

**North Star Montessori Academy  
3030 Wright Street  
Marquette, MI 49855**

**Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
December 14th, 2022  
5:15 p.m.**

*North Star Montessori Academy-Cultivating blended learning and success by inspiring every child in a student-centered community.*

**Board Members:** Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Lydia Bucklin, Jessica Danek, Melissa Bowers, Nicole Harrington  
**NMU:** Betty LaPointe, NMU Charter Schools Office

*“This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the School’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as inducted in the agenda”*

1. Call to Order: Melissa Bowers called the regular NSMA Board meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. Roll Call - Board of Directors present: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Jessica Danek, Lydia Bucklin, Nicole Harrington. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Angela Chang, Andrea Ballard, Mary Vandermolen, Anne Marie Case, Michael Grentz, Becky Cookman, Jessica Brooks, Stephanie Rohder, and students who take part in the Robogators. Betty LaPointe was present via Zoom.
4. Agenda Adoption:
  - a) Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Jessica Danek to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Robogators Presentation
  - The Robogators group introduced us to their robot, Roberta. Ms. Cookman shared that the group builds a robot, will communicate within their team, and cooperate with other teams during competitions. They do a verbal presentation to the judges about their robot and strategy, then do a demonstration of gameplay to score as many points as possible by achieving physical objectives with their robot. They did a demonstration of what those physical objectives tend to be and discussed what they learn taking part in this group. They mentioned they leave for the State level competition downstate the following day.

**Consent Agenda**

1. a) Approval of proposed minutes from the November 16th, 2022 meeting
- b) Approval of November financial statements and November bills for payment.  
- Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Lydia Bucklin, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

### **Action Items**

1. Presentation of Audit from Michael Greutz from Anderson, Tackman & Co.
  - Mr. Greutz provided copies of our audit and a quick overview. Noted our general fund balance had an increase of \$389,882. This is \$24,057 less than the forecasted increase of \$413,939. He was happy to report there were no issues found and that we are heading in the right direction when reflecting on our budget and expenditures years past.
2. Approval of Updated Board Policies
  - Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Lydia Bucklin, to approve the fair labor standard act policy that is required and the policy amendment in regards to the flag policy as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
3. Board approval of LGBTQ Club
  - Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Jessica Danek, to approve the LGBTQ Club as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
4. Board approval of Andrea Ballard & Anne Marie Case to perform and access all transactions in MILAF
  - Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Roger Zappa, to approve Andrea Ballard and Anne Marie Case to access all transactions in MILAF as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

### **Reports/Discussion**

1. **Superintendent/Secondary Principal Report:** Andrea Ballard said she would bring the notes from the discussion with Middle and High School students about how they think we should promote the school and what we can provide to improve their experience. She will share those suggestions at our next committee meeting. She reached out to IDI and will crunch numbers for budgeting with building a single-story edition. They said they would be happy to share those options in the future. A busing update was provided. Andrea met with Brian DeAugustine, the NICE superintendent. He met with his transportation director and said they can make it happen by using 5 pick-up/drop-off hubs. They approved a proposal and sent back a tentative pricing agreement of \$95,000 for the year. That number includes a driver, bus, etc. The problem is timing, as the school day couldn't start until 10 am with sharing a bus with them, so dedicating one bus and driver will allow for a regular school start time, but this may fluctuate the cost by \$5,000. The next step will be present an official agreement for the board to vote on. Last week, MARESA indicated they are changing their formula for how funds are distributed for Special Education. It was based on the total student count, but now basing it on how

schools spend. Sadly, frugality now hinders the amount we get. Roger volunteered to attempt to obtain historical information regarding North Star's relationship with MARESA.

2. **Elementary Principal Report:** Angela Chang shared that the kids are all buzzing with excitement. Mentioned Santa's workshop will happen Friday and Monday and our Holiday Concert will be on our half day.
3. **NMU Charter School Office report:** Betty LaPointe's zoom disconnected at some point but Angela Chang said Betty didn't have anything to present.

### **Announcements**

1. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
2. **Public comment:** Anne Marie Case expressed she was pleased to see our audit showed positive progress and that it is a wonderful thing. She wanted to point out it is a team effort with administration and staff.
3. **Board member comment:** January 11th at noon is the committee meeting to discuss the middle school and high school ideas. Nicole Harrington suggested posting a calendar on the website that includes school-wide events.
4. **Motion to adjourn** by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Nicole Harrington. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

*NOTICE: The location of the meeting provides barrier-free access to all persons. Persons needing assistance should call North Star Montessori Academy (906) 226-0156 approximately 1 hour before the meeting is scheduled.*

*Official minutes of the school board meetings are stored in the school's business office and available for public inspection eight days after a meeting as proposed minutes and five days after the meeting at which they are approved.*

  
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Jessica Danek, NSMA Board Secretary

1/25/23  
Date Approved

