

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretty called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

PRESENT: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Shirilla that the agenda be approved as written with the addition of item 9.g. PTK Chapter Five-Star Status.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Kromm and supported by Trustee Wozniak that the minutes of the December 9, 2026, Regular Meeting, be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Trustee Fought

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

Leon Nash, Director of Campus Housing, introduced three of the six resident assistants for this semester:

- Allyson Loebach is from Engadine, in the Upper Peninsula. She received her associate's in general studies last semester and is picking up some additional credits this semester. She runs her own coffee shop in Naubinway.
- Anika Wolfe is from Midland, Michigan. She is studying general education and after this year she plans to join the Air Force.
- Lillian Stone is from East Jordan and will graduate with an associate's in general studies this spring. She plans to enroll in the nursing program here at North Central.

All students agreed that they enjoy being a Resident Assistant, which allows them to meet a lot of people, decorate their halls, and host a variety of events. They each are responsible for 19-24 students in their respective residence halls.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

a. NCMC Offers Summer Housing

On December 10, 2025, Janis Reeser of the Petoskey News Review (PNR) published an article about the summer housing NCMC will be offering for seasonal workers in Petoskey. Housing is available from mid-May to mid-August. Rates are \$29 per person per night for double occupancy and \$36 per person per night for single occupancy. Rooms are available for long-term rental only, with a minimum stay of 30 days.

The full story can be found here:

<https://www.petoskeynews.com/story/news/local/2025/12/10/workers-can-find-summer-housing-at-north-central-michigan-college/87628078007/>

b. Class of 2025 Nurse Pinning Ceremony

On Tuesday, December 23, 2025, Dave DeMille of the Gaylord Herald Times picked up the NCMC Press release celebrating the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. The December 11 ceremony honored 15 graduates, the college's second cohort since launching its Practical Nursing program.

The full story can be found here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/practical-nursing-class-of-2025-pinning.html>

c. NCMC expands Fast Track healthcare scholarships for 2026

The PNR, the Gaylord Herald Times and the Harbor Light News picked up the NCMC press release from December 17, 2025.

NCMC is expanding scholarship support for its Fast Track healthcare programs in 2026, strengthening access to short-term training that leads directly to in-demand jobs across Northern Michigan.

The expansion is made possible through generous donor support and is designed to help fill critical healthcare vacancies across the region. More than \$60,000 in scholarship support will be available in 2026, with funds ready now for Fast Track courses beginning this month and next.

A link to the press release can be found here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/fast-track-healthcare-scholarships-2026.html>

d. NCMC, UM-Dearborn announce new 2+2 elementary education partnership

On Friday January 16, 2026, Jillian Fellows with the PNR picked up the NCMC press release featuring the new agreement between North Central and UM-Dearborn.

This "2+2" elementary education partnership that will expand access to teacher-preparation programs for students across Northern Michigan while strengthening the region's education workforce.

Beginning in Fall 2026, students will be able to complete the first two years of their elementary education coursework at North Central before finishing the final two years of their Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education online through UM-Dearborn. The pathway

is designed so that students can complete all required coursework and a student-teaching placement in nearby schools, eliminating the need to relocate.

A link to the press release can be found here: <https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/ncmc-um-dearborn-elementary-education-partnership.html>

- e. NCMC's Winchell signs with Doane University
Wednesday, December 17, 2025, Drew Kochanny with the PNR highlighted NCMC sophomore volleyball standout Chloe Winchel.

After two amazing seasons in which she took over the Timberwolves Record Book, Outside Hitter, Chloe Winchell (Freeland), has signed with her next school, Doane University in Crete, Nebraska.

Winchell leaves North Central as one of the most decorated student-athletes to date. During her career she helped lead the Timberwolves to back-to-back playoff appearances in two winning seasons. She earned numerous awards along the way.

A link to the press release can be found here:
https://www.ncmctimberwolves.com/sports/wvball/Winchell_LOI

- f. Letter of Appreciation for NCMC support of Char-Em ISD's Transition Classroom
January 9, 2026, we received a letter from Char-Em Superintendent Scott Koziol. It reads as follows:

Dear Dr. Finley and the NCMC Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the Char-Em ISD Board of Education, staff, and Transition students, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the incredible hospitality NCMC has shown our staff and students over the last four months.

Providing our students with the opportunity to be on campus and learning in the newly established Transition Classroom has been a transformative experience for them and our program. Access to the college's apartment has allowed our students to practice essential independent living skills in a real-world setting, bridging the gap between classroom learning and true independence.

Furthermore, the opportunities provided to our students have been invaluable. We would like to specifically thank:

The Dining and Kitchen Staff: for mentoring our students in a fast-paced environment and teaching them the importance of teamwork and food safety.

The IT Services Team: For providing technical growth opportunities and allowing our students to contribute to the services provided by the team.

