

Northwestern Michigan College  
State of Michigan

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, was held in the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107, Traverse City, Michigan, on April 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: OBLINGER, WEAVER, BOTT, BISHOP, WARNER

ABSENT: MARSH, ROBITSER

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR ANNEXATION OF  
BENZIE COUNTY INTO NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Northwestern Michigan College ("the College") is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities to transform lives and enrich our communities;

**WHEREAS**, the College Board of Trustees recognizes the significant benefits of lifelong learning and workforce development for all residents within the College's service area; and

**WHEREAS**, the College recognizes the growing demand for skilled workers and higher education opportunities throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Benzie County have expressed a strong interest in expanding their access to affordable higher education options;

**WHEREAS**, a well-educated citizenry is essential for a thriving economy and a strong democracy;

**WHEREAS**, a ballot proposal will be presented to voters in Benzie County on November 5, 2024, that would annex Benzie County into the College's district;

**WHEREAS**, annexation would allow residents of Benzie County to directly benefit from the College's educational programs and services;

**WHEREAS**, if the annexation proposal is approved by the State and the voters, the College has proposed to invest approximately \$2 million per year of additional millage revenues to establish local satellite College locations in Benzie County and offer various programming to Benzie County including employee and job training programs in conjunction with local employers and college and job skill training programs for high school students in conjunction with local school districts;

**WHEREAS**, annexation would provide Benzie County residents with a direct voice in the College's governance through representation on the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, annexation would allow residents of Benzie County greater access to the College's comprehensive range of programs and services, including:

- Associate degree and certificate programs
- Workforce training and development opportunities
- Continuing education and lifelong learning courses
- Affordable tuition and financial aid options

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College strongly supports the ballot proposal for the annexation of Benzie County into the College's district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board believes that annexation would be mutually beneficial for both the College and the residents of Benzie County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board encourages all registered voters in Benzie County to participate in the upcoming election and to vote in favor of the annexation proposal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes and supports the College administration to:

- Pursue the steps necessary to place the proposal on the November 5, 2024, ballot in Benzie County; and
- Develop and implement a comprehensive outreach and communication plan to inform residents of Benzie County about annexation and the upcoming ballot proposal.

AYES : OBLINGER, WEAVER, BOTI, BISHOP, WARNER

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Chris M. Bott

Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Northwestern Michigan College

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting on April 22, 2024, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act 267.

Chris M. Bott

Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Northwestern Michigan College

**Northwestern Michigan College**  
**State of Michigan**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, was held in the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107, Traverse City, Michigan, on April 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: OBLINGER, WEAVER, BOTT, BISHOP,  
WARNER

ABSENT: MARSH, ROBITSHEK

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING**  
**ANNEXATION OF BENZIE COUNTY**

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Trustee WEAVER and supported by Trustee BOTT.

WHEREAS, Northwestern Michigan College (the “College” or the “Community College District”) is a community college district organized under Part I, Chapter 1 of Act 331, Public Acts of Michigan, 1966, as amended (“Act 331”); and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Part I, Chapter 1, Section 21 of Act 331, a community college district organized by a county may propose annexation of another county to the community college district that is not already included within the area of a community college district; and

WHEREAS, the College proposes annexation of Benzie County to the Community College District under the provisions of Act 331; and

WHEREAS, Section 21(2) of Act 331 provides that the college’s board of trustees shall obtain the approval of the proposed annexation from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (the “State Approval”), and upon receipt of the State Approval, the secretary of the board of trustees shall file certified copies of the annexation resolution and the State Approval with the county clerk of the county to be annexed; and

WHEREAS, Section 21(3) of Act 331 provides that after the receipt of the annexation resolution and the State Approval, the county clerk shall place before the electors the question of annexation to the community college district and of approving the maximum tax rate existing in the community college district.

WHEREAS, if the annexation proposal is approved by the State and the voters, the College has proposed to invest approximately \$2 million per year of the additional millage revenues to establish local satellite College locations in Benzie County and offer various programming to Benzie County including employee and job training programs in conjunction with local employers and college and job skill training programs for high school students in conjunction with local school districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The College proposes annexation of Benzie County to the Community College District under the provisions of Act 331. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction together with any other materials which shall be required to obtain the State Approval of the proposed annexation. The officers, administrators, agents and attorneys of the College are hereby authorized and directed to take all other actions necessary or convenient and to execute and deliver any documents and certificates as may be required to obtain the State Approval.

2. Upon receipt of State Approval of the proposed annexation, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution and the State Approval with the Benzie County Clerk.

3. The College hereby requests that, after a certified copy of this Resolution and the State Approval have been filed with the Benzie County Clerk, that the Benzie County Clerk call a regular election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, within Benzie County, for the purpose of voting on an Annexation Proposition and an Annexation Millage Proposition, which both shall be stated on the ballots and/or voting machines in substantially the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4. Prior to the submission of the Annexation Proposition and Annexation Millage Proposition to the Benzie County Clerk, the officers and administrators of the College are authorized to consent to such revisions to the forms of the Annexation Proposition and Annexation Millage Proposition as required or permitted by law, including adjustments for any Headlee rollbacks applicable to the operating millages to be levied in the Community College District for the 2024 tax year.

5. The officers and administrators of the College are authorized to do all other acts and things as required or permitted by law to be done by the College in order to cause the propositions proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to vote of the electors of Benzie County.

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]*

6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

AYES : OBINGER, WEAVER, BOTI, BISHOP,  
WARNER

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Chris M. Boti  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Northwestern Michigan College

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting on April 22, 2024, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act 267.

Chris M. Boti  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Northwestern Michigan College

**EXHIBIT A**

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
ANNEXATION PROPOSITION**

*This proposal asks voters in Benzie County whether they would like to join the Northwestern Michigan College district. If this proposal is approved, residents of Benzie County would pay in-district tuition at the College.*

Shall Benzie County be annexed as a part of the community college district of Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan, in accordance with the provisions of Act 331, Public Acts of Michigan, 1966, as amended?

YES        
NO       

Under Michigan law, the annexation is only effective if both this Annexation Proposition and the Annexation Millage Proposition below are approved.

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
ANNEXATION MILLAGE PROPOSITION**

*In order for Benzie County to join the Northwestern Michigan College district, voters must also approve the levy of taxes by the College in Benzie County. The following proposal asks voters to approve the current maximum millage rate of 2.0574 mills being levied in the Northwestern Michigan College district to also be levied in Benzie County beginning in 2025 and in perpetuity. If this proposal is approved, the additional millage revenues would be used primarily to pay for College operations and programs in Benzie County.*

Shall taxes currently authorized to be levied by Northwestern Michigan College, State of Michigan be assessed as new additional millage, in an amount not to exceed 2.0574 mills (\$2.06 per \$1,000 of taxable value) beginning in 2025 and in perpetuity, on taxable property in Benzie County annexed as a part of the community college district of Northwestern Michigan College to provide funds to the College for operating purposes? If approved this millage would raise approximately \$3,516,409 for College operations when first levied in 2025.

YES        
NO       

Under Michigan law, the annexation is only effective if both this Annexation Millage Proposition and the Annexation Proposition above are approved.