

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, January 27, 2025  
TJNIC 106/107**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**OATH OF OFFICE**— The Oath of Office as recited by the newly elected trustee Pamela Horne for a term that expires on December 31, 2026.

**OATH OF OFFICE**—The Oath of Office as recited by the newly elected trustee Mark Keely for a term that expires on December 31, 2030.

**OATH OF OFFICE**—The Oath of Office as recited by re-elected trustee Kennard Weaver for a term that expires on December 31, 2030.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees present:** Laura J. Oblinger, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek, Pamela T. Horne, Mark B. Keely

**Trustees absent:**

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Molly Norville, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Nick Roster, Jason Slade, Todd Neibauer, Chris Hanna, Ruby Bardenhagen, Alex Bloye, Hollie DeWalt, Marcus Bennett, Dino Hernandez, Becca Richardson, Kathryn DePauw, Bill Myers

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Reading of Notice and Proof of Service**—The notice of the annual meeting was read with proof of service on January 9, 2025, sent by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations.

**Report of Secretary**—Secretary Chris Bott reported the 2024 Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Annual Meeting minutes were approved on February 27, 2024, and are available online at the [2024 Trustee Meeting Materials and Minutes website](#) along with all other regular meeting minutes.

**Report of Treasurer**—Treasurer Ken Warner reported the annual financial audit for Northwestern Michigan College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, was accepted by the NMC Board of Trustees on October 21, 2024, and is available online at the NMC Audit Reports website [NMC Audit Reports website](#).

**Verification of Residential Address and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**—Trustees were asked to provide their current address where they registered to vote as a renewed verification for the calendar year 2025. Trustees were also provided with Conflict of Interest Disclosure statements for 2025 and asked to return the completed and signed statements to Lynne Moritz in the President's Office by February 1, 2025.

**Election of Officers**—Trustee Warner nominated the following slate of officers for 2025: Laura Oblinger as Chair, Ken Warner for Vice Chair, Chris Bott as Secretary, and Andy Robitshek as Treasurer. Trustee Keely seconded the motion and the slate was accepted unanimously.

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

**Mission & Values in Action**—A brief video clip of “A Microplastics Study in Northern Michigan” was viewed, demonstrating experiential learning in the biology classroom.

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Institutional Distinction and Sustainability**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Troy Kierczynski, Vice President for Finance and Administration provided an update on the fifth strategy in the strategic plan. Highlighting Aviation, Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, Great Lakes Culinary Institute and deployment of a unique maritime culinary certificate, along with strategic plans for the International Affairs Forum, Denno's Museum Center and the WNMC radio station.

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Faculty Report**—Nick Roster, Biology Instructor, presented on the Advanced Scientific Research Program.

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

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley welcomed the new trustees and recognized their participation in the new employee orientation day hosted by Human Resources. Nissley also provided updates on the Freshwater Research & Innovation Center, surveying program, NMC Foundation highlights, and shared the college now has its 5<sup>th</sup> semester of enrollment growth.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger emphasized the role of innovation in the strategic plan.

**Audit Committee**—Committee Chair Kennard Weaver provided an update on the single audit, which Plante Moran recently provided its final report on, and findings of the auditing firm that have been addressed by the appropriate college departments.

**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 December 16, 2024, regular meeting
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- Investment Gains and Losses Quarterly Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- PRMC—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications*

- Foundation Report—*Dino Hernandez, Vice President of College Advancement and Executive Director, NMC Foundation*
- Fellows Nominating Committee—*Andy Robitshek, Committee Chair*
- Building and Site Committee—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Appointment of Fellows**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Kennard Weaver, Mark Lundmark and Jayne Mohr were appointed 2025 Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with all honors and privileges pertaining hereto. The motion passed unanimously.

**Acceptance of FY24 Single Audit**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely, to accept the financial audit of federal awards for Northwestern Michigan College year ended June 30, 2024, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Policy**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Ken Warner, it was recommended to adopt Board Policy A-109.00 Trustee Vacancy on a second reading basis. The motion passed unanimously.

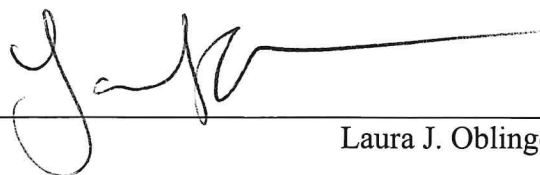
**Aircraft Purchase: Seminole**—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely, to authorize administration to enter into an aircraft purchase agreement with Piper Aircraft, Inc. for the purchase of a new 2026/27 Piper Seminole at an amount up to \$1,122,000 for delivery between Q2 - Q3 2026, to be funded from the 2024 Aviation bond proceeds. Alex Bloye, Director of Aviation, explained the challenges in acquiring aircraft. The motion passed unanimously.

**Aircraft Purchase: Cessna Skyhawks**—On a motion by Pam Horne, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board unanimously authorized for administration to purchase up to four (4) Cessna Skyhawks through the used aircraft market, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 total through December 31, 2027, to be funded from the 2024 Aviation bond proceeds. Bloye provided context regarding the market for used aircraft.

**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 6:43 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