The inclusive environment at NCMC has made our students feel like true members of the "Timberwolf" community. This partnership does more than just teach skills; it builds the confidence our students need to succeed in their future careers and lives.

Thank you for your commitment to our partnership and for investing in the potential of our students. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

- Scott Koziol

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Ben Crockett, President of Association of Faculty Professional Association and Biology faculty, provided updates from the faculty:

- Steven Keck has provided impactful active shooter mitigation training sessions, and Ben expressed the faculty's gratitude for the informative training. Mr. Keck's training provided clear data, evidence-based strategies, and practical actions to take to help keep our campus safe and secure.
- In light of the recent tragic events in Minneapolis and elsewhere, faculty reaffirm their support for students and their right to peacefully protest. They look forward to continuing to work with college leadership to ensure all students feel safe on campus and have a venue to be heard.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. Welcome Back Week

On Monday, January 12th, we kicked off our Welcome Back Week in preparation for this semester's students. We welcomed new employees into the pack, provided updates on initiatives, and much more!

b. 2026 School Board Recognition

January is School Board Recognition Month, a time to honor and thank these publicly elected individuals for their untiring dedication to students. Each year Char-Em ISD recognizes the commitment it takes to serve on a Board of Education. Important decisions affecting thousands of students and families are made by these elected leaders, who give of themselves for the betterment of their schools and communities.

Thank you, board members, for your service to North Central Michigan College!

c. Nomination for Cheboygan's Organization of the Year

We are excited to share that North Central Michigan College has been nominated for Organization of the Year by the Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce. The awards dinner was held Saturday, January 24th. While we did not win, it is worth noting that in approximately 20 years since the Cheboygan Center opened, 2,632 Cheboygan High School *students* have attended NCMC, 4,455 Cheboygan *residents* have attended NCMC, and 806 Cheboygan residents have *graduated* from NCMC.

d. New Program – Nursing (AAS) LPN to RN Bridge Pathway

On Friday, December 5, the CRD/AP Committee recommended a new program: Nursing (AAS) LPN to RN Bridge Program. This rounds out the full complement of pathways to RN licensure at NCMC, further strengthening the program and demonstrating North Central's commitment to nursing. This program engages and advances the careers of local nurses,

fostering the depth of nursing readily available in our community. Adding this rung to the nursing career ladder allows local LPNs to continue working within the scope of their nursing license and meet community needs while they advance their nursing education.

President Finley noted he has given approval for this new pathway to the AAS in nursing, which represents an innovative approach to prepare students for a meaningful career. As an alternative pathway to an existing degree, it does not need Board approval. The CRD/AP Committee, and all who had a role in developing this program are to be commended!

e. New Program – Game Design Certificate

On Friday, December 5, the CRD/AP Committee also recommended another new program: Game Design Certificate. This Certificate offers a foundation in game design that allows for direct-to-workforce entry, while also seamlessly scaffolding into the A.A.S. in Digital Art and Design for students who wish to complete additional training before entering the workforce or transferring to a bachelor's program. The three-semester Certificate in Game Design also contributes to the current strategic plan by supporting several strategic goals.

President Finley noted he has given approval for this new Certificate in Game Design, which represents an innovative approach to prepare students for a meaningful career. It does not need Board approval. The CRD/AP Committee, and all who had a role in developing this program are commended!

f. Welcome new Digital Media Administrator

Catherine Coe, Digital Media Administrator, introduced our new Digital Marketing Administrator, Jasper Warner. Jasper is a Petoskey High School graduate and earned his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. He brings valuable experience with photography, digital content, and media creation that aligns well with how North Central connects with our students and community. Welcome to the team!

g. PTK Chapter achieves Five-Star Chapter Status

Congratulations to North Central's PTK student Chapter for achieving Five-Star Chapter status. This is a monumental milestone and a first in our chapter's history.

This achievement is the result of the hard work of both our 2024-25 and 2025-26 PTK board members. Over the past two years, these students have researched the importance of storytelling in students' lives, worked on meaningful service projects, and taken on extra-curricular learning opportunities (among many other things). It's been a lot of work, and their commitment has been truly inspiring!

Members include Aidan Burgess Hamm, James Greenier, Sakura Springborn, Grace Kujawski, Adeline Brehm, Sarah Hartley, Nissa Ann, Joseph Puzio, and Maria Crawford. A big shout-out goes to PTK Advisors, Kate Gardner, Erin Sonneveldt, and Chelse Hawkins Olivo, for leading these amazing students in their endeavors here at North Central

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Kromm noted that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Thursday, January 22, 2026 to review December Financials, the Tuition Rate Recommendation, and discuss the Dental Hygiene Clinic location and fundraising. Trustee Kromm provided the following backgrounds and motions:

- i.
- ii. Proposed Tuition Rates and Fees 26-27

Background: This is the time of year that we need to set tuition and other rates for fall semester of 2026, the winter semester of 2027, and the summer session of 2027. It is necessary to set rates for the ensuing semesters at this time to facilitate establishing the level of student financial aid for each of those periods.

