

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, March 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, Jody N. Lundquist, Pamela T. Horne

Trustees absent: Andrew K. Robitshek

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Lindsey Lipke, Terri Gustafson, Katharine Marvin, Melissa Sprenkle, Michael Anderson, Joy Goodchild, Janet Lively, Lindsey Dickinson, Ali Thornton, Lisa Thomas, Marcus Bennett, Hannah Rodriguez, Becca Richardson, Hollie DeWalt

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mission & Values in Action—Hannah Rodriguez, Student Success Coordinator, shared a student testimonial in support of Success Coaches and College Edge.

Student Government Association—The 2025-2026 SGA members presented on their work and priorities over this academic year, including fostering new connections between student group leaders and SGA; improved BATA bus routes and student discounts; hosting a luncheon promoting event coordination amongst student groups; as well as holding a team bonding retreat. Trustees commended SGA members for their work to increase the sense of belonging for students.

Faculty Report—Communications Instructor Dr. Melissa Sprenkle presented a GenAI assignment in her English 112 classes. Sprenkle shared student reflections on benefits and barriers of generative AI, emphasizing that students and faculty are co-learning.

Future Focused Education—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, presented the first strategy of the 2026-2029 strategic plan alongside Stephen Siciliano, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, and Terri Gustafson, Director of Academic Affairs. In launching the current strategic plan, enhanced connections between presentations from students, faculty, and staff should be evident for each of the strategies and strategic drivers. In addressing artificial intelligence, the strategic plan is first working to identify what employers and transfer institutions expect of students. In discussing advisory board engagement, it was noted that over 250 companies and 400 individuals participate in advisory boards related to various areas of the college. Durable skills developed through experiential learning were discussed.

FY27 Budget Process—Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski reviewed the outlook for higher education on a national level. FY27 revenue and expense assumptions were also reviewed. Before an update on the FY27 budget is presented in May, college executive staff will work to prioritize budget requests through the lens of the strategic plan. Kierczynski confirmed that none of the Boardman Lake Campus proceeds will be utilized to support general fund deficits.

When asked about top concerns, Kierczynski shared that NMC relies more heavily on tuition than some peer institutions, which is vulnerable to enrollment and demographic trends. There was discussion emphasizing the importance of distinguished programs that draw students from statewide and national regions.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley announced the Boardman Lake Campus (BLC) sale is proceeding with an anticipated, adjusted closing date of April 15. Nissley thanked staff for supporting the negotiations and planning for departments to migrate from BLC to other campuses. At their February meeting, the NMC Foundation Board approved moving forward with a comprehensive campaign. Advancement staff will work to secure a campaign consultant and develop a steering committee. Summer enrollment currently reflects a ninth consecutive semester of growth. The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) is collaborating with the Aspen Institute to bring presidents and trustees together to align on student success. Nissley noted a recent collaboration of the NMC Choir and TC Philharmonic and other college points of pride, including that the current issue of *BayLife* magazine features the college's 75th anniversary. As the "demographic cliff" of high school graduates in Michigan was referenced, Trustee Oblinger recommended that trustees advocate and MCCA address expansion of community college access to out-of-district residents.

Board Chair Update—Chair Mark Keely thanked trustee for the amount of time they dedicate to the college and reminded trustees of upcoming end-of-semester events.

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 February 23, 2026, regular meeting
- 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*
- Policy Committee—*Pam Horne, Committee Chair*
- Building and Site Committee—*Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair*
- Executive Committee—*Mark Keely, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Policies for First Reading—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, recommending adoption of the following Board policies on a first-reading basis:

- Policy A-105.01 Gift Acceptance
- Policy A-106.02 Investment
- Policy A-107.00 Board Attendance at Civic and College Events
- Policy A-108.00 Board of Trustees Electronic Communications

The motion passed unanimously.


Managed Detection and Response—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Laura Oblinger, it was recommended to authorize administration to enter into a two-year contract with SentinelOne to provide Managed Detection and Response (MDR) with Identity Management at a cost of \$107,923.68.

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.

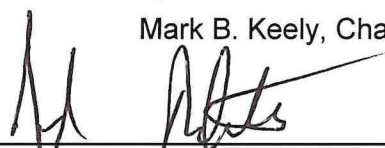
- **Share the “9 Durable Skills” outline to Trustees**
- **Expand on reserves report to include projected transfers in and out by May update**

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 7:32 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~~

Andy Robitsek, Acting Secretary