

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

**Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 22nd, 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 included 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, Lindsay McWebb, Jessica Danek, Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Angela Chang, Mary VanderMolen, Betty LaPointe.
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 April 24th, 2024 meeting
- b) Approval of April financial statements and April bills for payment.
 - Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Action Items

1. Approval to grant Mary VanderMolen access to MILAF
 - Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve Mary VanderMolen access to MILAF as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
2. Approval of Spring 2024 Board Policy Updates
 - Motion by Jessica Danek, supported by Nicole Harrington, to approve the Board Policy Updates as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Reports/Discussion

1. **ESP Updates:** Mary VanderMolen combined this topic with her superintendent report.
2. **Superintendent Report:** Mary mentioned that the Director of HR and payroll personnel were at the school for the past two days, meeting with every teacher.

They provided offer letters that included a pay increase. Dave Patterson recommended adjusting wages to appropriately reflect years of experience. Personnel files will be submitted at the end of June. One of our middle school staff, a special education teacher, has submitted their notice. Administration will be posting the open position soon. Discussions with MAERSA have been positive, and they are on board to assist with a seamless transition with our management company. Starting July 11th, payroll checks will be issued by Teachers First instead of North Star Montessori Academy. Payroll dates and insurance policies will remain the same. Hopefully, deductibles will decrease since NSMA, now part of Midwest, will no longer be considered a small business. At the beginning of the school year, there will be discussions about 401K offerings, and they will review transportation options on Friday. The goal is to provide families with information regarding transportation by August 1st.

3. **Principal Report:** Angela Chang shared that the 6th graders participated in Wildcat Camp at NMU. They stayed on campus for two nights and had a great time. NSMA elementary students went to Studio Dance Arts for a field trip. It was well organized and the kids were engaged. Adrian Francisco is leading the Young Authors program, with students working on a book. An author employed at MAERSA is scheduled to speak to the students, adding a valuable perspective to their writing journey. The track season is progressing smoothly. Looking ahead, the 7th and 8th graders are preparing to attend a science camp at Clear Lake. NICE generously coordinated transportation for this event and Field Day at Kaufmann Field. Graduation is set for 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 1st, followed by a special dinner at Vango's with Ms. Vickstrom. Testing season is wrapping up, with NWEA assessments nearly complete. Administration is gathering bids for necessary building improvements, and prioritizing tasks such as window and door replacements. Plans are also in place for painting and flooring upgrades.
4. **NMU Charter Schools Office report:** Betty LaPointe reported no new updates but mentioned hearing positive feedback about Wildcat Camp. The school received news regarding our renewal status. Melissa asked a few questions to clarify. Due to recent changes with hiring a management company and closing the high school, NSMA has been approved for a two-year term, with an additional three years contingent on a satisfactory evaluation at the two-year mark. NSMA will not be subjected to an intensive review process during the two-year check-in.

Announcements

- 1 . **Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 26th, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
- 2 . **Public comment:** None.
3. **Board member comment:** Melissa mentioned that we usually conduct a Superintendent review, but since Mary has been acting as interim superintendent for only a few months, it was decided to forego the review at this time. Our board review is usually in June, so we will revisit this matter then. She also mentioned the need to post board openings on social media.
4. **Motion to adjourn** by Roger Zappa, supported by Melissa Bowers. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 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 of-
fice 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