MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Chairman Pretty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:
   PRESENT: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter, Kromm, Pretty and Wozniak
   ABSENT: Trustee Shirilla

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

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Keiswetter that the minutes of July 28, 2026, Regular meeting be approved as written.

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

5. STUDENT SUCCESS
   President Finley welcomed NCMC alumna Grace Bishop. Grace is a proud North Central Michigan College graduate (2019) and member of the College's second-ever Early College cohort. As a fifth-year graduate, Grace continued her educational journey at Northern Michigan University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 2021. She completed her student teaching at Petoskey High School and went on to further her education by earning a master's degree online through the University of Nebraska in 2023, followed by an Educational Specialist certification from Grand Canyon University in 2025.

   Today, Grace is giving back to the region through her work as a science educator. She teaches science at Gaylord High School, her alma mater, and also serves as an instructor at North Central Michigan College, where she teaches BIO 101 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her path reflects a strong commitment to education, lifelong learning, and supporting students at both the high school and college levels.

   When reflecting on her time at North Central, Grace fondly remembers taking courses with Isis Arsnoe and spending time working in the Natural Area. Those experiences helped shape her academic journey and remain meaningful highlights of her connection to the College.

6. COMMUNICATIONS
   President Finley shared the following communications:
   a. Thank you note from Char-Em ISD

David,

I would like to thank you and your staff for the wonderful hospitality you provided for all of our transporters [bus drivers] *and our recent back-to-school meeting. Your facilities – internal and external* [Main parking lot and two classrooms on Thursday, August 27], *coupled with the central location, made for such a perfect place to meet. Please thank your staff for me.*

With much appreciation,
Jim Rummer

b. NCMC Millage Renewal on November Ballot

Both Harbor Light News and Petoskey News Review picked up the press release issued by North Central on July 16, 2026. On the November 2026 ballot, North Central will ask Emmet County voters to approve a millage renewal & restoration of property tax revenue back to what was approved in 2016 to maintain current college services.

You may find more information on the millage here: https://www.ncmich.edu/millage/

c. NCMC expands skilled trades offerings

Both Petoskey News Review and Harbor Light News picked up a July 28 press release from North Central. This fall, North Central is expanding the skilled trades offerings with new hands-on training opportunities designed to help meet growing workforce demand across Northern Michigan's construction and manufacturing industries.

In addition to offering welding, CNC machining, and HVACR in the new Martin Jahn Technology Center, we have also launched a new carpentry program in partnership with the Greater Michigan Construction Academy and Birchwood Construction. Through the public-private partnership, students will receive industry-aligned instruction and practical experience, preparing them for entry-level employment and continued training in the skilled trades.

You may read the full press release here: https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/skilled-trades-carpentry-partnership.html

d. Martin Jahn Technology Center Grand Opening

Both Petoskey News Review and Harbor Light News picked up an August 11 press release about the grand opening of the Martin Jahn Technology Center. North Central celebrated the grand opening of the new Tech Center with a community ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 31, marking a major milestone in the college's $22 million Career and Technical Education Enhancement (CATEE) project. The skies cleared just in time, and we had a great celebration.

You may view the full press release here: https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/martin-jahn-technology-center-grand-opening.html

e. NCMC Alum – Rachel's Story: A Dream Realized

The Summer issue of *Resourceful* from the Women's Resource Center of NoMI, featured NCMC graduate Rachel Grindle in the story: *A Dream Realized*. As a single mother of two, Rachel never stopped dreaming of finishing college. That dream became reality when Rachel enrolled at North Central and connected with Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan's Educational &

Employment Services (EES). In 2025, Rachel graduated with her Associate of Science in Nursing. Today she is living her dream as a hospice nurse, caring for patients and their families during some of life's most impactful moments.

f. NCMC expands mental health

On September 9, 2026, North Central's Counselor, Dr. Joelle Drader was interviewed by UpNorthLive for a segment on the expansion of mental health services at the college. The first day of school also marked 988 Awareness Day. Three mental health nonprofit organizations were on hand offering free resources, and students got involved by painting kindness rocks for the school's rock garden. For the next two months, students, employees and community members are invited to make mental wellness a priority this fall with a series of free Talk About It Tuesdays.

The news feature may be viewed here: https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/ncmc-expands-mental-health-support-with-988-awareness-day-events-and-weekly-talks.

g. NCMC presents President Emeritus titles and Founder's Society Award

On September 15, 2026, North Central issued a press release as four exceptional leaders were honored this summer. Former North Central presidents Al Shankland, Robert Graham and Cameron Brunet-Koch were awarded the distinguished title of President Emeritus at this year's President's Circle. And at this semester's Welcome Back Week All-Campus meeting, former chief academic officer, Christine Hammond, received a Founder's Society Award. We are proud to honor these individuals for the lasting mark their vision, service and commitment to student success have left on the institution.

The full press release can be viewed here: https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/presidents-emeritus-founders-society-honors.html

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Tom Zeidel, Vice President for Finance & Facilities, was asked by Chair Pretty to provide a financial report for August 2026. Tom certified that the financials as of August 2026 are within the adopted budget for 2026-27.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. MOUs with Ferris State University

Two Memorandums of Understanding have been drafted with Ferris State University. An MOU with the College of Pharmacy establishes a transfer pathway from the Associate of Science in Biology degree at North Central to the Michigan College of Optometry program at FSU and it's Doctor of Optometry (O.C.) Degree. An MOU with the College of Pharmacy establishes a clear, cooperative transfer pathway for NCMC Students who wish to pursue earning a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. This pathway also provides the option of earning a Pharmaceutical Science, BS degree. A signing is scheduled for mid-October.

b. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society honors Chelse Hawkins Olivo

PTK has honored our Director of Admissions, Chelse Hawkins Olivo, for five years of service as advisor of the Alpha Omicron Upsilon Chapter. PTK expressed their gratitude for her

services to PTK over these many years and honored her with a pin. Chelse, was thanked for her service and dedication to our students!

c. NCMC's EMR/MFR and EMT Program receives MDHHS STAR Letter

North Central's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs have been recognized by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) with its Superior Testing Achievement Recognition (STAR) for outstanding student performance.

