

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, July 21, 2025
Parsons Stulen 222/224
Aero Park Campus**

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 was recited for appointed Trustee Jody N. Lundquist for term expiring December 31, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: None

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Stephen Siciliano, Marcus Bennett, Jonathan DeGroote, Jim Bensley, Hollie DeWalt, Nancy Parshall, Katharine Marvin, Ruby Bardenhagen, Lindsey Dickinson, Alex Bloye, Jason Slade, Becca Richardson, Kristen Salathiel, Kathryn DePauw, Marina Call, Jim Peress

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

Mission & Values in Action—Study Abroad in Spain and Morocco—Jim Bensley shared the 2025 study program was recently completed, involving 65 students and 10 faculty members. Jonathan DeGroote summarized his recent trip to Spain and Morocco, particularly experiences with migrant populations.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Strategic Initiatives Update: Institutional Distinction and Sustainability—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, highlighted the distinctive programs included in this strategy including Aviation and Great Lakes Culinary Institute among them. Fundraising for the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center continues to narrow the gap for construction funding, with a groundbreaking event planned for September 12, 2025.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Report—EDU 100 Study Abroad in Ireland, Nancy Parshall and Kristen Salathiel, communications instructors, presented on the college success study abroad trip to Ireland.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared three key numbers: the college closed the fiscal year with a \$1.75 million surplus; fundraising exceeded expectations, reaching 157% of the goal—the target was \$3.2 million, and the final total was \$5.1 million; the College marked its seventh consecutive semester of enrollment growth, with an 11% increase in contact hours.

Nissley then shared the following three initiatives: the *Robinson Bay* tugboat is now at GLMA; a groundbreaking ceremony for the Freshwater Research & Innovation Center (FRIC) is scheduled for September 12; a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the new 3D Concrete Printer, highlighting innovation in applied technology. Dr. Marcus Bennett was recognized for his contributions in the DEIB role and faculty member Kristy McDonald will receive formal recognition of her work as MCCA Outstanding Faculty for 2025.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger emphasized significant upcoming milestones for Aviation, FRIC, 3D Concrete Printing, and welcoming university partners to the Beckett Building on the Front Street Campus.

Building and Site Committee—Committee Chair Kennard Weaver shared an update from the July 8 Building and Site Committee meeting, noting the \$18-20 million project to replace the sixty-year-old boiler system. In August, the Board will see the financing schedule for the project, and be asked to authorize application for the sale of the bonds. Weaver encouraged all trustees to be familiar with the financing and the construction details of the project.

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

Minutes of the June 23, 2025, regular meeting
Enrollment Report
Financial Report
Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications Report
Foundation Report—*Katharine Marvin, Vice President of Advancement*

ACTION ITEMS

Foundation Board Appointments—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Andy Robitshek, recommend reappointment of Barb Benson, Debbie Edson, and Al Zelinski to the NMC Foundation Board for a term of three fiscal years, commencing July 2025 and ending June 30, 2028. The motion passed unanimously.

Aviation Engine Purchase—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Mark Keely, to authorize for administration to purchase two Cessna 172SP engines for the amount of \$120,000, to be funded by the Aviation Capital Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Hagerty Center A/V Update—On a motion by Pam Horne, seconded by Ken Warner, it was recommended to authorize for administration to enter into a contract with Waveform Audio Visual Solution, LLC in the amount of \$278,970 to replace the audio/visual system at the Hagerty Center, funded by the FY26 Plant Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Andy Robitshek, 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—Mark Keely, Ken Warner, Jody Lundquist, Pam Horne, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:39 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Meeting—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Mark Keely, the closed session was adjourned and the open session was reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with the following roll call vote: Yes—Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Pam Horne, Andy Robitshek, Mark Keely, Jody Lundquist, Laura Oblinger; No—none.

Chair Oblinger recognized the solution-oriented, innovative negotiation process and applauded faculty for their work to increase student success. The contract prioritizes student success with an innovative new advising model requiring every NMC student to meet with an Advisor until they have an academic plan, while sunsetting the former 'prep bonus' related to course format variety.

Faculty Association Collective Bargaining Agreement—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement by and between the Northwestern Michigan College Faculty Association, MEA-NEA, and Northwestern Michigan College effective August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2028. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Faculty Chair Collective Bargaining Agreement—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Pam Horne, to authorize administration to enter into an agreement by and between the Northwestern Michigan College Faculty Chair Association, MEA-NEA, and Northwestern Michigan College effective August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2028. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session—Pam Horne made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, that the Board adjourn the open session and consider in closed session (pursuant to Subsection 8 [a] of the Michigan Open Meetings Act) the annual mid-year performance evaluation of the president, per his request for a closed session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Pam Horne, Ken Warner, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Jody Lundquist, Mark Keely, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 7:09 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Meeting—On a motion by Mark Keely, seconded by Pam Horne, the closed session was adjourned and the open session was reconvened at 8:03 p.m. with the following roll call vote: Yes—Andy Robitshek, Pam Horne, Jody Lundquist, Ken Warner, Mark Keely, Laura Oblinger; No—none. Note that Trustee Weaver was absent of the room during this roll call vote.

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.

- **Update on Program Enhancement and Sustainability Review, particularly Great Lakes Water Studies Institute**

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

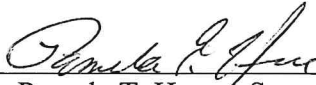
Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President's Office and Board Operations.

SIGNED _____



Mark B. Keely, Vice Chair

ATTESTED _____



Pamela T. Horne, Secretary