

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

October 13, 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 7:07 PM by President Rosenbaum.

Members Present: Brandon, Danberry, Hochstetler, Rosenbaum

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

- A. Mr. Wolff introduced Olivia Kurajian, parent, local attorney, and volunteer with interest in fund raising. Mr. Wolff also introduced Mrs. Joanie Schram, veteran second grade teacher with 40 years of loyal service to the community, who also serves as social fund coordinator for the staff. The board thanked both ladies for their helpfulness and attendance. (Mrs. Kurajian brought a charcuterie board in honor of Canadian Thanksgiving. The food was enjoyed by all.)

III. Correspondence:

A. SBA Letter

A School Board Association letter was shared reminding board members of the opportunity to to attend the SBA Meeting at Constantine Community Schools on Thursday October 16th. The program will consist of Discussion on Technology and the Anxious Generation, ILD department updates, overview of alternative education program offerings, and legislative updates.

IV. Presentations if any:

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 September 8, 2025 Board of Education Meetings
B. Approval of Financial Report.
C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$49,118.86 through September 25, 2025.

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

VI. Action items

- A. Request for leave of absence.

A request for a medical leave of absence was made by Mrs. Day, the district's art teacher. After reading the request Mr. Wolff offered a recommendation to accept the request stating that the district would be able to provide a substitute during the leave.

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Rosenbaum to approve the leave of absence request for Pandora Day through January 5, 2026. Motion Carried 4-0.

B. Recommendation for Tenure

Mr. Wolff presented two letters recommending approval of tenure for teachers Berry and Pagels. In addition, the NEA shared a letter noting no objections to Beery's dual roles as an educator and administrator.

1. Beery
2. Stryker

Motion by Danberry, support by Brandon to approve/grant tenure for Beery and Stryker effective immediately. Motion Carried 4-0.

C. Storage Recommendation

The board reviewed a 4-point recommendation for storage solutions to free up room on campus and clean-up the Stone School. Step 1 is to remove and as able recycle unneeded items is complete as a little over 12 yards of unneeded materials have been removed. Step 2 is a recommendation to add a trailer for storage of tables and chairs, stage, risers, and tents. Step 3 is a recommendation for pallet storage shelving in the bus barn, and Step 4 is a recommendation to reorganize the lawn and maintenance equipment with flexible wall storage in the bus barn. The trustees and Mr. Wolff will collect more specific information and prices for steps 2 and 3 and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

D. MIAEYC Conference Request

Mrs. Beery submitted a request for early childhood, GSRP and Kindergarten, to attend the MIAEYC Conference this March. The estimated cost is approximately \$1500. This conference would provide helpful professional training as we continue to develop the district's early childhood programs.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to approve the attendance of the early childhood team to the MIAEYC Conference. Motion Carried 4-0.

VII. Information items

A. Representative Carra's meeting with local education leaders

Treasurer Danberry shared notes from a meeting that took place this morning at the St. Joseph County ISD in which Representative Carra shared his views, opinions, and vision for public education.

B. Early Elementary Building (4-Year-Old Preschool)

Mr. Wolff shared that full occupancy has been approved and that soon the power over ethernet will be installed for the PA system.

C. Updates on State Budget

A state budget has been approved. The budget is being reviewed and as soon as we have program allocations we will review and revise the district budget.

D. Update on fundraiser suggestion to treat hard water.

Since September Mr. Wolff met with Ken Malone of Advantage Water to have a water test and discuss needs. Ken provided advice about the proper order for any potential water quality improvements the district may want to consider. Mr. Wolff and trustees Hochstetler and Brandon will discuss Ken's recommendations and contact mechanical plumbers to learn more about the scope and sequence of a potential water project.

E. Parking Lot Improvements

1. New Signs (School Vehicles, Maintenance, Bus Drivers)
2. *Stone School Exit
3. Additional Parking (Employees)
4. Traffic Flow (M 86 Shoulder Request)
5. Long Range Planning (Lot repairs, new gravel/slag parking Stone School)

Improvements to the parking lot, overflow parking, a potential driveway extension, and pick-up safety were discussed. Further exploration will be given to these ideas and improvements to the Stone School exit will happen soon.

F. Theresa Danberry: Important Updates to Board Operations

The operational improvements were discussed. Fall NEOLA policy updates will be presented next month.

G. Legal Update(s)

Following information items, A and C there was no further discussion.

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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."