

North Star Montessori Academy
3030 Wright Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023
5:15 p.m.

Board Members: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Jessica Danek, 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, Jessica Danek, Nicole Harrington, Roger Zappa. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Andrea Knack and Betty LaPointe.
4. Agenda Adoption:
 - a) Motion by Nicole Harrington, supported by Jessica Danek to approve the agenda with the addition of approval Michigan Liquid Asset Fund investing. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda

6. a) Approval of proposed minutes from the August 23rd, 2023 meeting, with the correction of removing "Budget Hearing" from the title and Melissa listed as a board member twice.
 - b) Approval of August financial statements and August bills for payment.
 - Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Roger Zappa, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the mentioned corrections. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Action Items

7. Michigan Liquid Asset Fund
 - Board approval is needed to give authority to Andrea Knack and Anne Marie Case to make changes if necessary by adding their names to the account.
 - Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve Andrea Knack and Anne Marie Case to add their names to the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund account as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
8. Reauthorization

- Andrea is working through the reauthorization application and needs it to be submitted soon. This will be for another 5-year renewal. There is a part of the application that needs board input, so she will send out an email regarding that. Once submitted in October, they will do a presentation in November.
8. **Building Updates**
 - Andrea mentioned that they met with IDI to go over additional ideas for building updates. IDI is still working on an updated proposal and has yet to submit it to the administration. A few ideas mentioned were dividing the current larger classrooms and adding additional rooms. Once the proposal comes, Andrea will send that to us and hopefully we can start in June.
 9. **Bus Contract**
 - NSMA was provided a 45-day cancellation notice regarding our bus contract with NICE schools, due to not enough drivers. They are looking for bus drivers and unless those positions are filled, we may have no busing available for our families. Nicole mentioned reaching out to Arrow and seeing if any seasonal workers might be interested in applying. On Oct. 9th administration will send an email asking families if they know anyone and a heads up it might be lost. We have until Nov. 9th.

Reports/Discussion

10. **Superintendent/Secondary Principal Report:** Andrea Knack reported High School is going well. It is a different format, but things are getting ironed out and the students appear to enjoy the flexibility. We purchased software that allows for screen monitoring of our computers, which shows productivity levels and it has been a great tool. A Spanish tutor was brought in to help support in-person learning and that has been another great tool. Andrea spoke about a parent who posted online about their student not being enrolled to clear up any confusion. There was also discussion of a middle schooler with behavioral issues and physical violence shown toward other students. Removal of the child is recommended, but they will meet with their guardians and discuss options. Angela needs surgery on her shoulder soon and it could be as early as next week. Unsure of how long she will need to be absent. Andrea will be gone in October.
1. **NMU Charter School Office report:** Betty LaPointe mentioned the October staff retreat event downstate in Mt. Pleasant, but understood our absence due to the conflict. Jessica Danek had to leave at 5:45pm. Remaining minutes were taken by Melissa Bowers.

Announcements

17. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
18. **Public comment:** None
19. **Board member comment:** None.
20. **Motion to adjourn** by Nicole Harrington supported by Roger Zappa. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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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

10/25/23

Date Approved

