

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

PRESENT: Trustees Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Rasmussen, Shirilla, and Wozniak

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AYES: Trustees Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Rasmussen, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Kromm and supported by Trustee Keiswetter that the minutes of the July 22, 2025, Regular Meeting, be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Rasmussen, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

VP for Academic & Student Affairs, Dr. Stephen Strom introduced Amber Lewis, Tutoring & Testing Center Manager, and Thea Murray, Student Success Coordinator. This summer, they ran the second year of Timberwolves Thrives, a Summer Bridge Program focuses on English, Math and developing college-readiness skills in preparation for the Fall semester. Operational improvements this year increased the program from 6 students last year to 14 students this year. All 14 students, ranging in age from 17-52 and coming from a wide range of locations, completed the program. Incentives included gas cards, stipends, and a computer upon successful completion of their first semester. Program survey comments were shared, and students found the program most helpful.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

a. Economic Impact Study Made Headlines

On July 30, 2025, Up North Live featured a story on NCMC's Economic Impact Study, outlining the \$78.9M in total annual economic impact. This was also featured in the Petoskey News Review on July 29, 2025.

Please read the full story here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/economic-impact-2025.html>

b. Thank You Letter – Shianne Langone

On July 24, 2025, North Central's Foundation received the following thank you note:

Dear Foundation Members,

My name is Shianne Langone, and I am one of the recipients of the Foundation Scholarship for the Fast Track CMA program. I wanted to express my greatest gratitude for the selection. Without your generous donation, I would not be able to attend this program.

I have been contemplating going back to school for quite some time now. When I graduated high school, I went straight into the workforce as a phlebotomist at McLaren Hospital. I worked there for a year, then worked for Quest Diagnostics for three years. When COVID began, the healthcare environment became uncertain, overwhelming, and scary. I left Quest Diagnostics in October 2020 - heartbroken, scared, and burned out.

For the last five years, I have worked as a manager for Joann Fabrics. I thought Joannes was my calling, and I fell in love with crafts, quilting, and my customers. However, when Joann Fabrics closed their doors in April 2025, I knew it was time to return to my original passion: healthcare.

I chanced upon the Fast Track program earlier in July and applied in hopes that I could save enough to start the program. As I am on unemployment due to being a displaced worker, I went to the Michigan Works office seeking funding to move forward, but they informed me that they were low on funding this year and they weren't able to help. They suggested applying for scholarship opportunities, which led me to you.

Receiving this scholarship is life-changing. I had come to terms with the thought that I was not going to be able to be a part of the program this year, but thanks to you and your scholarship, I will be attending in August 2025! My long-term goal is to become a registered nurse in labor and delivery, but for right now, I am thrilled to start with my CMA.

- Shianne Langone

c. Early Learning Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On August 19, North Central held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Early Learning Center. This event received coverage on UpNorth Live, 9&10 News, and Professor Jen Wixson was invited to join Good Day Northern Michigan to film in their studio last week.

You may view the full story here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/early-learning-center-ribbon-cutting-2025.html>

d. NCMC's Renee DeYoung, Melissa Keiswetter Honored by MCCA

Two members of our North Central community were recognized with statewide honors during the Michigan Community College Association's 2025 Summer Conference on Mackinac Island.

Renee DeYoung, who retired in June after 23 years of service to NCMC, received the Outstanding Staff Award for her leadership, commitment to student success, and long-standing service to the community college mission.

Melissa Keiswetter, NCMC trustee and Board secretary, was honored for her 10 years of service on the NCMC Board of Directors.

You may view the full story here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/deyoung-mcca-award-2025.html>

e. Timberwolves Volleyball - Returning Talent Raise the Bar

On August 20, the Petoskey News Review's Sports Section highlighted North Central's Volleyball Team. Last year, the team had a 20-8 season and finished second in the MCCA division. The 2024 team 'raised the bar'. Our current team will strive to meet those expectations.

"You rebuild culture every year at the JUCO level. We have a process. After the season is over, we start training kids up on leadership. We go through a leadership study and then we choose captains." – Coach Shannon Flippin

Please read the full story here: <https://www.ncmctimberwolves.com/sports/wvball/2025-26/releases/Preview>

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Ben Crockett, President of Association of Faculty Professional Association and Biology faculty, provided updates from the faculty, who are excited to welcome students back to campus.

