

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, July 22, 2024  
Parsons Stulen 222/224  
Aero Park Campus**

**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:** Bill F. Marsh

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Mark Howell, Jacob Dodson, Marcus Bennett, Michele Szczykpa, Dan Wasson, Carly McCall, Laura Stevens Matchett, Hollie DeWalt, Ed Bailey, Dave Weaver, Nancy Gray, Jason Slade, Patrick Quinlan

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

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Mission & Values in Action**—Jacob Dodson spoke to how he shares and demonstrates NMC values of innovation and lifelong learning through an invention he pitched to the Office of Possibilities and skills he gained through NMC courses.

**Brand Assessment & Strategy**—Chair Oblinger and President Nissley spoke to the importance of brand strategy, how the process builds a foundation for future success, builds engagement and support, and aligns with the strategic plan. Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications, and Michele Szczykpa, Stamats, reviewed the brand assessment process to-date. The emerging themes of the brand platform were discussed.

**Strategy 5: Institutional Distinction and Sustainability**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives presented on the distinctive programs included in the fifth strategic initiative. Slade credited PRMC digital campaign with impacts on enrollment for the distinctive programs. Highlights of recent activities in this strategy include: expansion of the Aviation program including an increased fleet, expanding hangar, and adding key staffing to accommodate more students; positioning of the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute (GLWSI) as a leader for marine and geospatial programs and professional training including the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center; execution of the Great Lakes Culinary Institutes's (GLCI) "reimagining" plan, and the strategic plans for the International Affairs Forum (IAF), Dennis Museum Center (DMC), and WNMC radio station; deployment of a unique maritime/culinary certificate leveraging existing expertise. Slade noted the goal for the GLMA/GLCI certificate has been achieved. Chair Oblinger requested that GLSWI enrollment be prioritized and the Board kept informed of any developments.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Faculty Report: Neurodiversity Support Center (NSC)**—Nancy Gray, NSC Coordinator and English Instructor, shared how the NSC was developed. Through her sabbatical, Gray created a pilot program in spring 2024 with eight students. Facing funding challenges, Gray sought support through

the Office of Possibilities. In response to questions, Gray described the screening process and emphasized that students self-select if they would like to participate in the support center.

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

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley shared the following points of pride:

- NCLEX results ADN: 96.15% passing and 100% for Practical Nursing
- Summer enrollment up 8.4%
- Kudos to Carly McCall who served as NMC Foundation Point of Contact since January
- College participation in the Cherry Festival Parade and Tent

Further, Nissley discussed the State of Michigan Community College Guarantee and the logistics being worked through at various levels of administration throughout community colleges in the state. The incoming Chief Advancement Officer Dino Hernandez will begin his role on August 1. Lastly, Nissley shared upcoming dates of note, including the August 19 Davenport University BSN Pinning Ceremony.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger emphasized the significant work done this year and upcoming trustee engagement opportunities.

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

- Minutes of the June 24, 2024 regular meeting and closed session
- Minutes of the July 11, 2024 special meeting
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- PRMC—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications*
- Foundation Report—*Carly McCall, Director of Alumni Engagement*
- Policy Committee—*Chris Bott, Committee Chair*
- Building and Site Committee—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*

## ACTION ITEMS

**Parking Lot Repair** —On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board authorized for administration to enter into a contract with Quality Sealcoating, Inc. in the amount of \$94,160 to complete parking lot repair as presented in the corresponding memo. The source of funds is the FY25 Plant Fund deferred maintenance budget.

**Board Policies**—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to adopt the following amended Board policies on a second-reading basis:

- A-106.00 Items for Specific Board Approval
- D-500.00 Operations
- D-600.00 Champion
- D-700.00 Work Culture

The motion passed unanimously.


**Closed Session**—Andy Robitshek made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, to consider materials exempt from discussion or disclosure under state or federal statute as written attorney-client communications in connection with Section 13(1)(y) of Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.243. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblingerr; No—none; and the Board Committee went into closed session at 6:47 p.m.


**Reconvene Regular Meeting**—Doug Bishop a motion by, seconded by Chris Bott, 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 Board reconvened in regular open session at 7:20 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 7:21 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