

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

**Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 24th, 2024**  
**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: Nicole Harrington, Jessica Danek, Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa. Lindsay McWebb was absent and excused in advance.
3. Others Present: Angela Chang, Mary VanderMolen, and Betty LaPointe. Andrea Knack was present via Zoom.
4. Agenda Adoption:
  - a) Motion by Melissa Bowers, 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 March 20th, 2024 meeting
  - b) Approval of March financial statements and March bills for payment.
    - Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

**Action Items**

1. Approval of 2024-2025 School Board Meeting Dates
  - Meeting time was discussed and to change to every 3rd Wednesday at 4:15pm.
  - Motion by Nicole Harrington, supported by Melissa Bowers, to approve the 2024-2025 School Board Meeting Dates as discussed. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
2. Resolution- Approval to enter into an agreement with Teacher’s First (This agreement is subject to review and approval by Northern Michigan University & North Star Montessori Academy)
  - Mary VanderMolen mentioned the potential service agreement with Midwest Management and other documents were shared by Taylor Gaudreau via email. Teacher’s First is a non-profit and is a company within a company. This would help take over our financial services and other administrative tasks. Andrea

Knack shared that this isn't a full take over and would be a 'pick and choose' to serve the school. All decision making stays local with our administration team.

- Motion by Melissa Bowers, supported by Jessica Danek, to approve to enter into an agreement with Teacher's First, contingent to the discussion in the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Bowers, Danek, Harrington, Zappa. Nays- None. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
- 3. Resolution- Approval of the 2024-2025 Marquette- Alger RESA Budget
  - Motion by Melissa Bowers, supported by Jessica Danek, to approve the 2024-2025 Marquette- Alger RESA Budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Bowers, Danek, Harrington, Zappa. Nays- None. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
- 4. Resolution- Approval of Education Assistance Program
  - Motion by Melissa Bowers, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the Education Assistance Program as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Bowers, Harrington, Danek, Zappa. Nays- None. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

## **Reports/Discussion**

1. **CBA 224 Discussion:** Mary shared the Upper Peninsula School Board Members is putting on a workshop for superintendent succession planning. If anyone wants to attend, it is the evening of Tuesday May 7th.
2. **Superintendent Report:** Mary provided the board with an update on the progress of the reauthorization process, noting that they received feedback on necessary corrections and additions to the submitted documents. With the assistance of our attorney, they expressed confidence in the progress made so far. The career fair is tomorrow, with 20-25 careers represented. TV6 will be in attendance to cover the event. She gave a brief update on marketing, including our agreement with TV6 to do social media marketing. That will kick off in May and focus on middle school enrollment. Ongoing ads in the Marquette monthly and billboard will continue. A radio jingle with Radio Results Network is scheduled on four different stations. Women in construction, an NMU program, expanded from High School to include middle school. They took a group recently, including our 6th-7th grade girls to attend and it went well. She also shared a positive story with a High Schooler interested in welding. She had a phone meeting with Erich Ziegler, CTE director at MARESA, to help place her in her new school next year, which has a construction trades program on their campus. Mary will be meeting with the special education director and principals of MSHS and the alternative high school regarding the transition of students and how to best support them. Mary and Angela spoke about other steps they are taking to help with the High School students and their transition to new schools.
3. **Principal Report:** Angela said 'Art and Talent Night' is Friday. All the showcased art pieces were selected by the students themselves. Saturday is Prom for all our High Schoolers. Lauren Tilma will be reaching out to Anne Marie to inquire about the balance in the Student Council's account, with the aim of making the event free for the students. Plans are in place for the 6th graders to attend Wildcat Camp, while the 7th and 8th graders will be heading to Clearwater Camp in Manistique. Transportation will be supplied by NICE. NICE recently helped with getting our 4th and 5th graders to an event put together by

Marquette Symphony Orchestra. Adrian Francisco is currently arranging various on-campus activities for students, given our inability to participate in Young Authors this year. Testing is currently underway, with the PSAT, SAT, and ACT examinations recently completed, and the MSTEP tests commencing today. The MSTEP assessments will continue into the middle of May, followed by the start of NWEA testing. In staffing news, Jake McGee agreed to be our roaming substitute on Monday. He is a former student teacher who worked along Sarah Vickstrom in our high school. Melissa and Angela will be attending the CSO workshop in Mount Pleasant. The Family Dance will be held May 10th and coincide with the PTO plant sale.

4. **NMU Charter Schools Office report:** Betty LaPointe is looking forward to having Angela, Melissa, and Andrea at the CSO Workshop in Mt. Pleasant. There will be 60 people in attendance, which is more than usual.

### **Announcements**

1. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
2. **Public comment:** None.
3. **Board member comment:** Melissa asked if we have the student teachers who've observed this year for teacher appreciation week, as she had cards to give them on behalf of the board. She also asked some questions in regards to career day logistics.
4. **Motion to adjourn** by Jessica Danek, supported by Nicole Harrington. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 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

---

Date Approved