

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, September 28, 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, Andrew K. Robitshek, Jody N. Lundquist, Pamela T. Horne

Trustees absent: Kenneth E. Warner

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Lindsey Dickenson, Kyle Morrison, John Lutchko, Joy Goodchild, Paul Schoppe, Terri Gustafson, Becca Richardson, Kristy McDonald, Brandon Everest, Tracy Welch, Dan Goodchild, Hollie DeWalt, Laura Stevens

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented with no conflicts of interest noted.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mission & Values in Action—Gary, a Marine Technology Student, highlighted his internship experience on the E/V Nautilus, which mapped part of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Guam. Experiencing NMC's Marine Tech program at a summer camp, Gary chose the program for its affordability, location, and hands-on experiences.

Faculty Report: ELI and Durable Skills—Brandon Everest and Kristy McDonald, Co-Directors of the Experiential Learning Institute (ELI), shared how ELI is infusing select courses with durable skills. Faculty and Program Development includes a durable skills Canvas class and Google Drive for instructors to be able to translate durable skills easily into their courses. Everest and McDonald will present at the upcoming MCCA Student Success Summit. An example of a history course reflection to prompt students on collaboration was shared.

Strategic Plan—Anchor and Edge: Future-Focused Education—Following a study session on AI earlier in the day, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Jason Slade reviewed other objectives within strategy one, particularly objective four which proactively identifies at-risk students enrolled in high D, F, and withdrawal rates. A presentation on the NorthSky Consortium is planned for next month's agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—Among other topics, President Nick Nissley mentioned a recent tour of the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center, which has significant construction progress.

Board Chair Update—Chair Mark Keely reflected on the 75th Anniversary Celebration earlier in the month. From the AI study session, Keely challenged fellow trustees to share their personal and professional experiences with AI to help shape their leadership of AI in the future.

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 August 17, 2026, regular meeting
Enrollment Report
Financial Report
FY28 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan
Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications Report
Advancement Report
Building & Site Committee
Executive Committee

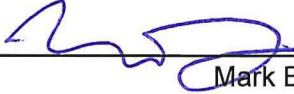
ACTION ITEMS

Local Strategic Value Resolution—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Lundquist, the Board adopted the 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 2027.

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.

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 6:34 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