

North Star Montessori Academy
3030 Wright Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023
5:15 p.m.

Board Members: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Jessica Danek, Nicole Harrington, Lindsay McWebb

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, Jessica Danek, Roger Zappa, Nicole Harrington. Lindsay McWebb is absent due to illness. Prior notice was provided. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Andrea Knack, Angela Chang, Betty LaPointe, and Catherine Hilton from Anderson, Tackman & Co.
4. Agenda Adoption:
 - a) Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda

1. a) Approval of proposed minutes from the November 15th, 2023 meeting
- b) Approval of November financial statements and November bills for payment.
- Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Jessica Danek, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Action Items

1. Presentation of Audit from Michael Greutz from Anderson, Tackman & Co
- Catherine provided copies of our audit and a quick overview. They reported a general fund balance increase of \$358,026. This was \$52,703 more than previously estimated. During the audit, they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control.
2. Adopt NMU Reauthorization Resolution
- Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington, to adopt the resolution seeking reauthorization of our charter with NMU for up to 5 years. Roll call vote: Ayes- Zappa, Harrington, Danek, Bowers. Nays- none. Motion passed.
3. Complete Reauthorization Additions

- With the reauthorization follow-ups, there are four organizational areas where we need to determine a plan. Those areas are transportation, board government, ideal student body count, and selling our portable units.
 - A. Transportation: We will continue to explore our options for providing busses, until then, continue the current course.
 - B. 5 vs 7 member board: The decision is to remain 5, but if a competent individual is interested, we will reach out to extend to 7.
 - C. Student Count: Our ideal count would be as follows: Kindergarten-8th grade would be 200, PreK-8th grade would be 220. PreK-12th grade would be 250 students.
 - D. Portable Units: We will plan to sell the portable units in 5 years. Accessing options currently. At the end of the school year, we will have options to present.
- 4. Apptegy Proposal
 - It was determined to gather more information and see if another meeting is necessary or to defer discussion to next year.
- 5. High School Data Presentation
 - Andrea shared responses collected from the high school students in respect to the existing hybrid learning model. Feedback showed a diverse range of opinions, with some enjoying the freedom and others feeling frustrated with the platform. Attendance has been successful, however, there were concerns that the model was not sustainable. The next step will be to send surveys to parents to get their perspectives.

Reports/Discussion

1. **Superintendent Report:** Andrea Knack made the difficult decision to resign early, with an end date of Jan 5th, 2024. She said she would be happy to hold a consultant position, as past superintendents have done in the past to aid with the transition. Thoughts were expressed regarding the early departure. In response, a committee meeting has been scheduled for December 20th at 7:30 am to collectively discuss the subsequent steps. A board meeting is set for January 2nd at 4 pm to make determinations for the transition. Actions related to Apptegy will be deferred until the next school year.
2. **Board Committee Report:** With the news of Andrea Knack's resignation the board committee report was moot.
3. **NMU Charter School Office report:** Betty LaPointe shared the MI school index data overview. Expressed the statistics were positive and went over what each index number was.

Announcements

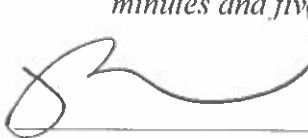
1. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 24th, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
2. **Public comment:** None
3. **Board member comment:** Jessica Danek noticed the November 27th committee meeting minutes were not approved and asked if they could be approved alongside the meeting minutes from the November 15th regular board meeting. Roger Zappa made a motion to correct a misstated motion that should have included both minutes from the November 15th and November 27th meetings. The motion

was supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the amended consent agenda. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

4. **Motion to adjourn** by Nicole Harrington, supported by Roger Zappa. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 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.



Jessica Danek, NSMA Board Secretary

1/24/24
Date Approved