Accordingly, I will offer a series of motions dealing with tuition, room rates, meal plans and the universal contact hour fee.

Trustee Kromm motioned and Trustee Shirilla supported that the tuition rates per contact hour for the fall semester of 2026, the winter semester of 2027, and the summer session of 2027 be:

In-District	\$157 per contact hour
Out-of-District	\$270 per contact hour
Out-of-State	\$340 per contact hour
In-district Nursing	\$197 per contact hour
Out-of-District Nursing	\$298 per contact hour
Out-of-State Nursing	\$379 per contact hour
In-District Dual	\$157 per contact hour
Out-of-District Dual	\$198 per contact hour
Concurrent H.S.	\$55 per contact hour
Concurrent NCMC	\$50 per contact hour

These rates reflect varying rates of increase from the prior year, which should be expected, with increases ranging from 3.29% for in-district students to 3.85% for out-of-district students. Dual and concurrent rates also increased for the coming year.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

Trustee Kromm motioned and Trustee Fought supported that the universal or single fee for the fall semester of 2026, the winter semester of 2027, and the summer session of 2027 be changed to \$38 per contact hour.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

Trustee Kromm motioned and Trustee Shirilla that semester / summer session dorm room rates for the fall semester of 2026, the winter semester of 2027, and the summer session of 2027 be:

Double occupancy	\$2,500
Single occupancy	\$4,000

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

Trustee Kromm moved and Trustee Fought supported that the meal plan rates for the fall semester of 2026, the winter semester of 2027, and the summer session of 2027 be:

Silver meal plan	\$1,200
Gold meal plan	\$1,575

Meal plan rates reflect an increase of 5.3 percent due to increasing food costs.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

iii. Dental Hygiene Clinic Building Purchase

Background: The college has been discussing the development of a dental hygiene program for some time. It became evident that such a program would require additional specialized space to be a viable program and that such space could not be constructed on the College campus in a timely manner to meet planned start of the program. As an alternative, the Petoskey area was surveyed for an acceptable owned facility that would meet the criteria of the program.

Such a facility has been located and is for sale. It is about six miles west of the campus on US 31 and is known as the Matthews Building. It has high visibility and plenty of parking. The price according to a proposed purchase agreement is \$2,500,000, with \$1,000,000 due upon closing and the balance due under terms of a land contract carrying a 6 percent interest rate, three years of monthly payments of about \$9,300, and a balloon payment at the end of the third year of approximately \$1,428,000.

The building will require renovation to operate as a dental clinic. Those modifications are projected to cost about \$5,000,000. The College plans to apply to the State for financial assistance to help finance the purchase and these modifications. Further, the Foundation is actively pursuing contributions for this purpose and has developed a schedule of recognition opportunities for the building for those making significant donations. A gift range chart that details these recognition opportunities has been provided to the trustees in advance of this meeting.

Trustee Kromm motioned and Trustees Shirilla and Keiswetter (via phone) supported that the College proceed with the purchase of the Matthew's building and property at a cost of \$2,500,000, with a \$1,000,000 down payment at closing and the execution of a land contract in the amount of \$1,500,000 carrying a 6 percent interest rate and a balloon payment at the end of a three-year period.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

iv. Comprehensive Naming Plan – Dental Hygiene Clinic

Trustee Kromm motioned and Trustees Wozniak and Fought supported that the College adopt the comprehensive naming plan presented by the Foundation, encompassing the full scope of the project and including significant contributions ranging from \$10,000 to \$5,000,000. This comprehensive naming plan will guide the Foundation's efforts to raise funds in support of this effort.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

b. Personnel Committee

Trustee Shirilla noted that the Personnel Committee met virtually to discuss a proposed new Foundation Board Member.

i. New Foundation Board Member

Background: The college's Foundation by-laws require Foundation board membership be approved by the Board of Trustees. The Foundation Board recently voted to recommend approval of one new Foundation board member. The Personnel Committee has received and reviewed the Foundation board's recommendation to approve Dr. Mark Mercer for this position. VP for Advancement and Foundation Executive Director Chelsea Platte provided a brief background of Dr. Mercer.

Trustee Shirilla motioned and Trustee Kromm supported that the Board approves appointment of Dr. Mark Mercer to a three-year term on the Foundation Board, effective immediately. This three-year term runs through the end of 2028.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

11. OLD BUSINESS. None.

12. NEW BUSINESS. None.

13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT. None

14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Trustee Fought motioned, and Trustee Wozniak supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

AYES: Trustees Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Kromm, Pretty, Shirilla, and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Etienne

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith A. Pretty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a decorative flourish at the end.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa Keiswetter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a decorative flourish at the end.

/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary