

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

PRESENT: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Shirilla and supported by Trustee Etienne that the agenda be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Keiswetter that the minutes of May 26, 2026, Public Budget Hearing and the May 26, 2026, Regular meeting be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness, Erin Sonneveldt, shared the Aspen Prize competition data report with the board. North Central received this data because of recognition as a Aspen Prize top 200 community college and applying for the Aspen Institute's Top 25 Community College's in 2027. This report compares our outcomes with other applicants in the top 200 as well as the national average. This overview included an outline of strengths of our institution, as well as opportunities for improvement.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

a. Area leaders gather for housing roundtable with U.S. Senator Slotkin

Both Jillian Fellows of the Petoskey News-Review and the Harbor Light News published an article on June 5, 2026. U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin was in town on Thursday, May 28 to gather local leaders and community stakeholders for a roundtable discussion on housing issues and possible solutions. Both President Finley and Dean of Workforce and Continuing Education, Cassandra Hernandez participated.

The complete article is linked here: https://www.petoskeynews.com/story/news/2026/06/05/sen-slotkin-gathers-petoskey-leaders-for-roundtable-on-housing-issues/90405470007/?utm_source=petoskey-news-review-daily-

[briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailybriefing&utm_term=hero&utm_content=npnr-petoskey-nletter65](https://www.petoskeynews.com/story/news/education/2026/06/08/north-central-michigan-college-renews-conservation-pact/90373478007/)

b. NCMC and Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy renew partnership

On June 9, 2026, Janis Resser of the Petoskey News-Review reported that NCMC and the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy (WLAC) formally renewed a partnership aimed at expanding conservation efforts and education to students and community members.

Over the past five years, North Central students have gained field experience in any of the 50 nature preserves under WLAC's care. Biology students have also visited two of WLAC's preserves, Postle Farm Preserve and Mill Pond, documenting biodiversity and establishing sentinel trees for Michigan State University's Eyes on the Forest tree monitoring program.

You may read the full article here:

<https://www.petoskeynews.com/story/news/education/2026/06/08/north-central-michigan-college-renews-conservation-pact/90373478007/>

c. Petoskey, Charlevoix Chambers hosting candidate forum at College June 29

The Petoskey and Charlevoix Chambers of Commerce are working together with North Central Michigan College to host a Candidate Forum for those running in the August 4th primary election.

The Forum, and Meet and Greet event prior, will be held **Monday June 29th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.** in the Athletic/Student Center at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. The Meet and Greet will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the Forum will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. There will also be a livestream of the event that can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@PetoskeyChamber>.

d. NCMC offering free lunch sessions for students 25 and older who want to 'reconnect'

On June 15, 2025, NCMC issued a press release that was picked up by Harbor Light News and Petoskey News Review. North Central Michigan College (NCMC) is offering free virtual Michigan Reconnect lunch sessions throughout the summer for adult learners age 25 and older who are interested in starting or finishing an associate degree or skills certificate. Eligible students may qualify for a Michigan Reconnect scholarship to help cover tuition costs.

Michigan Reconnect is a state scholarship program that covers the remaining balance of in-district tuition and mandatory fees after other federal and state financial aid has been applied. Students attending an out-of-district community college receive a substantial tuition discount. The program is designed for eligible adults who want to start or finish an associate degree or skills certificate.

The full article may be read here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/michigan-reconnect-lunch-sessions-summer-2026.html>

e. Future Nurses Summer Camp introduces school students to nursing careers

On June 10, 2026, the College issued a press release. North Central is inviting high school students to explore nursing careers through its Future Nurses Summer Camp, a four-day program designed to introduce participants to healthcare professions and nursing education pathways.

The camp will take place July 13—16 from 9 a.m.— 4 p.m. on North Central's Petoskey campus and in the NCMC Simulation Lab located inside McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital.

You may view the full press release here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/future-nurses-summer-camp-2026.html>

f. NCMC adds men's and women's varsity outdoor track, receives NJCAA Foundation grant
On June 12, 2026, North Central issued a press release. The Timberwolves will add men's and women's varsity outdoor track beginning in the Spring 2027 season.

