

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, June 23, 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, Kenneth E. Warner, Pamela T. Horne,  
Mark B. Keely

**Trustees participating remotely:** Andrew K. Robitshek (from Saline, MI)

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Katharine Marvin, Molly Norville, Hollie DeWalt, Marcus Bennett, Leah Moskovitz, Kevin Query, Jody Lundquist, Myk Garn, Ken Peress, Becca Richardson, Kathryn DePauw, Laura Stevens Matchett, Cheryl Bloomquist

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented.

*Note: Trustee Robitshek participated remotely via zoom and therefore did not count towards a quorum, nor was he able to vote for any of the action items or roll call votes throughout the meeting.*

**Review of Trustee Selection Process**—The trustee selection process was reviewed before the following candidates introduced themselves and presented on why they should be selected to fill the vacancy due to Trustee Chris Bott's resignation on June 9, 2025: Myk Garn, Kevin Query, Leah Moskovitz, Jody Lundquist. Brad Akers also submitted his application for the vacancy but was unable to attend the meeting in person. Trustees shared their top three applicants.

**Board Appointment**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, that Jody Lundquist be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees per the Michigan Community College Act. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Pam Horne, Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Mark Keely, Laura Oblinger; No—none. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Secretary**—On a motion by Mark Keely, seconded by Kennard Weaver, Pam Horne was elected Secretary due to the resignation of Trustee Chris Bott. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUDGET HEARING**—The regular meeting was closed and the budget hearing opened at 6:03 p.m. on a motion by Pam Horne, seconded by Ken Warner, with the following roll call vote: Yes—Pam Horne, Ken Warner, Kennard Weaver, Mark Keely, Laura Oblinger; No—None.

**FY26 Budget Review**—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, sought questions regarding the proposed budget for FY26 that included the proposed property tax millage rate of 2.0050 mills for operating purposes. As there were no significant changes to the budget since last presented to the Board in May, there was minimal discussion.

**Public Comment**—There was no public input offered pertaining to the budget hearing.

**Budget Hearing Adjournment**—A motion was made by Pam Horne, seconded by Mark Keely, that the budget hearing be closed and the regular meeting reconvened. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Pam Horne, Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Mark Keely, Laura Oblinger; No—None; and the regular meeting reconvened at 6:06 p.m.

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Community Partnerships & Engagement**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, presented as the champion of strategy 4, which included emphasis on the Community Attitude and Awareness Survey.

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Faculty Report**—Cheryl Bloomquist presented on early childhood education and numerous integrated community partnerships to address the regional childcare crisis.

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

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley thanked VP Kierczynski for his work on the FY26 budget before sharing federal and state budget challenges and news of a proposed East Bay Beach Corridor potentially supported by tax increment financing. In positive news, President Nissley announced that business instructor Kristy McDonald has been chosen to receive the MCCA Outstanding Faculty Award. The Great Lakes Maritime Academy's new tug boat, *Robinson Bay*, arrived in June and will provide training opportunities for cadets. All sixteen of this year's Police Academy candidates passed the licensing exam. Nissley also shared news of confirmed tenants in the Freshwater Research & Innovation Center, which will break ground this fall.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger thanked Foundation Board members for their engagement. Oblinger noted the upcoming Scholarship Open on August 6 and welcomed the new Chief Advancement Officer Katharine Marvin.

**CONSENT ITEMS**—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Pam Horne, the following items were approved by a unanimous vote as a group without discussion:

Minutes of the May 19, 2025, regular meeting  
Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President, Student Services and Technologies  
Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President, Finance and Administration  
Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications Report—Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications and Change Initiatives  
Foundation Report—Katharine Marvin, Vice President of Advancement  
Presidential Performance and Compensation Committee—Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair  
Executive Committee—Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair  
Building and Site Committee—Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair



**ACTION ITEMS**

**Certification of Taxes**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely to adopt a resolution authorizing the millage rate of 2.0050 mills be levied for operation purposes for FY26. The motion passed unanimously. Note that the agenda provided at the meeting incorrectly listed the 2025 mill rate in the action item language; this has been corrected.

**Adoption of Budgets and Tuition Rates**—Pam Horne made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, to adopt budget resolutions and budgets based on the tuition and fee rates for the FY26 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution of Appreciation**—Mark Keely made a motion, seconded by Pam Horne, recommending adoption of a Resolution of Appreciation for Chris M. Bott in recognition of his dedicated service and significant contributions to the Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees. The motion passed unanimously.

**Blanket Purchase Orders**—On a motion by Pam Horne, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board authorized for administration to create blanket purchase orders for each vendor identified on the presented spreadsheet for the total of the estimated FY26 costs. The motion passed unanimously. Note that the agenda provided at the meeting incorrectly listed FY25 in the action item language; this has been corrected.

**Culinary Maritime Certificate Level II**—Pam Horne made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely, to discontinue the Level I Culinary Arts certificate with Maritime emphasis, and the approve of a new Level II Culinary Arts certificate with Maritime emphasis. The motion passed unanimously.

**Gateway Signage**—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Pam Horne, recommending authorization for the administration to enter into a contract with Image 360 in the amount of \$131,931 (which includes \$10,000 contingencies) to refurbish the gateway signage on all NMC campuses, to be funded by the Strategic Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

**Directional Signage**—On a motion by Pam Horne, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board authorized for the administration to enter into a contract with Signplicity in the amount of \$95,356 to upgrade directional signage on all NMC campuses, to be funded by the FY26 Plant Fund budget. The motion passed unanimously.

**Dennos Museum Roof Replacement**—Mark Keely made a motion, seconded by Pam Horne, recommending authorization for the administration to enter into a contract with Arrow Roofing and Sheet Metal in the amount of \$78,868 to replace the Janis Community Room roof at the Dennos Museum. The source of funding is the Plant Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Jobs Training Agreements**—Kennard Weaver made a motion recommending authorization for administration to enter into the following agreements under the Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP): Neuco Furniture and Upholstery (new), Warbird Protection Group (new), and Bulmann Enterprises (amended). Mark Keely seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Poplar Lot Repaving**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, recommending authorization for the administration to enter into a contract with Molon Asphalt, Inc for the sum of

\$55,400 for repaving the Poplar Lot, which serves the James Beckett building. The source of funding for this project is the FY26 Plant Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

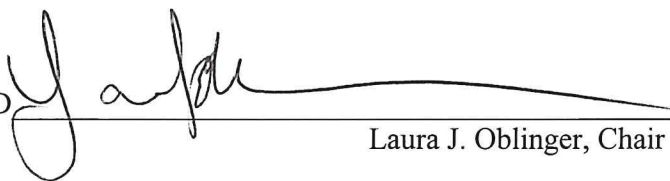
**Parking Lot Maintenance**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board authorized for administration to enter into a contract with Quality Sealcoating, Inc. in the amount of \$69,938 to complete the work described in the scope of this project. The source of funding for this project is the FY26 Plant Fund. 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.

- **Follow up on Community Attitude and Awareness Survey data**

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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

SIGNED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela T. Horne, Secretary