



Neil Wetherbee, Superintendent

Northport Public School
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Regular Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

NPS Board of Education

Board President, Ben Purdy, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held at 104 S Wing St. Northport, MI in room 300.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ryan Blessing, Ben Purdy, Tom Wetherbee, Dr. Barbara Conley, and Dan Duffiney

Members Absent: Jake Zimmer and Danielle Percy

A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Tom Wetherbee, supported by Dr. Barbara Conley, to approve the agenda at this March 11, 2024, regular board meeting.

All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0

Students of the Month

- Elementary: Finlay Sporer, presented by Mollie Brendel
- Secondary: Lilly Gmoser-Duhamel, presented by Donna Wilson

Superintendent's Report

- The consent agenda includes approving the contract extension will ESS Midwest, Inc. This is our WillSub system, where we coordinate and hire all our teacher and building aide substitutes.
- We are moving forward with the lawsuit against social media organizations, gathering data that we will send to the lawyers this week.
- 4 students from our Middle School Honors Band are traveling to Kalkaska tomorrow for a state-wide honors band gathering. The students will have the opportunity to workshop and perform with 120 other middle school students. This is the first time that Northport Public School is participating in this event and the students are very excited.
- The boiler project is moving along. We have had the mandatory pre-bid walk-through and had 5 area companies attend. We are hopeful to have all of those companies submit bids in the next few weeks and will present those bids at the April Board meeting.

- Our Senior Class this year is exceptionally small. We have the potential for a bizarre graduation ceremony and are working on a plan to ensure the ceremony is meaningful for the students and families.
- There is a conference in Marquette, MI in October that Superintendent Wetherbee would like to attend. The conference is October 14, the same date as our regular board meeting that month. We might want to reschedule the meeting or come up with a plan to have it without Superintendent Wetherbee.

Public Comments

Laura Cavendish presented information about the first Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting. Twelve parents attended the meeting and there was a lot of good discussion. Next steps include creating bylaws for the organization (Jamie Scripps has volunteered her expertise in this) and figuring out a financial framework (Rebecca Teahen volunteered to help in this area). The group has created a Facebook page, an Instagram page, and a website: northportpto.com. Initial goals of the PTO include a year-end teacher appreciation event and improved student recognition for involvement in sports and clubs. Longer-term goals include increasing out-of-school activities like clubs and dances. The next meeting will be held April 10.

Laura Cavendish also made public comments as a parent, outside of her role with the PTO. She raised concerns about the school's PE teacher and his use of fitness standards and grading criteria. She presented a litany of complaints that she said she has brought to Principal Morio's attention. She applauded Principal Morio's handling of the situation but noted that she wanted to bring her concerns to the Board to ensure changes were made.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills Presented for Payment for \$101,640.28
- Approval of the Addendum to Extend Agreement with ESS Midwest, Inc.
- Acceptance of the Resignation of Corey Hess, effective February 12, 2024
- Acceptance of the Retirement of Rick Deering, effective July 1, 2024

Hearing no objections, these items were approved by consent.

Action Items

NONE

Discussion Items

Additional Public Improvement Fund

Superintendent Wetherbee explained how a recent change in State law may interfere with our boiler replacement project. The new law pertains to a prevailing wage requirement for projects that utilize state funds. While our current Public Improvement Fund is comprised almost exclusively of money raised by milage, it is considered tainted by state dollars because a small amount of state funds have been added to that account. If we use this current fund, we will have to abide by these new rules that will delay our boiler project and potentially increase

costs. If we create a new Public Improvement Fund solely from our summer milage collection, we can use that fund for the project and avoid the delay and price increase.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

NONE

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Wetherbee encouraged the Board to bring any agenda items of interest to his attention. Dr. Barbara Conley requested an update on the school nurse, the new mental health specialist, and LIFT.

Public Comments

NONE

Board Member Comments

Dr. Barbara Conley noted that she will not be present for the April meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Barbara Conley, seconded by Ryan Blessing, to adjourn.

Motion Passed 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Danielle Percy, Secretary

Elizabeth Schwind, Recording Secretary