

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, August 17, 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, Pamela T. Horne, Andrew K. Robitshek

Trustees absent: Jody N. Lundquist

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Hollie DeWalt, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Megan Bylsma, Lindsey Dickinson, Kyle Morrison, Amy Shamroe, Laura Stevens, Owen Wohlfert, Becca Richardson, Deb Pharo, Holly Hack

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mission & Values in Action—Traverse City West recent high school graduate Owen Wohlfert shared his experience with Advanced Scientific Research with Dr. Nick Roster. Wohlfert founded microclarity.org which rates individuals' exposure to microplastics.

Faculty Report: Calculus You Can Touch—Deb Pharo, Math Instrucentor, described how an NSF grant for a 3D printer provided new physical models for calculus that enhance learning, make it more tangible and less theoretical.

Strategic Plan—Anchor and Edge—Strategic Drivers: Community Partnerships—Jason Slade, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, reviewed how community partnerships are preparing students and supporting regional employers. Amy Shamroe, Industry Navigator, Extended Education and Training shared how the NOMIAC region and Extended Education and Training are working to connect students and employers, and are able to respond rapidly and nimbly to workforce and business needs.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—The recent Leaders of Northern Michigan recognized by the Traverse City Record Eagle included numerous connections to NMC. President Nissley emphasized the significance of the Osterlin Student Services Hub funding plan later in the agenda, reminding the Board of the challenges to secure state funding for the project and that the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus made this renovation possible.

Board Chair Update—Chair Mark Keely presented Trustee Oblinger with her five-year service pin on behalf of the Michigan Community College Association.

MCCA Summer Conference—Trustees that attended the annual statewide conference shared their key takeaways. Trustees congratulated the recent NMC honorees for MCCA's Outstanding Alumni, Faculty, and Staff awards in recent years.

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

- Minutes of the July 20, 2026, regular meeting
- Minutes of the June 22, 2026, closed session
- 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 Report—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications and Change Initiatives*
- Advancement Report—*Megan Bylsma, Acting Executive Director*
- Executive Committee—*Mark Keely, Committee Chair*
- Building & Site Committee—*Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Board Policies—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board unanimously adopted the following Board policies on a second-reading basis:

- **A-100.00 Board of Trustees Bylaws** – *amended*
- **A-102.00 Board of Trustees Governing Style** – *amended*
- **A-109.00 Board of Trustees Vacancy** – *eliminate separate policy, content now included in A-100.00*

Storage Area Network System Replacement—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner to authorize the administration to enter into contract with iXSystems for the replacement of the Storage Area Network System at a cost of \$794,947.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Facilities Condition Assessment—On a motion by Andy Robitshek seconded by Pam Horne, it was recommended to authorize administration to enter into a contract with Bureau Veritas in the amount of \$88,000. This represents a base bid of \$64,000, plus optional add-on services of \$24,000 for equipment/asset barcoding and preventive maintenance schedule integration into our facilities computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). The motion passed unanimously.

Osterlin Funding Plan—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Pam Horne, the Board authorized for administration to establish a project budget for the Student Services Hub of \$13,500,000 and to proceed with an RFQ/RFP for design services and a construction manager. Trustee Horne emphasized that co-location of offices will be an asset for student success, but also that streamlined online services and staff cross training are essential. She further requested that systems be put in place to measure the success outcomes of all of these improvements. There was discussion regarding philanthropic support for capital projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Office Renovation—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Pam Horne, to authorize for administration to enter into a contract with Triangle Associates for an amount not to

exceed \$213,840, which includes base fees of \$189,000, alternate #1 for \$5,400, and a 10% contingency of \$19,440, funded by the Boardman Lake Campus sale proceeds. 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.

- Information on partnerships, leases on campus and any upcoming changes
- Survey for MCCA Summer Conference feedback
- Scholarship Report to Foundation Board and Board of Trustees

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:49 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