

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

**Monday, January 26, 2026
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, Mark B. Keely, Jody N. Lundquist, Pamela T. Horne

Trustees remote: Andrew K. Robitshek (via Zoom from New Hampshire)

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Kathryn DePauw, Lindsey Dickinson, Hollie DeWalt, Katharine Marvin, Becca Richardson, Warren Call, Brenda McLellan, Claire Karner, Beth Friend, Bobby Peplinski, Amy Shamroe, Laura Stevens, Elizabeth Sonnabend

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented, with a note that item S will include consideration of a resolution to authorize sale of the Boardman Lake Campus.

As Trustee Robitshek participated remotely, his attendance did not count toward the quorum of in-person trustees, nor could he vote toward any action items.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

Reading of Notice and Proof of Service—The notice of the annual meeting was read with proof of service on January 19, 2026, sent by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President's Office and Board Operations.

Report of Secretary—Secretary Pam Horne reported the 2025 Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Annual Meeting minutes were approved on February 24, 2025, and are available online at the 2025 Trustee Meeting Materials and Minutes website along with all other regular meeting minutes.

Report of Treasurer—Treasurer Andy Robitshek reported the annual financial audit for Northwestern Michigan College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, was accepted by the NMC Board of Trustees on October 20, 2025, 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 2026. Trustees were also provided with Conflict of Interest Disclosure statements for 2026 and asked to return the completed and signed statements to Lynne Moritz in the President's Office by February 2, 2026.

Election of Officers—Trustee Warner nominated Mark Keely as Chair, which was supported unanimously among those trustees present in-person. Trustee Oblinger made a motion to propose the following slate of officers for 2026: Jody Lundquist for Vice Chair, Pam Horne as Secretary, and Andy Robitshek as Treasurer. Trustee Ken Warner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Proposed regular meeting dates through June 2027 were acknowledged.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

East Bay Beach District Corridor Improvement Authority—Claire Karner, Director of Planning & Zoning for East Bay Charter Township, presented on the East Bay Beach District Corridor Improvement Authority and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) that is being proposed to fund the public infrastructure projects.

Extended Education and Training Annual Report—Director Laura Stevens presented on the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Extended Education and Training.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Warren Call.

UPDATES

President’s Update—President Nick Nissley reviewed the timeline and process to date that has led to recommendation to authorize administration to enter a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for sale of the Boardman Lake Campus real property. Nissley highlighted positive mentions of the college at the recent Traverse Connect Policy Conference, provided an update on the 60x30 state grant, and recognized the college’s loss of English Instructor Nancy Gray. Lastly, Nissley thanked Trustee Oblinger for her three years as chair. Oblinger’s term continues through December 31, 2026.

Board Chair Update—Chair Mark Keely thanked Trustee Oblinger for her generosity and time spent over the past year in preparing Keely to serve as Chair, as well as her passion and love for the college.

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

- Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting and closed session
- Minutes of the January 22, 2026, study session
- Enrollment Report
- Financial Report
- Investment Gains and Losses Quarterly Report
- Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications

Advancement Report
Policy Committee
Winter MCCA Board of Directors Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution to Authorize the Sale of the Boardman Lake Campus Real Property—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver, recommending the Board adopt a resolution authorizing administration to enter into the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus as presented, and to take all other actions and execute any additional documents necessary to complete the sale, under the condition that the proceeds be placed into a Board-designated fund. There was discussion to consider adding language to the resolution to further define the use of the proceeds; it was requested to deliberate on the additional language at the February meeting and, at this time, to only consider the resolution language proposed by legal counsel. The motion passed with support from all trustees present in-person.

Welding Certificate Changes—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, recommending the Welding Certificate Level I be discontinued and a Welding Certificate Level III be established, effective Fall 2026. The motion passed.

Special Liquor License—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, to authorize for administration to temporarily suspend NMC’s liquor license in Lobdell’s - A Teaching Restaurant to accommodate 45th Parallel Vines and Wines teaching seminars as presented. The motion passed.

Security Incident and Event Management Software—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Pam Horne, it was recommended to authorize the purchase and contract agreement with SentinelOne in the amount of \$70,396.10 to complement our current cybersecurity tools to improve NMC’s resilience to cyber attacks. The motion passed.

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.

- Further discussion regarding Board-designated fund, review proposed language from Trustee Lundquist

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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

SIGNED _____



Mark B. Keely, Chair

ATTESTED



Pamela T. Horne, Secretary