Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting for North Star Montessori Academy. Held in the North Star Montessori Academy Cafeteria on April 22nd, 2026 at 4:15pm

Members Present: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Marguerite Guter, Jessica Pfitzer, Derek Pugh

Others Present: Mary VanderMolen, Angela Chang, Taylor Gaudreau, Betty LaPointe, Michelle Kyles and Frank Patterson

1. The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Bowers at 4:15pm
2. A quorum of the board was established.
3. There were no amendments needed to the agenda.
4. Motion by Roger Zappa to approve the proposed Consent Agenda, supported by Jessica Pfitzer. Motion passed 4-0.
5. Public comment: None.

Consent Agenda

6. Chief Financial Officer Frank Patterson reviewed key highlights from the financial statements included in the board packet. He also informed the board that an updated budget for the upcoming school year will be presented at the May board meeting.
7. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the proposed Consent Agenda, supported by Derek Pugh. Motion passed 5-0.

Action Items

8. Approval of the 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Dates.
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen reviewed the proposed School Board meeting dates for the 2026–2027 school year, highlighting several key dates for board members to consider.
    b. **Board Member Comments: None.**
9. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Dates, supported by Marguerite Guter. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Approval of the 2026-2027 Marquette-Alger RESA Budget.
    a. **Board Member Comments: None.**
11. Motion by Marguerite Guter to approve the 2026-2027 Marquette-Alger RESA Budget, supported by Jessica Pfitzer. Motion passed 5-0
12. Approval of the revised 2025-2026 school calendar, including snow day adjustments.
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen provided the board with an update on the recent snow day situation, noting that North Star was granted an additional three days by the state of Michigan. This means the district will need to make up a total of four school days. She also updated the board on current legislation, including a proposed bill affecting all Upper Michigan schools.
    b. **Board Member Comments: None.**
13. Motion by Roger Zappa to approve the revised 2025-2026 school calendar, including snow day adjustments, supported by Marguerite Guter. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports/ Discussions

14. Strategic Planning/ Budget
    a. Enrollment: Principal Angela Chang provided an update on re-enrollment efforts for current students, including projections for how many are expected to return for the 2026–2027 school year.
    b. Staffing Needs and Retention: Superintendent Mary VanderMolen informed the board that the district plans to retain all current staff members for the 2026–2027 school year.
15. Career Fair
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen gave an update on the career fair that will happen on April 23rd.
16. Teachers First Report:
    a. Michelle Kyles from Teachers First provided the board with an update on the March PLC, including the topics that were covered. She shared that efforts are underway to establish a marketing committee for North Star, which is expected to begin next Wednesday. Michelle also updated the board on the Filter First grant, noting that the funds have been received, and reviewed the Benchmark Assessment grant that North Star will be receiving. Additionally, she highlighted several upcoming grant opportunities that will be opening soon.
17. Superintendent Report- Mary VanderMolen
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen provided the board with an update on the transportation department. She also reviewed recent marketing efforts undertaken by North Star over the past few months and shared details about upcoming events scheduled before the end of the school year. Mary announced that Tiffany Stevens will be receiving the Excellence in Education Award and recognized the lower elementary team—Abby Day, Tayler McGovern, and Kirsten Alburg—for their outstanding hard work and dedication.
18. Principal Report:
    a. Principal Angela Chang reviewed the professional development sessions held last week, including the topics covered with teaching staff. She also highlighted the recent Art and Talent Show, which featured participation from students across all grade levels. Angela shared details about the "Reading with the Rangers" program, noting strong engagement from elementary students and the park rangers' enthusiasm for partnering with North Star. She informed the board that re-enrollment for the upcoming school year has begun and provided a preview of a promotional commercial created by Cameron Nabors for North Star.
19. NMU Chart Schools Office Report:
    a. Betty LaPointe from Northern Michigan University provided the board with an update on Wildcat Camp, which North Star 6th graders will participate in this May. She also shared information about an upcoming conference that some board members will be attending.

20. Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 27th, 2026 at 4:15 pm
21. Public Comment:
    a. A concerned parent addressed the board regarding a situation that was brought at the previous meeting.
22. Board Member Comment:
    a. A discussion was held regarding the parent comment and the ongoing situation.
23. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to adjourn, supported by. Derek Pugh Motion passed 4 -0.
24. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Melissa Bowers

Melissa Bowers, NSMA Board Secretary

5-27-26

Date Approved