This recognition reflects the dedication of our faculty and the hard work of our students," said Brent LaFaive, dean of Nursing, Health Sciences and Public Safety Programs. "Preparing competent, compassionate EMS professionals is central to our mission, and we're proud to see our students' success recognized at the state level.

d. Jen Wixson receives MCCA 2026 Outstanding Faculty Award

At this year's MCCA Summer Conference on Mackinac Island, our very own Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator and Full-Time Faculty member, Jennifer Wixson, was presented with the 2026 Outstanding Faculty Award, one of the association's highest honors recognizing professional achievement and dedication to Michigan's community college mission.

e. 3rd Annual Timberwolf Leadership Academy begins

The third annual Timberwolf Leadership Academy began last Thursday, September 17th. This six-session academy is designed to support emerging student leaders by providing comprehensive training in leadership principles and skills and fosters a collaborative learning environment that encourages innovation and personal growth, preparing participants to assume leadership roles with integrity and impact in their future careers and communities. Thirty-four students participated in the first Academy session.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Fought shared that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, September 15. In addition to reviewing August financials, the committee discussed three items of business that resulted in the following motions:

i. Dental Hygiene Equipment

Background: The dental hygiene project is progressing, and it is now time to execute a contract for dental equipment for that facility. Bids were requested from three vendors; two responded, Henry Schein and Patterson Dental Supply.

The Henry Schein bid of $1,349,061.93 was $6,656.48 lower than Patterson Dental Supply's bid. Further, Schein offered price protection against anticipated price increases expected during early 2027 with a 10 % deposit and free warehousing of the equipment until January 2028 when the remaining balance of the contract would be due and the equipment become available for installation. This schedule would fit the anticipated construction/renovation timetable. Also, the local dental community is supportive of the service provided by Schein.

Trustee Fought motioned and Trustee Keiswetter supported that the College proceed with the purchase of dental equipment from Henry Schein at a cost of $1,349,061.93 with the payment of a deposit of 10% of the purchase price, or $134,907.00 to be made as soon as possible.

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

ii. Amendment to President Finley's Employment Contract

Background: It is customary that the president's contract be amended annually, effective at the beginning of each school year, in recognition of changing economic conditions.

The finance and personnel committees have both reviewed the proposed fiscal 2026-2027 contract amendment. It is now ready for presentation to the Board and included with the board packet.

Trustee Fought motioned and Trustee Keiswetter supported that the employment contract between Dr. David R. Finley and the College dated July 1, 2024 be approved as amended effective July 1, 2026.

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

iii. Best Practices – Local Strategic Value

Background: Each year the College is required to report to the State how it is meeting "best practices" identified by the State in three categories, economic development, education, and community service. Each category has five "best practices." The report is required by the State School Aid Act, Section 230, which also requires that the College board certify that the best practices have been met. This certification is critical for state appropriation purposes.

Staff has done an excellent job in preparing the 2026-27 report, a copy of which is part of the board packet. The Board must now act on the report.

Trustee Fought motioned and Trustee Kromm supported that the Board hereby certifies that the College meets the Best Practices standards required by for State appropriations under Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act as documented in the College's Local Strategic Value Table for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

11. OLD BUSINESS. None.

12. NEW BUSINESS.

Foundation Report – VP for Advancement and Foundation Executive Director, Chelsea Platte
For FY2025–2026, North Central Michigan College raised $4,640,028, including the $2 million match, exceeding its annual fundraising goal of $4 million. The College also surpassed its donor goal, receiving support from 418 donors compared to a goal of 400 or more. Looking ahead to FY2026–2027, fundraising is already underway, with $1,122,553 raised to date, representing 28% progress toward the $4 million goal. Donor participation is also progressing steadily, with 128 donors, or 32% of the annual goal of 400 or more.

Support for the Dental Hygiene initiative remains strong, with $3,881,629 raised to date, including the $2 million match. The College successfully met the first match milestone by securing $750,000 cash-in-hand by September 15, 2026, and is now 30% of the way toward the second milestone of raising an additional $1,250,000 cash-in-hand by September 15, 2027. As of August 10, 2026, total assets under management across all funds were $22,241,555. This includes 65 endowment funds - 63 for scholarships and two for programs - as well as seven term endowments or funds functioning like endowments, including four scholarship funds and three program funds.

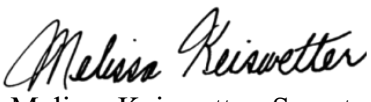
13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT.
    Erick Haight, Psychology Faculty, and on behalf of Association of Faculty and Professional Staff, thanked President Finley for sharing the news of the recent passing of former North Central Librarian Eunice Teel. To her colleagues, Eunice was an invaluable resource and wonderful friend, and to the students she was a wealth of knowledge, compassion and joy on a daily basis. Eunice will be greatly missed.

14. ADJOURNMENT.
    There being no further business, Trustee Fought motioned, and Trustee Etienne supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

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



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



/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary