

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

June 9th, 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

- A. Required Reading of PA213.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by President Rosenbaum.

Members Present: Borkholder, Brandon, Danberry, Hochstetler, Rosenbaum

II. Introduction of guests:

No Guests were present

III. Correspondence:

- A. ISD Board Election Results

Mr. Wolff read a correspondence from Teresa Susdorf reporting the results of the ISD board election. Therese Danberry was elected to a six year term to the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District.

- B. Mr. Bud Krawczak

Mr. Wolff read a letter from Bud Krawczak officially announcing his retirement following 39 years of service to the Nottawa Community School District. In his letter, Mr. Krawczak thanked the board, staff, students and administration. The board expressed their appreciation for years of faithful service to the school and families of Nottawa. This retirement is effective June 30th, 2025

A letter was read from Dennis Pollard, PC updating the district on the status of the continued emphasis to enforce 1979 PA 101 and introduce a section 29 to Headlee requiring legislative mandates for education to be funded.

IV. Presentations if any:

- A. Budget Presentation for School Year 2025-2026

Mr. Wolff presented the actual 2023-2024, final 2024-2025, and proposed 2025-2026 budgets to the board of education. The Fiscal Services Manager, Karen Bojanich, prepared a detailed budget and outlined 22 points of interest. Board President, Ron Rosenbaum, advanced the agenda to Action Item A, before returning to the Consent Agenda.

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 May 12, 2025 Board of Education Meetings
- B. Approval of Financial Report.
- C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$70,826.44 through May 21, 2025.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 5-0.

VI. Action items

- A. School Budget for 2025 - 2026 School year

Motion by Brandon, support by Rosenbaum, to approve the 2023 Actual, 2024-2025 Final, and the 2025-2026 Proposed Budgets. Motion Carried 5-0.

- B. Annual approval of L-4029 Tax Rate Request Form

The board discussed the importance of operational millages to the reasons for an equalized roll back of millages and sinking funds expressing appreciation for the need and continued support of local public education.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to approve the L-4029 Tax Rate Request. Motion Carried 5-0.

- C. Purchase Card PO 6423: Early Childhood Administrator, Amanda Beery

Per board policy 6423, the need for Early Childhood Administrator, Amanda Beery, to carry out business creates a need for her to be able to make necessary purchases on behalf of the district.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to approve a purchase card and update staff list in Policy 6423 to include Early Childhood Administrator Amanda Beery as a district authorized user. Motion Carried 5-0.

- D. Consent for repairs
 - 1. Curb for drainage to new building
 - 2. Bus Barn Drainage
 - 3. Staff Lounge
 - 4. Book House Steps

Mr Wolff suggested the board offer its consent for necessary time sensitive projects that needed approval. All repair projects were considered urgent items or emergency items. All items were below the bid threshold, however for the purpose of transparency these items were reviewed. Consent is provided.

- E. Finalization of Superintendent Evaluation

Secretary Borkholder presented the final score for the superintendent evaluation completed in March. Based upon the new scale, Superintendent Jerome Wolff, earned a 92% or 2.76, and a rating of effective.

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Brandon to accept Jerome Wolff's superintendent evaluation of 2.76 (92%) as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.

- F. Parking Lot Seal and Stripe

It is time to seal the parking lot. As part of a shared use agreement for the Bus Garage, the ISD has supported this maintenance by contributing 30% to the cost of this maintenance as part of a mutual agreement for use. Striping will change to accommodate parking near the new early education building.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to approve LT Sealcoating to seal and stripe the parking lot at a cost of \$4900. Motion Carried 5-0.

G. Study Nook Approval of second unit

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to approve the purchase of a second study nook in the amount of \$4600 with general funds. Motion Carried 5-0.

H. Cleaning Service, Replacement of Enviro Clean

Three bids for a 3rd party cleaning service were presented as the current service provider, Enviro Clean, will cease providing cleaning services to its contract locations in Southwest Michigan effective June 30, 2025. No action was taken, however the board is presently giving consideration to two of the bids presented.

I. District Signage (Mock-ups and proposed pricing)

After discussion concerning the materials, quality, and service being offered in directional signage bids trustee Brandon provided a recommendation for consideration.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to approve district signage as presented from Signworks at the price of \$6300. Motion Carried 5-0.

VII. Information items

A. Update on NEA MEA negotiations

President Rosenbaum and Treasurer Danberry reported that the subcommittee met with NEA MEA representative Jill Pagels and presented a counter offer of a step and 1%, which was explained as the strongest offer the board would be able to make without a state budget. Mrs. Pagels consulted with other members of the union and returned with a response that the union will wait in anticipation of a resolution to the state budget. The board and NEA MEA will meet again at a date to be determined.

B. Update: Job Postings

1. Early Childhood Education
2. General Education

Mr. Wolff reported that thus far 16 applications have been received for the early childhood positions and that interviews would begin next week. Additionally, with Krawczak's retirement there is a new posting to fill the vacancy.

C. Early Elementary Building (4 Year Old Preschool and Young 5's)

Progress continues to be made on the building. We are hopeful that we will have occupancy by the end of month.

D. Hourly Wage Compensation

Mr. Wolff reported that updates are being made to the hourly compensation board guidelines to account for the new minimum wage requirements, and the changes created by new ESTA regulations.

E. PowerSchool's Data Breach Update

The school's deductible for PowerSchool's Data Breach will be paid over time by the district for any potential legal fees resulting from the company's international breach. The deductible is set at \$15,000 before insurance assistance begins.

F. Theresa Danberry: Important Updates to Board Operations

Danberry gave a brief explanation of the plan to work through updates to board operations. Each month the board will take a focused look at 1 or 2 items for improvement.

G. Legal Update(s)

A legal update from THRUN was shared.

VIII. Other

President Rosenbaum and Treasurer Danberry added the 2025-2026 Superintendent Contract to the agenda. Mr. Wolff advised that without the NEA MEA agreement settled that it would be in the best interest of the board to hold off on a contract approval at this time. Danberry advised that they were aware of this but that they had already decided to proceed with a 3% raise. Danberry noted that this is less than the step and 1% which is presently offered to teachers.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to approve the Superintendent's contract as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Motion Carried 5-0.

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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."