The expansion is supported in part by a grant from the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Foundation, which helps member colleges grow athletic opportunities and support student athletes.

Head Cross Country Coach Rod Anderson will lead the outdoor track program and is currently seeking assistant coaches. Those interested may contact Athletic Director Ashley Antonishen.

The full press release can be found here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/varsity-outdoor-track-njcaa-grant.html>

g. Thank you from Moran Iron Works

The College received a note from Moran Iron Works, thanking us for our support of their new ventures. North Central recently reached an agreement with Moran through the Michigan New Jobs Training program, as shared at last month's regular board meeting.

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Association of Faculty and Professional Services (AFPS) President Dr. Ben Crockett shared three brief updates from the faculty. Summer Instruction is underway and faculty are working hard. Summer course offerings serve an important role in keeping students on track. They are looking forward to North Central Day, which will be held September 3, 2026, where faculty plan to serve as guides and welcome students to campus. He shared a finding from a recent University of Michigan study of Michigan's tuition incentive program. Need based financial aid does not just make college more affordable, but eligibility itself helps more low-income students to enroll in college. The study that financial aid matters, but making sure students know these opportunities exist is just as important.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Tom Zeidel, Vice President for Finance & Facilities, was asked by Chair Pretty to provide a financial report for May 2026. Tom certified that the financials as of May 2026 are within the adopted tentative budget for 2025-26.

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Etienne that the financial report and statement of bills be accepted as submitted.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. GLCA Collaborations

Three North Central students each received a \$100 prize for work responding to the theme *This Is Me* at this year's Great Lakes Center for the Arts Student Playwright Reader's Theater (SPRighT). This competition reflects a strong partnership between Next Gen and North Central, supporting students as they explore Reader's Theater and the process of bringing short works to the stage.

Thank you to Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Sara Glasgow, and North Central faculty Mary Brower for their efforts to bring these authentic learning opportunities to our students and encourage participation in the arts.

The College looks forward to deepening our partnership with the GLCA.

b. NMC Dean appointed to McLaren Northern Michigan's Board of Trustees

Dean of Business, Education and Adjunct Faculty, Michele Andrews, has been appointed to McLaren Northern Michigan's Board of Trustees. We are honored to have Michele represent North Central, and to strengthen our relationship with McLaren. Thank you Michele!

c. Summer Learning Academy

NMC's Summer Learning Academy started this week. A variety of classes are being taught to children grades 3 through 8. Classes run through the week of August 17th.

d. ACCT Member in Good Standing

North Central Michigan College received the Association of Community College Trustees Certificate of Good Standing once again for 2027. The certificate as well as the Standards of Good Practice have been included in your board packets for reference.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bylaws & Policy Committee

Trustee Kromm shared that the Bylaws & Policy Committee met on Tuesday, June 16 to discuss proposed revisions to two board policies.

Background: The first policy reviewed was policy 300.1: Enrollment of Undocumented Aliens. This policy was last reviewed in 2008. The proposed policy has been updated to reflect current legal guidance. The revised language, developed in consultation with legal counsel, is included in your board packet for review.

Trustee Kromm moved that Board Policy 300.1 be revised with updated verbiage, to now be named Enrollment of Unauthorized Immigrants, and that the language in said policy be updated to follow state and / or federal law, as noted in your board packets. This policy will be effective June 23, 2026.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Background: The committee also reviewed an update to board policy 311: Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. This policy is reviewed and updated regularly to ensure compliance with federal financial aid regulations. Because regulatory requirements change frequently and detailed procedures are maintained on North Central's website, the proposed policy has been revised, in consultation with legal counsel, to provide broad guidance rather than procedural detail. This approach allows the Financial Aid Department to implement necessary procedural updates promptly.

Trustee Kromm moved that the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 311 as written. This policy will be effective June 23, 2026.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

b. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Fought shared that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, June 16 to review May Financials, discuss the millage ballot language, review progress on the CATEE Project construction, and review the 2025-2026 amended budget.

i. **Background:** During the final board meeting of each school year, the Board needs to amend the general fund budget ensure that the final budget is balanced in accordance with State requirements and that actual expenditures and transfers for the year are within the budgeted amounts.

