

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, May 23, 2022
NMC Hagerty Center, Room C**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Rachel A. Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Rachel A. Johnson, Laura J. Oblinger, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Douglas S. Bishop, Kenneth E. Warner

Trustees absent: Andrew K. Robitshek

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz (via Zoom), Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Mark Liebling, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Rebecca Teahen, Jason Slade, Stephen Siciliano, Nancy Schulte, Amanda Clark, Amber Marsh, Alison Thornton, Rachel Colby, Lisa Thomas, Kristina Uribe, Betsy Boris, Scott Eldridge

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Marcus Bennett, Associate Dean of Campus & Residence Life and Special Assistant to the President present on the third strategy of the NMC Next Strategic Plan. Slade reviewed the development of DEI leadership, thanking Dean of Students Lisa Thomas and ED of Denno's Museum Center Craig Hadley for their leadership. Marcus Bennett will formally begin his role as Special Assistant to the President on July 1, 2022. There was a question pertaining to the objective timeline for employee training.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: Student Government Association (SGA)—SGA President Amber Marsh introduced the members and shared the purpose of the group. In addition to creating a virtual comment box this year, SGA distributed physical comment boxes across NMC campuses. Activities funded by SGA this year included an art museum trip, climbing club, audio tech's Earth Day concert. It was noted that funding requests increased in the spring semester in correlation with in-person events on campus. In closing, Marsh thanked the SGA Advisors Lisa Thomas and Ali Thornton. SGA aims to increase student voting for SGA officer elections.

Faculty Report—Experiential Learning with First Semester Nursing Students—Betsy Boris, Health Occupations Instructor, presented on her experience with experiential learning. Boris participated in the Experiential Learning (EL) Fellows program in 2021 and emphasized that a goal of EL is to learn more about oneself as a learner. Cultural Presentation Projects challenged students to work in groups and reflect on healthcare issues pertaining to particular demographics. As the 2022 Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award Winner, Boris attributes that recognition to her connection with her students.

FY23 Budget—Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski, provided an update on budget considerations for FY23 beginning with an overview of the development timeline.

Highlights of the FY23 budget include that no further federal COVID relief is expected, the budget is aligned with strategic plan investments, and considers current inflation rates. Kierczynski also reviewed revenue sources and variables, as well as contact hour history and NMC trends over the past few decades. While other Michigan community colleges face similar challenges, NMC remains in the lower third when comparing tuition rates. The proposed 5% increase would meet the tuition restraint language being proposed by the Michigan senate.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Steve Drake.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared four key updates. Regarding the state budget, it is anticipated the budget will be agreed upon by July 1. Community college BSN legislation is effectively dead, but discussions are continuing about how to increase and improve partnerships amongst institutions. Nissley thanked trustees for their participation in many spring events on campus. Nissley recognized Gail Kurowski, Police Academy Director, for securing new training vehicles for the program. Residents moved into East Hall today, and Nissley noted they included Munson Medical Center employees utilizing the space for short term living this summer. Last week a team from NMC visited Schoolcraft College in Livonia to see how they have created unique partnerships to secure new revenue streams.

Board Chair Update—Chair Rachel Johnson thanked trustees for attending the Renaming and Rededication Celebration of the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, among other spring events. Johnson thanked trustees for allocating such significant time to the college during this busy season. As the NMC Foundation Board's Executive Committee recently met for an all-day retreat, Johnson noted her intention to strengthen the relationship with the Foundation Board and asked for trustees to notify her if they are interested in serving on the Foundation's Strategic Planning Committee.

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

- Minutes of the April 25, 2022 regular and closed meetings
- PRMC Report—Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications
- Foundation Report—Rebecca Teahen, Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation
- Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies
- Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Audit Committee—Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair

ACTION ITEMS

Notice of Truth in Taxation Hearing—On a motion by Doug Bishop, second by Ken Warner, the Truth-in-Taxation First Resolution was adopted as presented.

Native American Grant 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.

Housing and Board Rates for FY23—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to approve Housing and Board Rates for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as presented.

Closed Session—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, to discuss strategy connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements between the College and the Michigan Education Association. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Kennard Weaver, Rachel Johnson; No— none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:51 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Meeting—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Doug Bishop, the closed session was adjourned and the open session was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. with the following roll call vote: Yes—Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Laura Oblinger, Chris Bott, Rachel Johnson; No—none.

Closed Session—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h), to consider one privileged legal memo prepared by the college’s outside counsel, Miller Canfield, PLC, which are materials exempt from discussion or disclosure under state or federal statute as written attorney-client communications in connection with Section 13(1)(g) of Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.243(1)(g). The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Doug Bishop, Chris Bott, Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Laura Oblinger, Rachel Johnson; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 7:13 p.m.

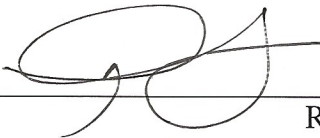
Reconvene Regular Meeting

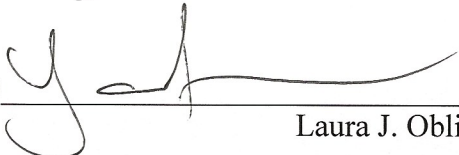
On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Chris Bott, the closed session, the closed session was adjourned and the open session was reconvened at 7:53 p.m. with the following roll call vote: Yes— Ken Warner, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger, Kennard Weaver, Doug Bishop, Rachel Johnson; No— none.

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 7:54 p.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
Rachel A. Johnson, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Laura J. Oblinger, Vice Chair