

North Star Montessori Academy
3030 Wright Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 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. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Andrea Knack, Angela Chang, and Betty LaPointe
4. Agenda Adoption:
 - a) Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Nicole Harrington to approve the agenda as presented, with the spelling correction of Lindsay's name. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: Public was present. No comment was made.

Consent Agenda

1. a) Approval of proposed minutes from the October 25th, 2023 meeting
- b) Approval of October financial statements and October bills for payment.
 - Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Reports/Discussion

1. **Reauthorization Follow-Up:** Andrea Knack reviewed the memorandum received from the CSO office, outlining additional queries for NSMA. She covered the set of criteria and data earmarked for the evaluation of our High School program. She went over proposed strategies to address chronic absences and help with attendance numbers. It was noted that the school's name had not been uniformly updated, indicating discrepancies in articles of incorporation, which will be corrected. She also touched upon Title 1 updates and the idea of proceeding with the payment of our outstanding balloon payment. To facilitate an in-depth discussion of questions listed under #6 from K.C. Holders' memo, a subcom-

mittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th, at 12 pm. An email will be sent to see who can attend or if a change of date is necessary.

2. **High School Discussion:** Andrea noted that the High School data discussed during the reauthorization follow-up will be useful for future deliberations about the High School program. A clear timeline was provided to guide subsequent discussions efficiently.
3. **Superintendent/Secondary Principal Report:** Andrea brought a team (two middle school and one upper elementary teacher), to Traverse City to visit two Montessori Schools. The visit provided diverse perspectives, inspired the team, and was a beneficial learning experience. In two weeks, the remaining members of the middle school and upper elementary team will join Mary Vander-molen on a trip downstate to visit those two schools previously mentioned. Andrea mentioned IDI and reiterated the intention to remove the modular buildings, add classrooms, and create greenspace. Andrea developed a proposal titled 'Enriching Our Future' outlining objectives for updating our space, and this proposal will be presented during the December board agenda. Lindsay offered her assistance to Andrea in leading the initiative for this project. Conferences are scheduled for next week. Upcoming conferences were mentioned, and Melissa brought up Andrea's resignation letter, sparking thoughts from both Melissa and Roger. Jessica suggested that a meeting might be necessary to determine the best way forward, with Melissa proposing to address it during the subcommittee meeting on November 29th. Only two students withdrew from NSMA due to the changes in the busing arrangements. Roger left at 5:56pm due to a scheduling conflict, having provided advance notice of his departure.
4. **NMU Charter School Office report:** Betty LaPointe was reminiscent of her first time meeting Angela and Andrea. She commended their efforts with the preauthorization presentation and took the opportunity to remind the board about the \$2,000 incentive tied to attending Angie Irwin's podcasts.

Announcements

1. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
2. **Public comment:** None
3. **Board member comment:** Melissa mentioned an app that Andrea discovered, which might be beneficial for the staff and families. The application should provide user-friendly features for seamless communication. Andrea plans to share further information, and discussion is slated for the upcoming board meeting.
4. **Motion to adjourn** by Lindsay McWebb, supported by Nicole Harrington. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 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

12/13/23

Date Approved

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