

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, December 16, 2024  
TJNIC 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, Jason Slade, Becca Richardson, Kathryn DePauw, Pam Horne, Jim Peress, Marcus Bennett, Hollie DeWalt, Jim Bensley, Shirl Martin, Laura Matchett, Robert Atkins, Shannah Vergote, Danielle Quinlan, Molly Norville, Dino Hernandez, Elizabeth Sonnabend

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

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, presented on Community Partnerships and Engagement. President Nissley highlighted that \$2.6 million dollars of fundraising since 2020 is attributed to EES students and 12% of academic students started in College for Kids.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Extended Education Annual Report**—Laura Stevens Matchett, Director of Extended Education, reviewed the Extend Education Services (EES) Annual Report, highlighting that EES has three components: Life Enrichment, College for Kids, and Work & Career. Over \$75,000 in revenue has been passed on to academic areas when for-credit courses are open to community members for life enrichment. Stevens Matchett explained the transition to a tier 3 business plan for EES tuition. Campus Day will return on May 9, 2025.

**Program Focus: Workforce Development**—Elizabeth Sonnabend, Extended Educational Services Program Coordinator, presented on Work & Career training services offered through EES. Shirl Martin, student in business development, now works for Networks Northwest, Highlighting a community partner, Sonnabend introduced Robert Atkins, Senior Occupational Safety Consultant for the northern lower peninsula. Atkins applauded an increase in attendance since moving MIOSHA training from Cadillac to Traverse City.

**Faculty Report: Passages Refugee Simulation Game**—Jim Bensley, Director of International Services & Service Learning, explained the United Nations refugee simulation which coincided with two of the IAF speakers on the topic of global migration and the southern U.S. border. The simulation was held in the fall with thirty students going through various refugee scenarios.

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

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley highlighted Jason Slade and the work being done related to the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center and Aquahacking. The new GLMA tug boat *Robinson Bay* is now in dry dock in Cleveland before it will be delivered to Traverse City in the spring of 2025. National Defense Authorization Act. This past month, the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee recommended increasing the Foundation's endowment spending/contribution to NMC from 4.25% to 4.50%, resulting in an annual increase to NMC of \$60,000. The unanimous vote continues to signal the Foundation's strong support for the College's needs.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger reflected on the past year and her second year as chair, recognizing contributions of each trustee and the executive staff.

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

- Minutes of the November 25, 2024, regular meeting and closed session
- Enrollment Report
- PRMC
- Foundation Report
- Building and Site Committee minutes of December 10, 2024
- Policy Committee minutes of December 10, 2024

## ACTION ITEMS

**Resolutions of Appreciation**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board adopted resolutions of appreciation for Douglas S. Bishop and Bill F. Marsh in recognition of their dedicated services and significant contributions to Northwestern Michigan College. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Jobs Training Act**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to authorize administration to enter into amended agreements under the Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP) for Cherry Republic and Strata Design. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Policy A-106.00 Trustee Vacancy**—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Bill Marsh, recommending adoption of Board Policy A-109.00 Trustee Vacancy on a first reading basis. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Policy A-103.00 Committees**—On a motion by Bill Marsh, seconded by Chris Bott, recommending adoption of Policy A-103.00 Committees on a second reading basis. The motion passed unanimously.

**Tribal Council 2% Funds Application**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to authorize administration to submit an application for the 2% grant from the Grand


Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians video gaming revenue as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**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.

- **Financial analysis data to be included with program reviews**
- **Confirmation whether MPSERS liability can be decreased and spending requirements with MPSERS contribution savings**

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 6:50 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