

Board of Education

The meeting of Northwest Education Services Board of Education was held on January 7, 2025 in the ISD Conference Center, 1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684. President Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
Birgy Petrella	
Brown Scherrer	
Fisher Thomas	
Lajko	

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Scherrer, to approve the January 7, 2025 agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 7; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Welcomed Visitors & Public Comment

There were none.

Student/Staff/Local District Highlights/Presentations/Recognitions:

SAIL(ORS) On Deck – Organizational Recognition System

Board of Education members recognized this month’s SAIL(ORS) On Deck. This month’s standout is Sarah Dunn, Database Support Specialist, who has exemplified strengths in the organizational value of Excellence, providing the highest quality of service and support.

In addition to Sarah’s recognition, the following staff were nominated this past month for Sailor’s on Deck: Christine Root, Jana Miseta, Joe Harper, Dori Gillings, Barry Bialik, Peter Povolo, Amy Brooks, Jan Gac, Cassie McPherson, Kevin Kimble, Anna Byrnes, Melissa Garrett, Laura Miller, Kristie Reicha, Jessica Fyock, Pat Buron, Sara Smith, and Ken Graham.

Facilities Update – Shawn Biddle, Chief Financial Officer

Shawn reviewed priorities of the Phase 1 Facilities Study which include Long-Term Placement for Bridgeway Program; Early Childhood Program; Transition Campus; and Creekside School entrance. The Creekside School secure entrance construction which was completed last summer. The Board will be presented with a resolution this evening to approve architectural services for Bridgeway classrooms at Traverse City West Senior High to move to the second floor of that school. Renovations include bathroom, air conditioning, break rooms and kitchen shared by the two classrooms located at West Senior High. Upcoming projects for the summer: PineRest staff will be out of the building we share with early childhood at the end of this week. The Fisher building - housing early childhood will include 5 major renovations for an indoor and outdoor play area, two conference rooms housing 30-50 people, daycare space and redesigned bathrooms for children and parents. At Life Skills Center there were areas converted to classroom space over the summer at Life Skills Center updated to support student training. We will be working on a secure vestibule space between Life Skills and Career Tech that will prevent access to Life Skills from Career Tech unless you have a badge from the exterior entrance. Additional projects for next year will be Phase 3 of the Career Tech/Life Skills Center room replacement plan, air handling units at Life Skills Center and removal of a portable classroom.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Brown, to approve consent grouping items 1-4 as presented.

1. Minutes of December 3, 2024 regular meeting
2. Monthly Accounts Payable Check Summary and Financial Report December 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Check Numbers: 198171-198375. Total for Month: \$7,788,510.48
3. Personnel:
 - a. New Employees:
 - Jordyn Elhart, Occupational Therapist, effective January 20, 2025
 - Danielle Zick, Occupational Therapist, effective January 6, 2025
 - Jessie Smith, Teacher Assistant, effective January 7, 2025
 - b. Employee Resignations:
 - Jerry Hawes, Adult Education Instructor, effective January 17, 2025
 - Pam Buck, Teacher Assistant, effective January 10, 2025 (Retirement 3 years)
 - Kelsey Dean, Teacher Assistant, effective December 6, 2024
 - Meghan MacDonald, School Psychologist, effective December 9, 2024
4. Approve Out of State Travel
 1. Dr. Nicholas Ceglarek, Superintendent, to attend SET SEG Investment Meeting, March 17-19, 2025, Miami, Florida (all travel/room/meal expenses paid by SET SEG)
 2. Agriscience Instructor Brian Matchett, Paraprofessional Julie Copiz, and students from the program, to attend the National FFA Convention, October 29-November 1, 2025, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 3. Brian Matchett, Agriscience Instructor to attend the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, December 9-12, 2025, Nashville, Tennessee.
 4. Sara Midura Smith, Engagement Behavior Specialist, to attend the Applied Educational Neuroscience (AEN) Conference at Butler University, April 11-12, 2025, Indianapolis, Indiana (all travel/meal expenses paid by Butler University, Sara is a speaker)

Roll call vote: Ayes: 7; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Lajko, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve North Ed Sexuality-Education Advisory Board Members as follows:

Chair: Leigh Kennedy
Co-Chair: Riley Denison
Clergy member: Chad Oyer
Student Representative: Jake Kindzierski

Creekside School:

Nurse: Jay Barclay
Teacher: Ashley Richards
Parent: Bethany Faunce

New Horizons:

Parent: Riley Denison
Teacher/parent- Nikki Johnson

Bridgeway:

Nurse: Michael Kiem
Parent: William Zopff

Life Skills Center:

Teacher: Susan Bulger

Dept. Chair: Sarah Olree

Nurse: Shannon Rice

Transition Campus parent representative: Chris Kindzierski

Roll call vote: Ayes: 7; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Petrella to approve Architectural Services for West Senior High Renovations from Cornwell Architects in the amount of \$59,400. Roll call vote: Ayes: 7; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Updates:

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nick Ceglarek:

1. Thanked all of our board members for their service and dedication to Northwest Education Services in honor of School Board Recognition Month. He presented a thank you video from students across our center programs and a "givers" excerpt from a book that highlights giving values are the number one guiding principle and as a Board you give your talents and expertise.

Discussion Item

Superintendent Search Update – Peter Haines, MLI Consultant

Mr. Haines provided an update on the status of applicants received to date. As of this morning we have 10 initiated applications including out of state. Most of the interested contacts he has spoken to have not completed an application yet. We have March 3, 4, 5 and 6 blocked out for first round interviews including setting time after the March 4th regular Board of Education meeting. February 20, 2025 is scheduled for a special board meeting for closed session to review all the applications starting at 3:00 p.m. Two weeks later we will schedule second round interviews.

Board Member Reports/Requests:

Board Member Lajko will be out of district and would like to join the February 20, 2025 special board meeting virtually.

Dates to Remember:

February 4, 2025 Board of Education Meeting 5:30 p.m.

February 20, 2025 Board of Education Special Meeting 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Joseph Fisher, President

Lisa Thomas, Secretary