

# **Nottawa Community School**

## **Board Meeting**

**May 12th, 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**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Rosenbaum.

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

A. Required Reading of PA213.

#### **II. Introduction of guests:**

- A. The board recognized Kelley Dechnik who serves as Financial Superintendent of the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District. Mrs. Dechnik will be presenting the proposed ISD Budget for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

The board recognized Jill Pagels. Mrs. Pagels serves the district as 4th grade teacher, and is representing the Nottawa Education Association. The board thanked Mrs. Miller for her service.

#### **III. Correspondence:**

- A. ISD Board Election Correspondence was read. The ISD is requesting districts to appoint electors to cast a vote on June 2, 2025 between the hours of 5:30 and 5:45 PM to cast votes for two open seats on the board of education for the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District. President Rosenbaum advanced the agenda to items C and D.

#### **IV. Presentations if any:**

- A. Kelli Dechnik St. Joseph County ISD

#### **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 April 14, 2025 Board of Education Meetings
- B. Approval of Financial Report.
- C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$27,701.50 through April 28, 2025.

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

#### **VI. Action items**

#### A. Collective Bargaining NEA MEA

Mrs. Pagels presented the requests of the NEA MEA for 2025 - 2026 contract negotiations. The received the request and will seek a budget evaluation of the request with the business office. Board members noted appreciation for the request being presented prior to June, and that the written request included a chart showing the NEA's proposed changes to the salary schedule.

#### B. ISD Proposed Budget

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to support the ISD General Budget Resolution.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- Yes; Brandon- Yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes;  
Motion Carried 5-0.

#### C. Theresa Danberry, ISD Board of Education

Discussion was held regarding the candidacy board member Theresa Danberry for an open seat on the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District. Theresa described her service to public education and explained that holding simultaneous seats on the Boards of Education for the Nottawa Community School District and the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District is allowed. Danberry said that if the board is agreeable to her seeking this position that she will abstain from any votes that would be considered a conflict of interest. The board gave consent to Danberry's earlier decision to run for the open seat.

#### D. ISD Board Election

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder for the resolution to designate Audrey Borkholder as the elector representative of the Board of Education to the ISD board election on June 2, 2025, and to cast votes for candidates Patricia Keller, and Theresa Danberry. Further, the alternate elector shall be Ron Rosenbaum.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- Yes; Brandon- Yes; Danberry- Abstain; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes;  
Motion Carried. 4-0-1.

#### E. District Signage (Mock-ups and proposed pricing)

The board discussed mock-up proposals for directional signage submitted by Design Works and Sign Center. There were a number of details missing from one of the quotes. Trustee Hochstetler requested clarification on the materials and qualities and what that might mean with respect to pricing. Trustee Brandon and Mr. Wolff will look for further clarification to make an informed decision at the next board meeting.

#### F. School Bus: Recommendation to remove Bus 02 from fleet.

After a review of the problems with bus 02 it is more advantageous for the district to scrap the inoperable bus as the transmission is broken, the starter motor is failed and the rust will prevent a green tag reinspection.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to remove bus 02 from the fleet. Motion Carried 5-0.

#### G. Cobra Insurance Coverage

Mr. Wolff explained that his wife, Linsey Wolff, is retiring from Centreville Public Schools on May 30th. She will be seeking disability retirement from public education. Her separation from the district will result in a loss of insurance. Mr. Wolff is requesting the board of education pay for the costs of COBRA coverage. This would be for a period of time between Linsey's separation from the school district and approval for family retirement health insurance.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to approve COBRA Insurance coverage until ORS retirement benefits kick in, or until COBRA runs out, whichever comes first. Motion Carried 5-0.

#### H. Liability Insurance Coverage Increase

Due to inflation, increase in number of employees and the addition of a modular building Karen Bojanich, Fiscal Services Manager, secured a quote to increase liability coverage from 4 to 5 million dollars. The increase in coverage add \$2,100 to the district's annual premium.

Motion by Danberry, support by Brandon to increase liability insurance coverage to \$5,000,000. Motion Carried 5-0.

### **VII. Information items**

#### A. Operational Budget Renewal

Mr. Wolff reported that the operational budget renewal information and ballot language was turned into the election coordinator with time to spare. We look forward to placing the question of operational millage renewal before the voters in August.

#### B. Update: Job Postings for Early Childhood Education

Mr. Wolff reported that job postings have already garnered interest in the form of 6 applications. The intent is to confirm members of the interview committee this week and acknowledge receipt of the applications collected thus far.

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

Progress on the building continues. The main hurdle at this time is a combination of completing inspections and uploading paperwork.

#### D. Kindergarten Round-up

Kindergarten round-up was successful. We are planning a full kindergarten for the coming school year. We also have a small number of children for Young 5's kindergarten and additional leads for GSRP..

#### E. Board Member Compensation Forms

Mr. Wolff passed out Board Member Compensation Forms. There were some questions on updating information for the business office. Mr. Wolff will speak with the business office and gather the required information.

#### F. Internet Content Filtering and Alternate Internet Update

A list of content filter subjects and white list websites was shared with the board of education, additionally the beta test for alternate internet continues in third grade. At this time we plan to have alternate internet for grades 3 and 4 next year.

#### G. PowerSchool's Data Breach Update

Work continues on the PowerSchool data breach. The SJCISD Technology Consortium is working with McDonalds Hopkins law firm to mitigate PowerSchool's breach of district data.

#### H. 8th Grade Graduation

Plans for 8th grade graduation are well in hand. Board members are invited to attend, Wednesday May 21st. Graduation starts at 6:00 PM.

#### I. Enviro Clean

Enviro Clean will be concluding its service June 30, 2025. The district is seeking to secure a new custodial service.

#### J. Legal Update(s)

Mr. Wolff shared monthly legal updates provided by THRUN Law.

### VIII. Other

### IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Motion Carried 5-0.

### 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."*