

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES**

**Monday, December 11, 2023  
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.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Trustees absent:** Rachel A. Johnson

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Jennifer Hricik, Stephen Siciliano, Molly Norville, Alex Walsh, Joe Asperger, Angela Garrey, Zach Whitaker, Shannon Owen, Glenn Wolff, Marcus Bennett, Hollie DeWalt, Alison Arnold, Laura Matchett, Jim Bensley, Brad Butcher, Marina Call

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Community Partnerships and Engagement**—As one of the broader strategies, Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, highlighted the University Center partners that presented later in the agenda. Points of pride include utilizing the strengths of the NMC Foundation, workforce IT 8-week training, and significant increases in requests for custom training. Chair Oblinger commended Slade for the work with the Office of Possibilities (OOPs). In response to a questions regarding EES deficit, Slade described how EES programing is now planned through a business and financial perspective.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**University Center Partnerships**—Dr. Angela Garrey noted Central Michigan University has been a University Center (UC) partner since 1979 and shared CMU's six strategic focus areas. Davenport University's Zach Whitaker, Campus Director, highlighted collaborative paths in aviation, Uncrewed Aerial Systems, and nursing. Standing in for Kevin D'Alessandro of Ferris State University, Jason Slade explained Traverse City is one of five regional hubs for Ferris State. Shannon Owen, Grand Valley State University, Director Northern Region, emphasized four areas of GVSU's investments in the region: 1) increasing access to healthcare education; 2) growing teacher preparation and talent pipelines; 3) growing the green and blue economy; and 4) enhancing a tech talent pipeline and supporting local entrepreneurs.

**Aviation Hangar Capital Planning**—Joe Asperger, Plante Moran Realpoint, provided background on Plante Moran Realpoint, which provides real estate consulting, real estate transaction management and owner representation/program management. Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski shared the alignment with strategy five-objective one, to increase aviation enrollment. The original and alternate concepts of hangar expansion were presented. The

Board's Building and Site Committee will discuss the options further at their next meeting and bring forth a formal recommendation to the full Board when it is appropriate in the process.

**Faculty Report: Study Abroad Success**—Jim Bensley, Director of International Services and Learning, celebrated the recent ranking of NMC as #10 in the nation among community colleges for student participation in study abroad by the Institute for International Education. Bensley shared how travel protocols took COVID-19 into account and what future internationalization opportunities are being planned.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was no public input offered.

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley's key highlights included:

- Benzie County Listening Sessions
- ITEMS funding from State of Michigan
- Upcoming Facilities Master Plan Community Listening Sessions

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger reflected on 2023 and recognized the work of the NMC executive staff. Oblinger thanked executive staff individually for their work throughout the year.

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

- Minutes of the November 20, 2023, regular meeting and closed session
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- PRMC—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications*
- Foundation Report—*Jennifer Hricik, Interim Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation*
- Executive Committee Report—*Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair*

## ACTION ITEMS

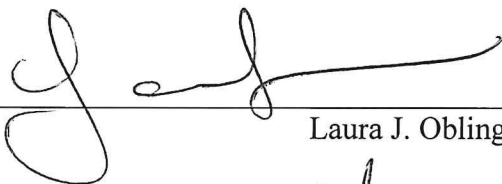
**Closed Session**—Andy Robitshek made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver that the Board adjourn the open session and meet in closed session (pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(d)) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268) to consider the purchase or lease of property. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, and Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 7:11 p.m.

**Reconvene Regular Session**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, 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, Andy Robitshek, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the regular open session reconvened at 7:36 p.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 7:37 p.m.

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

SIGNED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew K. Robitshek, Secretary