

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

August 11, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

"Building Better Futures for Children and Communities"

"This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda item as, "introduction of guests."

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM by President Rosenbaum.

Members Present: Borkholder, Danberry, Hochstetler, Rosenbaum

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

A. Jill Pagels

Mr. Wolff introduced Jill Pagels. Mrs. Pagels serves the district as a 4th grade teacher. She has also participated in the LETRs Training initiative to improve literacy based on the science of reading. This evening Mrs. Pagels is also presenting on behalf of the NEA MEA. The board thanked Mrs. Pagels for her service to the children of the district.

III. Correspondence:

A. MARSP

Local MARSP representative Gayle Brokaw inquired about the district offering a program highlighting the parks collaboration and Stone School progress. After much discussion it was decided to hold off on presenting highlights of the improvements made so far, until such a time that the inside of the building reaches a state of readiness for guests to see.

B. Phishing Attempt

Treasurer Danberry received a phishing attempt from from a mal-actor impersonating President Rosenbaum's email. Danberry turned the matter over to the SJCISD tech consortium. Mr. Wolff read a correspondence from the department noting that the situation was handled and praised the board for being aware of phishing attempts. .

IV. Presentations if any:

Following the Consent Agenda, Mrs. Pagels presented an NEA negotiations response.

V. Consent Agenda

All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless there is a request from a board member to remove an individual agenda item (or items) from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and possibly voted upon separately. All agenda items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be placed under Action Items.

A. Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2025 Board of Education Meetings

B. Approval of Financial Report.

C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$ 134,165.77 through July 30, 2025.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 4-0.

VI. Action items

A. Update on NEA MEA negotiations

Mrs. Pagels presented a counter to the board of education's offer of 1 step and 1% increase to schedule A. The board and the NEA both noted that they are in a difficult position as the state has completed a July 1 constitutionally mandated budget. Both the board and NEA acknowledged their appreciation for the work done by the other. The NEA then presented a request for 1 step and 2% increase to Schedule A and a proposed addition to Schedule B of a Student Teacher Mentor Stipend of \$200 per college semester. The board decided to go into closed session to discuss negotiations and to address the superintendent's request for closed session concerning applications for employment.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to move into closed session to discuss NEA proposal and review applications for employment at 7:58 PM.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes; Motion Carried.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to return to open session at 8:21 PM.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes; Motion Carried.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to accept the 2% with step increase to the salary proposal from the NEA as presented 8/11/25. Motion Carried 4-0.

B. Applications for Employment: Superintendent requests closed session.

C. Recommendation for hire: Teacher Applicant: Rachel Miller

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to hire Ms. Rachel Miller as 7th grade homeroom, self-contained 7th-8th grade math and science teacher, pending state approval. Motion Carried 4-0.

D. Recommendation for hire: Associate Teacher: Ella Stevens

Motion by Borkholder, support by Danberry to hire Ella Stevens as GSRP Associate Teacher contingent upon continuation of her CDA. Motion Carried 4-0.

E. Recommendation part-time internal long term PE sub: Joshua Falkenstein.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to hire Joshua Falkenstein as part-time internal long term PE Substitute Teacher, contingent upon state approval. Motion Carried 4-0.

F. Superintendent Evaluation Goals

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to approve superintendent goal to create a curriculum catalog. Motion Carried 4-0.

VII. Information items

A. Early Elementary Building (4 Year Old Preschool)

Mr. Wolff provided an update on progress with opening the building, noting that following an August 14th inspection that one of the final steps would be an environmental health review.

B. Operational Millage Renewal

An article was shared from Wilcox Newspapers concerning election results. Nottawa was highlighted, "The widest margin of victory of the evening was for Nottawa Community School, where 78.43 percent of voters voted for approval of renewing its 18 mill non homestead operating millage." The board of education noted their appreciation for the community and the businesses within the Nottawa District that provide local public education for their children, children of their employees, and children of the community.

C. Theresa Danberry: Important Updates to Board Operations

Treasurer Danberry provided an overview of MASB training and recommendations about improvements to be made to board operations. The discussion centered around a continuous process of making steady improvements to policy and practice of the board to the benefit of the district. An example given was a bylaw update to duties of treasurer. There was consensus to continue in subsequent meetings to make manageable and steady improvement to policy and practice of the board.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder to amend bylaw policy 0171.4 regarding Treasurer responsibilities delegating duties to the person acting as the district's business official or to an assistant to the extent allowed by the law. Motion Carried 4-0.

D. GSRP Open House

Mr. Wolff reported the continued excitement and preparations for the GSRP Open House from 3-6 PM on Thursday, August 14th. He encouraged any and all board members available to come and visit. It was also noted that state representatives from MiLEAP would be onsite earlier that same day to conduct an inspection for licensing.

E. Legal Update(s)

A regular monthly update from THRUN, district legal counsel was shared.

VIII. Other

Motion by Borkholder, support by Rosenbaum to send Theresa Danberry to MASB from October 23 through the 26th with costs to be split with the St. Joseph County ISD as she will be attending meetings for both. Motion Carried 4-0.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM. Motion Carried 4-0.

VISION

“Nottawa Community School will encourage the involvement of parents and community to embrace a shared purpose in the education of our students to become problem solving, responsible, and contributing members of society.”