NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution Censuring Board President Matt Wilk & Removing Him from the Office of Board President

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Northville Public Schools, Northville, MI, was held at 6:30 p.m. on the 21st day of July 2020.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Prescott and supported by Member Jankowski.

WHEREAS, in light of recent social media comment and posts by Board President Matt Wilk were abhorrent and not in any way authorized or endorsed by the other six Board members, and do not reflect their views or considerations, and

WHEREAS, such comments and posts were made and/or publicly available at a time when Mr. Wilk, as Board President, served as Board spokesperson, and yet he failed to appropriately and timely disclaim his comments and posts as not being those of the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, the nature of the comments and posts have caused disruption to school district operations, impaired the reputation of the District, unfairly tainted the work of the District’s Task Force on our Return to School Plan, and eroded community trust; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that Mr. Wilk’s social media comments have made it impossible for him to function as a positive contributor as President or Board member; and

WHEREAS, the Board lacks legal authority to remove Mr. Wilk from the Board or to prevent him from voting on the District’s Return to School Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

1. The July 21, 2020, minutes shall state that the Board completely, without reservation, disavows the specific Facebook posts and comments of Board President Matt Wilk recently brought to the Board’s attention, and any similar such statements and posts, concerning the Return To School Plan and associated considerations;

2. The Board finds that Mr. Wilk ignored his special responsibilities as Board President and failed to monitor or reflect upon the highly likely adverse effect of his unauthorized comments on the ongoing work of the District, and also finds that, as spokesperson for the Board, such comments and posts, absent a clear qualifying statement, were not consistent with the Board’s Standards of Practice. As a result, this resolution shall be considered a censure of Mr. Wilk’s actions in his capacity as Board President;

3. Effective immediately, pursuant to Board By-Law Article II, Section 7, Mr. Wilk shall be removed as Board President, and Mr. Roland Hwang, shall serve as President until a successor is appointed by the Board. As President, Mr. Hwang shall remove Mr. Wilk from any assignment in which he serves as a representative of this Board.
4. The Board reiterates that its Return to School Plan(s) will consider all of the following, as applicable at the time, although no one factor shall be controlling in and of itself:

   a. Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
   b. State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidance
   c. State of Michigan Executive Orders
   d. Michigan Safe Schools 2020-21: Return to School Roadmap
   e. Michigan Safe Start Roadmap
   f. CDC guidelines, as applicable
   g. Data about COVID incidence and trends within our region and district
   h. The recommendations of the 130 person Task Force, of which no Board trustee or officer is a President
   i. Community (including parent and staff) input
   j. Survey results of our community
   k. Medical opinions
   l. Educator opinions about the need for students to return to school
   m. The position(s) of the Board’s collective bargaining units
   n. Such other relevant data as may be available at the time of the Board’s decision

5. The Board pledges to continue and reinvigorate its efforts to attain greater equity so that all students, staff and community feel welcome, embraced, and supported, within our District as valued members of the Northville Public Schools;

6. The Board’s actions within this resolution shall be inserted within the minutes of the meeting.
AYES: Jankowski; Lynn; Prescott; Doner; Hwang; Jaafar

NAYS: Wilk

The resolution has been adopted/rejected. Motion carried 6-1 (Wilk - nay)

Date: July 21, 2020

Secretary, Board of Education
Northville Public Schools

As the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education for the Northville Public Schools, Northville, Michigan, I certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Education at a meeting held on July 21, 2020, the original of which is a part of the Board’s minutes. I further certify that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, M.C.L. § 15.261, et seq.

Secretary, Board of Education
Northville Public Schools