

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretty called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

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

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Etienne and supported by Trustee Shirilla that the minutes of the April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting be approved as written.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

President Finley asked VP for Enrollment Management, Katie Navock, to introduce our two new Outreach Recruiters who are vital to our recruitment efforts.

Annelisa Price is a recent North Central graduate, having earned her associate's degree in communication just two and a half weeks ago. Anna sang the national anthem during the commencement ceremony.

Jacob Mansfield is a 2018 graduate of Lansing Community College where he studied welding. Prior to joining our team, Jake worked as a customer service representative at a local insurance agency, where he worked through the challenges of assisting clients with damages from the recent floods.

Anna and Jake were welcomed by the board.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

a. NCMC Athletics Banquet – April 30

On April 30th, the Timberwolves concluded the 2025-2026 season holding the annual Varsity Athletics Banquet. Coaches handed out team awards and special presenters announced the department award winners.

The program also took a moment to honor Coach Andy Place who passed away this winter. Coach Andy's family was presented with a Lifetime Impact Award

The Female & Male Athlete of the Year awards went to Taylor Hafeman from Women's Volleyball & Dakota Taylor from Men's Cross Country.

I want to take a moment to congratulate all the nominees and award winners and thank Athletic Director Ashley Antonishen and crew for a job well done.

Read the full press release here:

https://www.ncmctimberwolves.com/general/Banquet_Recap

b. NCMC Salutes Class of 2026

On May 13, 2026, Jillian Fellows with the Petoskey News Review published a front-page article featuring North Central's 2026 Commencement festivities. 290 students earned their diplomas, and their achievements were celebrated on Friday, May 9th. In addition, there were 281 Fast Track Completers, and 97 corporate training participants

The day started with a Nurse Pinning Ceremony, where 26 student nurses received their pins, followed by a reception for them and their families.

An afterparty immediately following the ceremony gave everyone a chance to celebrate with their family and friends.

The full story can be found here:

<https://www.petoskeynews.com/story/news/education/graduation/2026/05/12/north-central-michigan-college-salutes-class-of-2026-during-graduation/90030696007/>

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Association of Faculty and Professional Services (AFPS) President Dr. Ben Crockett shared that the AFPS selected two colleagues for the annual Outstanding Person in Education (O.P.I.E.) Award.

Professor Anne Morningstar consistently demonstrates deep devotion to both her discipline and learning experiences unfolding in her classroom. She is reliably present for her students, encouraging their inquiry, thinking alongside them, and offering strong models of excellence through her own examples of scholarly work. Students feel genuinely heard and supported in her classes, which is evident in the way they seek her out beyond the classroom.

Dr. Joelle Drader, North Central Counselor, exemplifies a deeply student-centered approach in every dimension of her work. She has created meaningful and accessible opportunities for students, staff and faculty to engage in programs that promote wellness, resilience, and personal growth. In addition to providing direct counselor services, she has expanded access to care beyond her own capacity by implementing programs like Timely Care 24-7 and adding a student care coordinator to her team, ensuring students can receive timely support when they need it.

The board congratulated the O.P.I.E Award recipients.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. PTK Members Awarded 2026 MI Regional Scholarships

I received an exciting message from Kate Garder, who is North Central's Instructional Designer as well as PTK Chapter Advisor, along with Erin Sonneveldt and Chelse Hawkins-Olivo. Kate shared that two of our Phi Theta Kappa members, Sophie Kieliszewski and Adeline Brehm, were awarded 2026 Michigan Regional Scholarships at the PTK regional conference on Mackinac Island on May 1st.

The region awarded five competitive scholarships of \$250 each, and Sophie and Adeline were selected from applicants across the Michigan region. As part of the application process, students submitted a short essay and secured a letter of recommendation from a PTK advisor.

We're so proud to see our PTK members recognized at the regional level for their academic excellence, leadership, and hard work. Congratulations, Sophie and Adeline!

And thank you to Kate, Erin, and Chelse, who continue exceptional support to our students!

b. CMA Progress Luncheon

The cohort of Medical Assistant Fast/Track students participated in a luncheon event on April 12. We do this while they're on campus in clinicals to celebrate progress. At this special event, held in Conference 1 & 2, the students got to meet potential employers from across the region.

c. Michigan New Jobs Training Agreement

Dean of Workforce and Continuing Education, Cassandra Hernandez, provided report on three new Michigan New Jobs Training partners.

The Michigan New Jobs Training Program is a tool employers can use to utilize state tax withholdings taxes that employees pay. If they generate new jobs, they can reinvest those state income taxes into a restricted fund here at the college. They can then use those funds to invest in training employees.

New contractual agreements have been reached with Moran Iron Works, Birchwood Construction, and Walstrom Marine.

d. CATEE Project Progress

Progress on the Martin Jahn Technology Center continues apace, with building occupancy expected in late July. An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the end of August, following installation of furniture and equipment.

We expect to obtain occupancy of the HESC renovation and expansion at the end of October, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to be held shortly thereafter.

e. Future Dental Clinic Location Purchase

The college closed on the building located at 5783 Charlevoix Avenue on April 30th. This building will be renovated to house our dental hygiene clinic, as well as office spaces for the dental hygiene staff. We plan to go out for bids in September, with construction/renovations to begin early 2027. The trustees were invited to tour the building immediately following this meeting.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Fought shared that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, May 19 to review April Financials, review progress on the CATEE Project construction, and the 2026-2027 proposed tentative budget.

i. 2026-2027 Tentative Budget

Background: This is the time of year that the board needs to consider a tentative general fund budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The required public hearing has been held and now the Board needs to act on the budget.

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Keiswetter that BE IT RESOLVED that the Board adopt a Tentative General Fund Operating Budget in the aggregate amount of \$22,394,308 for the College's fiscal year starting July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. To cover the budget, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board levy the maximum ongoing charter millage calculated at 1.0178 mills of ad valorem property taxes. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board levy the voted operating millage of 0.9141 mills. The operating millage levy was approved by the voters of Emmet County during November 2016 for a period of ten years.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

a. Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met Thursday, May 21, to discuss President Emeritus nominations, the closure of grievance 25-26-02, and the retirement of Full-Time Faculty member, Gary Kersting.

i. President Emeritus Nomination

Background: On Thursday, April 16, 2026 President Finley received an email was from Chet Jessick, Chair of the Emeritus Committee, nominating Dr. Cameron Brunet-Koch for the rank of President Emeritus at North Central Michigan College.

In addition to the nomination for Dr. Cameron Brunet-Koch, President Finley presented us with similar nominations for former presidents Al Shankland and Robert Graham.

Trustee Shirilla shared the following resolution:

WHEREAS, North Central Michigan College has benefited from the extraordinary leadership, vision, and dedication of its past presidents; and

WHEREAS, Al Shankland served as the founding leader and first president of North Central Michigan College, guiding the institution from its earliest planning stages through decades of growth and development, establishing a strong foundation for the College and the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, Robert Graham served as President of North Central Michigan College from 1989 through 2001, providing steady leadership, advancing critical facility improvements, leading successful millage campaigns, and helping establish the North Central Michigan College Foundation as a vital source of support for students and institutional advancement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cameron Brunet-Koch served as President of North Central Michigan College from 2001 through 2018, leading the College through a period of transformational growth, expanded regional presence, innovation, student success initiatives, and statewide and national recognition; and

WHEREAS, each of these individuals demonstrated an unwavering commitment to higher education, student success, community engagement, and the mission of North Central Michigan College; and

WHEREAS, the designation of President Emeritus is reserved for former presidents whose leadership and service have had a profound and lasting impact on the institution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of North Central Michigan College hereby confers the honorary title of President Emeritus upon Al Shankland, Robert Graham, and Dr. Cameron Brunet-Koch in recognition of their distinguished leadership, dedicated service, and enduring contributions to the College; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the legacy each has left upon North Central Michigan College, its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the communities it serves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Board of Trustees as a permanent tribute of respect and appreciation.
Adopted this 26th day of May, 2026.

It was moved by Chair Shirilla and supported by all trustees present that this resolution be adopted as written.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

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 Fought supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Keith A. Pretty".

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa Keiswetter".

/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary