prepared by the college's outside counsel, Miller Canfield, PLC, which are materials 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, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 10:50 a.m.


Reconvene Regular Meeting—Ken Warner made a motion by, seconded by Kennard Weaver, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board reconvened in regular open session at 11:24 a.m.

REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Kenneth E. Warner, Treasurer