

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, February 24, 2025
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, Andrew K. Robitshek, Mark B. Keely, Pamela T. Horne

Trustees absent: Kenneth E. Warner

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Molly Norville, Katie Sommer-Ford, Karen Nielsen, Fred Bimber, Lindsey Dickinson, Lisa Blackford, Clifton Murie, Megan Bylsma, Carolyn Andrews, Ryan Bernstein, Lindsey Lipke, Luis Qian, Rebecca Richardson, Laura Stevens Matchett, Janet Lively, Marcus Bennett

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

Nomination and Election of Vice Chair—As Trustee Warner submitted a letter expressing his intention to resign from the officer role of Vice Chair (while still fulfilling the remainder of his elected term), Chair Oblinger called for a nomination for another Vice Chair. Chris Bott made a motion recommending Mark Keely as Vice Chair; Andy Robitshek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Mission & Values—Luis Qian presented his story of joining NMC Aviation.

Strategic Plan—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, provided a mid-way review of the third year of NMC Next.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Career and Majors Fair—Lindsey Dickinson, Director of Student Success and Retention, and Katie Sommer-Ford, Learning Services Office Manager, highlighted the upcoming Career and Majors Fair.

Faculty Report: Abnormal Psychology—Lisa Blackford, Social Sciences Faculty, shared examples of experiential learning within the Abnormal Psychology course.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Fred Bimber and Clifton Murie.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared points of pride, including kudos to Jason Slade for his role in convening the first meeting of the Freshwater Research & Innovation Center board. Nissley also shared updates regarding the state budget and recent Northern Michigan Policy Conference.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger commended President Nissley and executive staff for the calm and clear response to recent federal executive orders. Oblinger thanked Trustee Warner for his handling of the conflict of interest. Finally, Oblinger referenced a recent article included in the Association of Community College's *Trustee Quarterly* regarding board governance.

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

- Minutes of the January 27, 2025, regular meeting
- Minutes of the February 6-7, 2025, Board retreat 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, AVP of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications*
- Foundation Report—*Dino Hernandez, Vice President of College Advancement and Executive Director, NMC Foundation*
- Executive Committee—*Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair*
- Audit Committee—*Chris Bott, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Financial Audit Services—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Pam Horne, administration was authorized to enter into a contract with Andrews Hooper Pavlik as Northwestern Michigan College's auditing firm for the upcoming five-year period, for a total amount of \$388,300, based on satisfactory completion of each fiscal year audit. The motion passed with a majority of trustee support, with Trustee Bott abstaining due to potential conflict of interest.

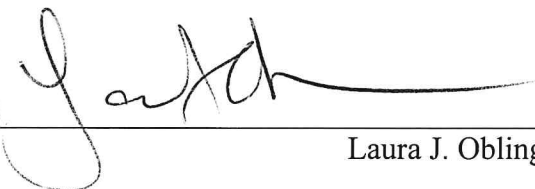
3-D Printer Purchase—Pam Horne made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely, authorizing for administration to purchase a BA-320 Printer (ex BA-2400) from vendor Build Additive for the amount of \$147,877, to be funded from private grants, donations, and fundraising efforts. There was discussion regarding the curriculum related to the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.


Special Liquor License—On a motion by Andy Robitshek, seconded by Pam Horne, the Board adopted a resolution authorizing the organization, through its duly authorized officers, to make application to the Liquor Control Commission for a special events tasting and wine auction license to be in effect on Friday, April 25, 2025, for the Taste of Success event held at the Northwestern Michigan College Hagerty Center. 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.

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:34 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