

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

September 8, 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 7:01PM by President Rosenbaum.

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

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

- A. Robyn Krawczak
- B. Mary Borkholder
- C. Olivia Kurajian

Mr. Wolff introduced Robyn Krawczak who serves as federal program grants coordinator, Mary Borkholder who serves as English Language Development Teacher, Faith Hopper who serves as 8th grade home room teachers, and Olivia Kurajian student parent and volunteer.

III. Correspondence:

A. Letter from Dr. Rice concerning millage renewal

Mr. Wolff read a form letter from MDE Superintendent Dr. Rice and State Board of Education President Dr. Pugh congratulating the district on renewal of the operational millage.

B. County Wide Letter to Families and Staff Concerning State Funding

Mr. Wolff shared an open letter of concern drafted on the letterhead of the St. Joseph County Intermediate School district and signed by every Local Education Agency Superintendent within the ISD. The open letter, addressed to families and staff, lists concerns that the state legislature has failed to provide a school budget on time and continues to delay. There was discussion about how long Michigan's public schools would be able to operate without funding.

IV. Presentations if any:

A. Multi Lingual Learner Presentation

Ms. Borkholder gave a presentation entitled, *Multilingual Learners: Assets to Our District*. In the presentation Ms. B (as she is known) shared her role as an ELD teacher, highlights and benefits of multilingual education, and the important contributions made to our school, community, and state by multilingual learners. Not only is this work to the benefit of students it is a requirement under both federal and state law. There was a time for questions and discussion provided at the end of the presentation. The board thanked Ms. Borkholder for her presentation and service to the children of the school.

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 August 11, 2025 Board of Education Meetings
- B. Approval of Financial Report.
- C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$81,495.61 through August 29, 2025.

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

VI. Action items

- A. Update to Hourly Employee Compensation Scale Handbook

Motion by Rosenbum, support by Brandon to approve updates to the Hourly Employee Compensation Scale Handbook. Motion Carried 5-0.

- B. Storage Recommendation

Discussion continued about storage needs. Mr. Wolff advised that he would like to take a sequential approach to relieve the limited storage space by first recycling metal, then disposing of obsolete items and materials. Finally he will develop a plan for reorganizing storage. The board asked Mr. Wolff to gather quotes for a storage 14 to 16 foot trailer to be used for chairs, risers, stage materials. The board will revisit progress next month.

VII. Information items

- A. Fund Raiser Thoughts

Mr. Wolff introduced Mrs. Olivia Kurajian. Mrs. Kurajian, addressed the board, thanking the board and others present for the work they do. Kurajian described herself as a new parent to the school district having a daughter in 4th grade. Kurajian told the board about her interests and professional work as a lawyer. She is interested in volunteering, particularly in the area of fund raising. One potential project she brought to the board's attention was a need to address the highly mineralized water. Although the water is clean and safe it stains the fixtures and is hard on the pipes. She would like to explore a fund raising project with the intent of improving the water quality, look of the bathroom fixtures, and potentially other needs associated with these improvements. Kurajian noted that while she was not a volunteer to cook, or help in the garden, she has a knack for reading, research, and fund raising. The board was very receptive to Mrs. Kurajian's suggestions. Treasurer Danberry advised that any potential fund raisers for the district are to be done within board policy. Trustee Hochstetler inquired about the effect of potential hard water solutions on existing pipes. Trustee Brandon inquired about the scope of a project and wanted to understand if one project would lead to another. President Rosenbaum acknowledged the concerns about what we want to do versus what we are able to do with respect to the priorities of our current sinking fund. Kurajian suggested that if the board were open to fund raising that whatever is decided could be both specific and broad enough to encompass unforeseen needs related to the suggested hard water solutions. Treasurer Danberry recommended a written plan from Kurajian, and Treasurer Hochstetler recommended Mr. Wolff and Trustee Brandon research needs and Mr. Wolff to share those with Kurajian prior to the writing of a proposed fund raiser.

B. Early Elementary Building (4 Year Old Preschool) First Week

The early elementary building is complete.

C. Theresa Danberry: Important Updates to Board Operations

Treasurer Danberry continued the board discussion on important updates based on MASB training. The board discussed a plan to regularly review and consider updates, improvements, and recommendations gathered from MASB in small manageable portions allowing time to implement manageable continuous improvements to policy and practice. Following this conversation the board discussed po 0163 about which officer acts in absence of the Board President. Mr. Wolff noted that most school districts have a seven member board, but some, including Nottawa, have a five member board and so this duty does not fall to a vice president. Currently this duty falls to the secretary who is also tasked with keeping the motions, as a result the board was also having the treasurer assist in this role. The board discussed revising this role in policy to be the treasurer in absence of the president.

Motion by Borkholder, support by Brandon to amend bylaw: po 0163 so that when the Board President is absent the Treasurer will act instead of Secretary to lead the meetings. Motion Carried 5-0.

D. Parking Lot Space

Mr. Wolff presented a parking lot video at the start of the meeting. The group discussed the fullness of the lot. It is nice to see the parking lot being put to use. Mr. Wolff will continue to look for parking improvements.

E. Legal Update(s)

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

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 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.”