

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, September 22, 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, Mark B. Keely, Andrew K. Robitshek (left at 6:50), Kennard R. Weaver, Kenneth E. Warner, Jody N. Lundquist

**Trustees absent:** Pamela T. Horne

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Becca Richardson, Charley MacPhee, Megan Holtrey, Jim Peress, Hollie DeWalt, Katharine Marvin, Molly Norville, Clifton Murie

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented, with Chair Oblinger noting that earlier today, Action Item “S” was added to authorize renewal of a five-year contract for the student success platform.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Mission & Values in Action**—Sonya Laws, Marine Technology Student, spoke to her experience that led to joining the Marine Tech program and a recent internship experience that applied her course work learning.

**Update on the new NMC Strategic Plan (2026-2029)**—Jason Slade, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, noted the development of the new strategic plan is active and engaging with numerous stakeholder groups.

**Program Enhancement & Sustainability Review: Great Lakes Water Studies Institute**—Vice President Slade and John Lutchko, Director of the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute (GLWSI), shared outcomes from the recent review process that included GLWSI as one of three programs reviewed for opportunities to enhance the program and its sustainability. Lutchko highlighted the academic programs, professional development, applied research and innovation aspects of GLWSI, including a partnership with GVSU and Notre Dame.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Faculty Report**—Charley MacPhee, Construction Technology, shared the “Anatomy of a Construction Cost Estimate” project in CMT 207 - Construction Cost Estimate. MacPhee discussed the industry at large and emphasized the role of community partnerships and students building their professional network through the course.

**FY27 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan Overview**—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President, Finance and Administration, reminded the Board of Trustees that next month the annual five-year capital outlay plan will be submitted for their approval.

**Enrollment**—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies, shared that contact hours are up 8.2% and highlighted that dual enrollment and early college students are at their highest number ever. In January 2024, the Board approved an in-district dual enrolled tuition discount. The goal was to have at least 128 new dual enrolled students; thus far, 157 additional students have been added.

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley thanked trustees for volunteering their time during Welcome Week at the start of the semester, at events such as residence hall move-in and August Conference. This year's August Opening Conference included launch of the brand refresh and a celebration of completing the "NEXT" strategic plan.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was public input offered by Clifton Murie.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger recognized the trustees that plan to attend this year's Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress. Attending trustees will share their key takeaways at the following Board meeting.

**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 August 18, 2025, regular meeting

Minutes of the September 3, 2025, study session

Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President, Finance and Administration*

Public Relations, Marketing & Communications—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications and Change Initiatives*

Advancement Report—*Katharine Marvin, Vice President of Advancement*

**ACTION ITEMS****Local Strategic Value Resolution**—On a motion by Jody Lundquist, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board adopted the presented Local Strategic Value Resolution certifying that Northwestern Michigan College meets the best practices standards required by the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1830) and appropriations law for fiscal year 2026. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Student Success Platform Renewal**—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, to authorize administration to renew a five year contract with EAB for the Starfish Enterprise Success Platform, at an initial cost of \$59,564 and an overall, five year contract cost of \$338,279. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

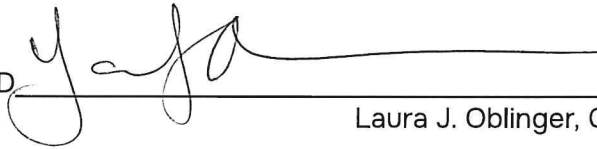
**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

- *Added ACCT Leadership Congress follow up to November Board agenda*

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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

SIGNED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura', written over a horizontal line.

Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', written over a horizontal line.

Mark B. Keely, Vice Chair