The 2025 - 2026 revenues, expenditures and transfers have been projected through the end of June, 2026 and the amended budget is based on those projections.

Trustee Fought provided and Trustee Etienne supported the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board adopt the Final General Fund Operating Budget for North Central Michigan College for the fiscal year 2025 -2026 in the aggregate amount of \$21,613,870 of revenues and a like amount of expenditures and transfers.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ii. **Background:** Much of the College's operating costs are covered by property taxes received by the College. These taxes are levied on property in Emmet County and include a charter millage and a voted millage. This latter millage needs to be voted on once every ten years with the next vote to be this November for a millage to run for the next ten years through 2036.

The following resolution, which has been provided to all trustees in their board packets, was offered by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Wozniak after a brief discussion:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of North Central Michigan College, State of Michigan ("the College") determines that it is in the best interests of the College to submit an operating millage renewal and

restoration proposal to the qualified electors of the College at the election to be held on November 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the electors of the College previously authorized the levy of 0.9946 mill for general operating purposes, said authorization expiring with the 2026 levy; and

WHEREAS, this authorization has been reduced by operation of the Headlee amendment to 0.9141 mill in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees determines that it is in the best interest of its residents to submit a proposal to renew and restore the previous authorization as reduced by the operation of the Headlee amendment; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Trustees wishes to submit the millage renewal and restoration proposal to the vote of the qualified electors of the College District at the election to be held in the College District on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The millage renewal and restoration proposal appearing on the following page shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the College at the election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 (the "November Election Date"):

**NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE
MILLAGE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION PROPOSAL**

This proposal will restore the authority of the College to levy 0.9946 mill for general operating purposes for 10 years. Of the 0.9946 mill, 0.9141 mill represents a renewal of the authorization previously approved by the electors in 2016, which will expire with the 2026 levy and 0.0805 mill represents a restoration of that portion of the same millage authority which was reduced by application of the Headlee Amendment.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be levied on taxable property within the North Central Michigan College district, County of Emmet State of Michigan, be increased by 0.9946 mill (\$0.9946 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for ten (10) years, from 2027 to 2036, inclusive, as a renewal of the 0.9141 mill previously authorized by the electors which expires with the 2026 levy plus new additional millage in the amount of 0.0805 mill, to provide funds for operating purposes?

YES

NO

It is estimated that 0.9946 mill would provide approximately \$4,660,486 when first levied in 2027.

This resolution was passed unanimously.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

c. Personnel Committee

Trustee Shirilla shared that the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, June 18 to review a new hire.

Full-time Instructor of Manufacturing and Technology

Background: This is a new position that has been vetted by the Finance & Facilities Committee as it is outside of the approved 2026-2027 budget.

VP Strom, provide a brief background on the recommended candidate, Jeff Montgomery

It was moved by Trustee Shirilla and supported by Trustee Fought that the College hire Jeff Montgomery for the position of Full-time Instructor of Manufacturing Technology, starting on August 31 of this year.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

11. OLD BUSINESS. None.

12. NEW BUSINESS.

a. MCCA BOD Certification of Appointment

Each year, MCCA's Bylaw's require Certification of Appointments to the MCCA Board of Directors. This document indicates and certifies the names of the President Director, Trustee Director, and Alternate Trustee Director from each member college.

Trustee Etienne motioned that the Board certify the appointments to MCCA's Board of Directors for the 2026-27 year; David Finley as President Director, Melissa Keiswetter as Trustee Director, and Keith Pretty as the Alternate Trustee Director. Trustee Shirilla supported.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Trustee Fought motioned, and all trustees unanimously supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

YES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm., Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith A. Pretty". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Keith" being more prominent than the last name "Pretty".

/S/ Keith A. Pretty, J.D., Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa Keiswetter". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first name "Melissa" being more prominent than the last name "Keiswetter".

/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary