

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

**Monday, April 24, 2023
NMC Hagerty Center, Room C**

The Board held a reception with the officers of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student group in room A of the Hagerty Center prior to the regular Board meeting.

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, Rachel A. Johnson, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Kenneth E. Warner

Trustees absent: Andrew K. Robitshek

Trustees participating remotely: Douglas S. Bishop (from Bonita Springs, Lee County, FL)

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Craig Hadley, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Jennifer Hricik, Stephen Siciliano, Hans VanSumeren, Deirdre Mahoney, Tony Jenkins, Glenn Wolff, Kari Kahler, Jeremy Heinelein, Katie Sommer-Ford, Michael Anderson, Patrick Quinlan

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Mission & Values in Action—Sarah Sargent, Marine Tech Student, shared her educational path and how career counseling led her to study Marine Technology. Sargent will graduate with her associate's degree this spring and has two internships secured for this summer, with plans to complete her bachelor's degree.

Strategic Initiatives Update: Student Engagement & Success—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies, shared four of the five objectives in Strategy Two are indicating great progress. Neibauer elaborated on challenges in measuring success and stated fall enrollment is beginning to see the impact of the investment in and work of the college's Public Relations, Marketing and Communications department.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: Phi Theta Kappa—The PTK President introduced this year's officers and described the group's purpose. As an Honors in Action project, "The Art and Science of Play" topic was selected to explore the question of "how play can build connections, comfortability, and vulnerability to evoke nostalgia that challenges, inspires, and heals our community?" The "Future Hawk Owl Legacy Project" recruited 35 NMC student mentors to pair with 5th graders at Blair Elementary. The NMC Phi Theta Kappa team recently returned from Columbus, Ohio, with several awards, including Beta Alpha Continued Excellence Award, (one of only 9 chapters to receive this award out of over 30,000 chapters, this award recognizes that they have been a Distinguished Chapter for three or more consecutive years). PTK also made the top 50 for their Honors in Action project.

This recognition is added to their Distinguished Chapter Officer, Distinguished Chapter Member and Distinguished Advisor Team awards! PTK Advisors Jeremy Heinlein and Kari Kahler, and Katie Sommer-Ford, Learning Services Office Manager, were commended for their support and leadership.

Faculty Report: ChatGPT—Michael Anderson, Communications Instructor, Chair of the Communications Academic Area, has been an instructor at NMC for 19 years and is an NMC alum. Anderson provided a summary of the development of ChatGPT, an AI-powered chatbot developed by OpenAI, and the impact on higher education. Related to education, ChatGPT can write whole essays, excels at writing summary, can solve math story problems and demonstrate the work behind the answer. However, ChatGPT struggles with sourcing and citations, addressing all elements of a prompt, etc. Anderson shared applications for using ChatGPT for writing in the classroom, such as asking it to improve a writing sample or to refute an argument. There was discussion regarding the bias of ChatGPT, informational literacy usages, how skill sets will change for students. In response to a question, Anderson noted faculty are updating policies regarding academic honesty in light of technological developments.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared about the following recent events: new student orientation, Scholarship Celebration, Big Little Hero Race, GLMA's Open Ship hosted over 700 people for a tour of the *State of Michigan*, and Audio Tech's music festival. Nissley shared news regarding the state budget and proposed updates to NMC Foundation governance documents. Lastly, regarding the Freshwater Research Innovation Center (FRIC), Nissley shared the nascent vision of five partners is now taking shape, with consultants Leah McCallum and Gabe Schneider advising on the partnership governance. FRIC will be a presentation and discussion topic for the May Board meeting. There was discussion regarding the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority's proposed extension of tax increment financing (TIF97) and it was requested that a future meeting or study session include the topic on the agenda.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger encouraged creative thinking and echoed Nissley's enthusiasm regarding the MCCA Capitol Day trip. Amongst other updates, Oblinger also encouraged trustees to attend a meeting of the Office of Possibilities (OOPs).

All unanimous votes recorded below refer to those trustees physically present. Trustee Doug Bishop participated remotely due to travel, and therefore did not count toward the quorum and did not have the authority to vote on consent or action items.

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 March 20, 2023, regular 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—*Jennifer Hricik, Interim Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation*
- Executive Committee Minutes—*Laura Oblinger, Chair*
- Policy Committee Minutes—*Chris Bott, Committee Chair*
- Building & Site Committee Minutes—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

MACC Grant Application—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Rachel Johnson, to authorize the Dennon Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College to submit an application for grant funding in the amount of \$30,000 for project support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) in the current round of FY23 grant applications. The motion passed unanimously of those trustees present in-person.

Tribal Council 2% Funds Application—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board authorized administration to submit an application for the 2% grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians video gaming revenue as presented. While Trustee Ken Warner serves on the IAF Advisory Board, it was determined there was no conflict of interest for him to support this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Computer Support Specialist Level 1 Certificate—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Rachel Johnson, the Board approved a Computer Support Specialist Level 1 Certificate, effective Spring 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Cybersecurity Specialist Level 1 Certificate—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Rachel Johnson, to approve a Cybersecurity Specialist Level 1 Certificate, effective Spring 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Great Lakes Campus HVAC Modernization & Upgrade—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board authorized for administration to enter into a contract with TRANE in the amount of \$40,530 to complete modernization and upgrade of the HVAC controller system at the Great Lakes Campus. The motion passed unanimously.

Great Lakes Campus Paver Replacement—Rachel Johnson made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, to authorize administration to enter into a contract with Spence Brothers Construction in the amount of \$248,600, plus 10% contingency of \$24,860, for total authorization of \$273,460 to complete repair and remodel of the north courtyard of the Great Lakes Campus as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Policies—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board unanimously adopted the following Board policies on a first-reading basis as presented:

- A-106.01 Naming Opportunities
- C-103.00 Purposes

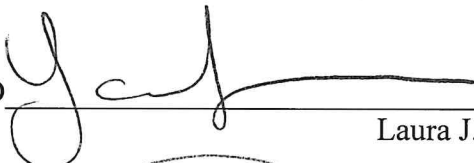
Closed Session—Rachel Johnson made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Rachel Johnson, Ken Warner, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

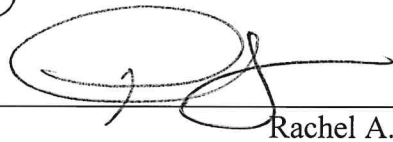
Reconvene Regular Session—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Rachel Johnson, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the regular open session reconvened at 7:13 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 7:14 p.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Rachel A. Johnson, Vice Chair