

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, July 24, 2023
Parsons Stulen 222/224

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: Rachel A. Johnson

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Kyle Morrison, Alex Bloye, Glenn Wolff, Tony Jenkins, Becca Richardson, Sarah Montgomery-Richards, Hans VanSumeren, Ed Bailey, Jason Slade,

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Institutional Distinction and Sustainability—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented on Strategy 5, which includes plans for multiple program areas. This strategy boasts accomplishments such as aviation's highest year ever for both flight hours and gross revenue and the Denno Museum Center's securing over \$380,000 in grants. There was discussion regarding the marketing of the Water Environmental Quality Tech program and funding (and fundraising) for the Great Lakes Culinary Institute (GLCI); a future agenda item was requested to take a comprehensive look at GLCI.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: Aviation—Alex Bloye, Director of Aviation shared the program's mission, vision, and connection to each of the five strategic goals. Highlights of Bloye's presentation include: redesigning for efficiency and effectiveness and enhancing simulation (future-focused education); expanding advising services and hosting social events (student engagement and success); reimagining international programs and supporting NMC Women in Aviation (diversity, equity, and inclusion); continuing to develop a pipeline of partnerships with airlines and other industry partners and volunteer opportunities (community partnerships and engagement); and growth plan (institutional distinction and sustainability). Bloye emphasized the goal of enhancing efficiency and effectiveness through simulation, new technologies, and redesigned processes. In response to a question regarding airlines creating their own flight schools, Bloye explained it creates competition for flight instructors more so than students and cited that over 95% of aviation graduates become flight instructors. The timeline and scope of the Aviation hangar expansion project were also discussed.

Faculty Report: College Edge—Becca Richardson, Mathematics Instructor, and Sarah Montgomery-Richards, Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy, presented on the College Edge Summer Program. The program is financially supported by the State of Michigan to help students gain experience and familiarity with campus community and resources. Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public, Relations,

Marketing and Communications, explained that the state program was created to mitigate learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic; rather than frame the program as a “catch up” program, NMC’s PRMC department promoted it as gaining a “College Edge.” The program focuses on team building and collaboration, helping to connect students to resources and to one another, therefore creating a sense of belonging at NMC. There were questions regarding recruitment for the program, connecting students with additional resources, and a request for follow-up data on retention rates for students completing the program.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President’s Update—President Nick Nissley began his update by noting approval of the state budget and expectation of further details regarding capital outlay this fall. As development continues for a proposed joint venture structure for the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC), Nissley shared that representatives of some of the FRIC partners met at Discovery Pier recently with Lt. Governor Gilchrist, State Senator Damoose and State Representative Betsy Coffia. Regarding the college and Foundation MOU, an updated MOU is being reviewed by both the Board of Trustees and Foundation Executive Committees. Lastly, Nissley reminded trustees of the MCCA Conference being held this week in Traverse City and announced that August 10 will be NMC night at the Pitspitters baseball game.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger elaborated on the review of the updated college and Foundation MOU and stated that a meeting is being scheduled with a group from Benzie County interested in annexation.

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 June 26, 2023, regular meeting and closed session
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- 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*
- Building & Site Committee Minutes—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Foundation Board Appointments—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Chris Bott, recommend approval of the appointments of Matt Desmond and Peg Jonkhoff to the NMC Foundation Board, as well as the reappointments of Don Coe, Steve Fisher, Diana Milock, Jayne Mohr, Pat Warner, and Jim Weigand; all terms are for three fiscal years, ending June 30, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Parking Lot Repair—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Andy Robitshek, the Board authorized for administration to enter into a contract with Reitaliano’s Asphalt and Concrete Service

& Repair in the amount of \$88,900 to repave Pine Parking Lot, to be funded by Apartment Reserves. The motion passed unanimously.

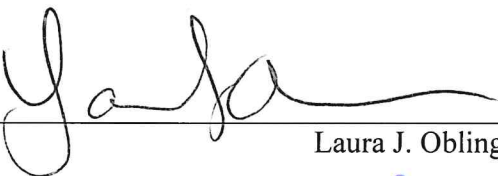
Network Server Replacements—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, authorizing administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer for the purchase of eight replacement network servers for \$81,608, to be funded by the Plant Fund Reserves. The motion passed unanimously.

Security Camera Server System Replacement—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded Doug Bishop, the Board authorized for administration to enter into contract with People Driven Technologies for the replacement of the Security Camera Server System and some cameras at a cost of \$278,145.00, to be funded by the Plant Fund Reserves. 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 6:56 p.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Andrew K. Robitshek, Secretary