

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, October 21, 2024  
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, Bill F. Marsh, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Douglas S. Bishop, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Dino Hernandez, Marcus Bennett, Hollie DeWalt, Jason Slade, Kathryn DePauw, Becca Richardson, Shilo Smith, Jerry Achenbach, Maddie Agnew, Mark Keely

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

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Mission & Values in Action: GLMA**—Maddie Agnew, Student, and Jerry Achenbach, GLMA Superintendent, presented on the Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

**Strategic Initiatives Update**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies presented on Student Engagement and Success.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Audit Presentation**—Katie Thornton and Alyssa Lawrence, of Plante Moran, presented via Zoom and shared a clean, unmodified opinion for the college, which is the highest level of assurance. Thornton also shared that no deficiencies were identified during the IT audit.

**Faculty Report**—Shilo Smith, Social Sciences Instructor, presented on a book project assignment in her Psych 101 course.

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

**UPDATES**

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley shared updates regarding state contributions to MPSERs, a potential Employee Retention Credit that the college may be eligible for, the recent awarding of an Impact 100 grant towards Construction Technology, and the upcoming community report developed by PRMC.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger emphasized the continuous learning opportunities available to trustees and noted the upcoming November 19 study session.

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

- Minutes of the September 23, 2024 regular meeting
- Enrollment Report
- Financial Report
- PRMC
- Foundation Report
- Scholarship and Financial Aid Report
- Audit Committee

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**FY24 Financial Audit**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board accepted the financial audit of Northwestern Michigan College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**FY26 Five Year Capital Outlay Plan**—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, to approve the FY 2026 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan for submission to the Michigan Office of the State Budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Bond Sale Ratification**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board adopted the bond sale ratification resolution related to the 2024 Community College Facilities and Equipment Bonds. The motion passed unanimously.

**Closed Session**—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver, that the Board adjourn the open session and consider in closed session (pursuant to Subsection 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268) the annual performance evaluation of the president, per his request for a closed session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Bill Marsh, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

**Reconvene Regular Session**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, second 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, Bill Marsh, Chris Bott, and Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the regular open session reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

**Presidential Performance Evaluation**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board unanimously accepted October 2024 Presidential Performance Evaluation. Board Chair Laura Oblinger made the following statement:

The NMC Board of Trustees recently completed an evaluation of President Nissley. This year's evaluation was enhanced to create alignment with the college's strategic plan. The process included an evaluation from each trustee, as well as a self-evaluation from President Nissley.

The College’s Board of Trustees is pleased to report that we agree with the success in President Nissley’s performance. The Board is looking forward to the areas of growth and opportunity for 2025.

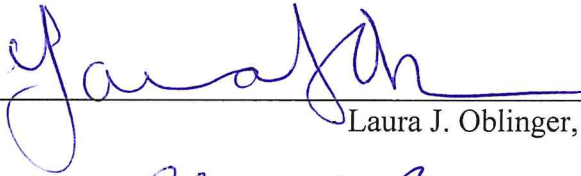
The Presidential Performance and Compensation Committee will be meeting in the coming months to solidify 2025 goals. These goals and priorities will be presented to the committee by President Nissley.

**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.

- Consideration of how to utilize MPSERS contribution savings to lower liability

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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