

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, February 23, 2026
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 106/107

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Mark B. Keely called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: None

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Katharine Marvin, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Becca Richardson, Matt McDonough, Greg Luyt, Hollie DeWalt, Kathryn DePauw, Lindsey Dickinson, Molly Norville, Taw Murphy, Kennedy Stoudt, Gracie Porter

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Freshwater Research and Innovation Center—Greg Luyt, Chair of the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC) Board, thanked the Board of Trustees for their support and partnership. Luyt also thanked NMC Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Jason Slade for his efforts. Matt McDonough, CEO, Discovery Pier, shared the mission of FRIC, building design and funding. BlueTech Innovation Hub consortium partners include Traverse Connect, 20 Fathoms, and FishPass. Emerging partners include Cleveland Water Alliance, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR), and Aqua Action. Tenant commitments include NV5, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (FishPass) and Wave Lumina. FRIC is currently pursuing Michigan Technological University, Grand Valley State University, NOAA, USGS, and early start-up businesses as additional tenants. The building is anticipated to open in the spring of 2027.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Kennedy Stoudt, Taw Murphy, and Gracie Porter.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley thanked the public input participants before providing an update on the Boardman Lake Campus sale. Nissley also reviewed Governor Whitmer's proposed budget and highlighted college initiatives such as the Office of Possibilities for Education, Freshwater Research and Innovation Center, and Uncrewed Aerial Systems.

Board Chair Update—Chair Mark Keely highlighted the calendar of events for the [75th Anniversary](#) of the college and encouraged trustees to attend events and bring guests.

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

- Minutes of the January 26, 2026, regular meeting
- Strategic Plan Timing and Milestones—*Jason Slade, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives*
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of 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*
- Executive Committee—*Mark Keely, Committee Chair*
- Fellows Nominating Committee—*Andy Robitshek, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Fellows—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Ken Warner, the following were recommended for appointment as 2026 Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with all honors and privileges pertaining hereto: Doug Bishop, Jim & Diana Huckle, and Peg Jonkhoff. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Conditions for Boardman Lake Campus Sale Proceeds—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, recommending approval of the conditions for the net proceeds of the Boardman Lake Campus sale, as presented in the corresponding memo, including the establishment of a segregated, board-designated fund and the stated parameters on use, oversight, and reporting. The motion passed unanimously.

Funding for Freshwater Research and Innovation Center—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the Board unanimously authorized investment of \$2 million in funding for the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center, contingent upon the anticipated closing of the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus real property.

Geothermal Project Financing—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, to authorize administration to utilize up to \$5,000,000 of the anticipated Boardman Lake Campus sale proceeds towards the Front Street Campus geothermal project. There was discussion regarding the previously authorized amount for bonds. The amount of bonds will be realigned with the financing needs for the project. It will be determined whether the Board will need to reauthorize the sale of the bonds for a lower amount. The motion passed unanimously.

Evisions Argos Reporting Renewal—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Ken Warner, it was recommended to authorize administration to renew a three year contract with Evisions for the Argos reporting system, for a total three year cost of \$167,378. The motion passed unanimously.

Door Access Controller Replacements—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, recommending authorization for the administration to enter into contract with People Driven Technology for the replacement of 100 door access controllers at a cost of \$132,765.71 to be funded by the Plant Fund. There was a question related to how the door access controls are connected to other networks and the nature of the sole bid/vendor for the system and controls. The motion passed unanimously.

Firewall Replacement—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Jody Lundquist, it was recommended to authorize for administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer Corp for the replacement of the Firewall system at a cost of \$96,747.28 to be funded by the Technology

Plant Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Liquor License—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Andy Robitshek, to authorize the organization, through its duly authorized officers, make application to the Liquor Control Commission for a special events tasting and wine auction license to be in effect on Friday, April 24, 2026, for the Taste of Success event held at the NMC Hagerty Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Housing and Meal Plan Rates—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, to approve the Housing and Board Rates for the 2026-2027 fiscal and academic year as presented. 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.

- Future update on the Office of Possibilities for Education
- Sole source bids/vendors will be addressed in future memos

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:36 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