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## Northport hires two teachers

Northport Public School will begin the school year with two new teachers.

At a special meeting Friday morning, the board approved the hiring of Jill M. Walker of Grand Rapids as a fulltime second- and third-grade teacher, and Kristine M. Irvine of Northport as a half-time Spanish teacher. The vote was 6-0, with trustee Alan Woods absent.

Superintendent Tyrus Wessell said the hirings will make Northport fully staffed for the school year, which begins on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Walker is a 2004 graduate of Aquinas College, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in general education while majoring in learning disabilities. She is currently working on a master's degree in special education, with an emphasis in administration. Walker anticipates completing her Master's work before the end of the end of the 2007-08 school year.

Walker is certified in all subjects grades K-5, physical education K-8, and learning disabilities K-12. She has been a special education teacher at Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids since January 2005. At Kenowa Hills, she was also the girls' freshman basketball coach in 2005, and the seventh grade girls' volleyball coach in 2006-07. She was a student teacher in 2004 at Oriole Park Elementary School in Wyoming, Mich., and did her special education student teaching at the same time at Comstock Park High School.

Irvine has a Master's degree in teaching English from Eastern Michigan University and earned a Bachelor's degree in human resource development from the University of Detroit, where she graduated cum laude. In addition to running the summer reading program at the Leelanau Township Library this summer, Irvine has eight years of teaching experience.

From 1999 to 2002, she taught Spanish and English as a second language at The Leelanau School. She taught English as a second language at the Pacific Language Institute/Embassy CES in San Diego, Calif. in 1988 and 1999, and taught similar classes at the Palomar Community College in San Marco, Calif., and at institutes in Mexico from 1994 through 1998.

Wessell said the board also briefly discussed Northport's kindergarten program as part of the special meeting. He said nine children are currently enrolled for kindergarten this fall.

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