Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting for North Star Montessori Academy. Held in the North Star Montessori Academy Cafeteria on March 25th, 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, and Frank Patterson

1. The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Bowers at 4:17pm
2. A quorum of the board was established.
3. There were no amendments needed to the agenda.
4. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the proposed Consent Agenda, supported by Roger Zappa . Motion passed 4-0.
5. Public comment:
    a. A concerned parent addressed the board regarding an ongoing situation with her son who is in Upper Elementary. She agreed to allow Superintendent Mary VanderMolen to email the board with more details about the situation.

Consent Agenda

6. Financial Officer Frank Patterson gave a brief overview of the financial documents that were in this month's board packet.
7. Motion by Derek Pugh to approve the proposed Consent Agenda, supported by Jessica Pfitzer. Motion passed 5-0.

Action Items

8. Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen went over the proposed calendar for the 2026-2027.
    b. **Board Member Comments:** None.
9. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar, supported by Marguerite Guter. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports/ Discussions

10. Finalization of the Board Self Evaluation
    a. The board held a brief discussion about the Board Self Evaluation.
11. Teachers First Report:
    a. Michelle Kyles from Teachers First was unable to attend the meeting. Chief Financial Officer Frank Patterson went over some of the PLC that have occurred over the past few months. Frank let board members know that the administration reviews have been completed and that North Star is fully staffed.
12. 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Dates
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen proposed that board meetings for the upcoming school year be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. She reviewed the

proposed dates with the board, followed by a brief discussion regarding scheduling and which dates would work best.

13. MARESA Budget Review
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen reviewed the proposed Marquette-Alger RESA budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year with the board.
14. Superintendent Report- Mary VanderMolen
    a. Superintendent Mary VanderMolen informed the board that North Star has completed all requirements for the Filter First Grant. She also provided a brief update on the potential reimaging of the school district. Additionally, she reviewed staffing updates for the upcoming year and the reasoning behind those changes. Mary discussed the current snow day situation and how North Star, along with surrounding districts, is addressing those days. She also shared updates regarding compliance requirements that will need to be met by next year.
15. Principal Report:
    a. Principal Angela Chang provided the board with an update on March is Reading Month. She recognized Adrian Francisco for her outstanding work organizing the Tea Party for students. Angela also shared an update on the professional development that took place during a recent snow day, as well as the testing schedule for the remainder of the school year. She informed the board about proposed leadership team changes to grade levels for next year and the reasoning behind them. Additionally, Angela updated the board on the video Cameron Nabors has been working on. She concluded by reporting on the NMU monitors visit that occurred earlier in the day, noting that it was a very positive experience.
16. NMU Chart Schools Office Report:
    a. Betty LaPointe from Northern Michigan University expressed her satisfaction with the positive outcome of the monitor visit and the strong relationship between North Star and NMU. She also provided an update on an upcoming workshop scheduled to take place next month in Mount Pleasant.

17. Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026 at 4:15 pm
18. Public Comment: None.
19. Board Member Comment:
    a. A brief discussion was held regarding the public comment made earlier in the meeting. President Melissa Bowers provided an update on the Career Fair scheduled for April. The board also discussed member interest and the possibility of adding additional board members.
20. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to adjourn, supported by Marguerite Guter. Motion passed 5-0.
21. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Melissa Bowers

Melissa Bowers, NSMA Board Secretary

4-22-26

Date Approved