- During pre-semester meetings they heard from keynote speaker, Dr. Wil Cwikiel, who spoke to cultivating a campus where access, belonging and compassion are central values.
- Welcomed part-time Emergency Planning and Security Officer, Steven Keck. Steven has been collaborating with faculty on safety issues and providing his expertise.
- EMS and Nursing faculty shared the new availability of Narcan on campus. He thanked Marc Richards and the Administrative team who took the steps to make this accessible on campus.
- He expressed appreciation for Joe Balinski and the support he lends the faculty in preparing for the semester's classes.

Ben introduced English faculty Shae Long-Kish. Shae shared that because of the college's support of ongoing professional development of faculty, she has been able to donate her time to an indie publisher, Wild Ink. Students were given an opportunity to submit their writings of a modern take on fairy tales and many students submitted works. In July, three of our former NCMC students were published in a collection of poetry and short fiction, *Wickedness & Wonder*.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

AYES: Trustees Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Rasmussen, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

President Finley shared the following:

a. Passing of Patricia Jo Wright

NCMC English professor Patricia "Trish" Jo Wright passed away August 11, 2025.

Trish excelled at nearly everything she did. True to form, when she became an English professor at North Central Michigan College, she won the Teacher of the Year award three times. In addition to her full-time teaching position, she revived the student newspaper and served as its advisor.

A moment of silence was taken to pay respect, and condolences were extended to the Wright family and greater Boyne City community

b. Troy Slater Completes Term as MCCBOA President

President Finley reported that Director of Business Services, Troy Slater, has successfully completed his term as President of the Michigan Community College Business Officers Association (MCCBOA). He thanked Troy for representing North Central for the first time as a MCCBOA President – he did an outstanding job!

c. Welcome to New VPEM Katie Navock

President Finley introduced North Central's new VP for Enrollment Management, Katie Navock. Katie's first day was yesterday. President Finley noted that with Katie's hire, the reorganization is complete.

With over 20 years of experience in higher education, Katie has demonstrated strong leadership in enrollment, admissions, advising, and student recruitment at both two- and four-year institutions. Her ability to build K-12 partnerships, collaborate across departments, and streamline admissions processes reflects a strategic, student-centered approach.

Katie's career reflects a deep commitment to access, persistence, and service. Her leadership roles at institutions such as Ferris State University, Mid-Michigan College, and Brother Rice High School have consistently produced measurable results. She brings expertise in developing strategic plans, managing teams, using data to drive decision-making, and enhancing the student experience from inquiry to enrollment. Combined with a master's degree specializing in Enrollment Management and a long-standing dedication to collaboration and continuous improvement, Katie is qualified to lead and advance a comprehensive enrollment management strategy at the executive level.

d. Welcome to new Men's Basketball Head Coach and Sports Information Director

Athletic Director Ashley Antonishen introduced North Central's new Men's Basketball Head Coach and Sports Information Director, Nandy Lukusu, Jr.. Coach Nandy was brought in full time within the Athletics Department to fill both these roles.

Nandy is a Traverse City native. He has previously worked with the Grand Rapids Drive, the Pistons G-League Affiliate Team, and Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Gameday Operations. Nandy holds a BA in Sports Management from GVSU and an MBA in Sports Management from Bowling Green State University

His collegiate coaching career started at Bowling Green State University (D1) under Robyn Fralick, who is currently the Head Coach at Michigan State University. Nandy served as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Muskingum University (D3) and was interim head coach.

Everyone on campus who has already had the chance to meet Coach would agree with these words – he has an infectious positive energy and is already doing great work as our Sports Information Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach.

e. Welcome Back Week Kickoff Events

- Tip of the Mitt Scholars Reception – August 20
- Presidential Scholars Reception - August 21
- Welcome Back Week All Campus meeting – August 25
- North Central Day – August 28
- Residence Hall Move – August 28-30
- Classes Start – September 2

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Pretty shared that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, August 19 to review July Financials, CATEE Project Updates, progress report on the Early Learning Center, and the first draft of the dental hygiene clinic lease. He welcomed VP Zeidel back and thanked Troy Slater for his support in the interim. There are no motions at this time.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

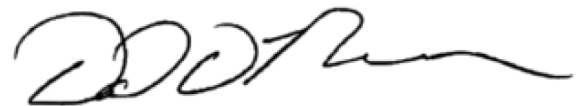
14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Trustee Etienne motioned, and Trustee Pretty supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

AYES: Trustees Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty, Rasmussen, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne



/S/ Daniel D. Rasmussen, Chairman



/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary