

December 15, 2025

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 in the Newaygo High School Library. Vince Grodus, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vince Grodus, Reid Sherwood, Jami Schultz, Sara Rivera-Cronk, Thomas Frisbie, Bruce Gracik and Mary Spicer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Mr. Ben Gilpin, Superintendent
Mrs. Christina Wetherell, Admin. Assistant
Mrs. Kim Bidwell, Business Manager
Ms. Gena Dietz, High School Principal
Mr. Kyle McAlister, Middle School Principal
Mr. Rick Hatfield, Middle School Assistant Principal
Mr. Jim Smith, High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Andy Cox, Elementary School Principal

Visitors: 10

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of December 15, 2025.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Monthly Trial Balances
- C. Accounts Payable Listing

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None.

Superintendents Reports

Personnel – Resignations & Retirements

The Board was notified of the following resignations and retirements:

1. Jeff Benson – Elementary Aide - Retirement
2. Kim Bidwell – Business Manager, CFO – Retirement
3. Denise Allarding - Cook

Personnel – Recommendations to Hire

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk to hire the following individuals as recommended by the Administration:

1. Jennifer Grugett – Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
2. Teresa Gillis – Substitute Bus Driver
3. Elyssa Knapp – Substitute Bus Driver
4. Payton Beattie – Floater Cook
5. Sherry Davis – Academic Interventionist

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Informational Items

1. Finance and Budget Update:

Mrs. Kim Bidwell, Business Manager, gave the Board an update on the finances of the District to include a breakdown of her proposed budget amendments for the General Fund and Food Service Fund.

Administrative Matters

For Action:

- A. Resolution D2 Approval – 31aa Funding Opt In

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the Resolution D2 Approval – 31aa Funding “Opt In” as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

- B. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Bonds Series II

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Schultz, to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of bonds – Series II, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

2025-2026 Budget Amendment Approval

Motion by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the 2025-2026 budget amendments for the General Fund and Food Service Fund, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

D. Special Needs Bus Purchase Approval

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, to approve the purchase of a special needs school bus, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

E. Purchase of School Bus

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the purchase of a school bus, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

F. Transportation Office Roof Repair Approval

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to approve the proposal from Hastings Exteriors to replace the roof on the Transportation office roof, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

G. Therapy Dog Policy

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, to approve the proposed language of Therapy Dogs to be added into policy 8390, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Frisbie made a statement honoring the late Sally Reed, long time cook for NPS.

Closed Session – Student Discipline Hearing

Motion by Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to move into closed session for the purpose of a student discipline hearing.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 6:39pm

Return to Open Session

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to move into open session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 6:59pm

Board Decision

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to expel Student 051A from Newaygo Public Schools for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year with conditions presented by Principal Dietz.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Closed Session – Reinstatement Hearing

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to move into closed session for the purpose of a reinstatement hearing.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:04pm

Return to Open Session

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to move into open session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:19pm

Board Decision

Motion by Mrs. River-Cronk, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to reinstate student 048A to Newaygo Public Schools with conditions recommended by Principal Gena Dietz.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Closed Session – Attorney Client Privileged Communication under OMA Section 8(1)(h)

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to move into closed session for the purpose Attorney Client Privileged Communication under OMA Section 8(1)(h).

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:26pm

Return to Open Session

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to move into open session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Rivera-Cronk, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 8:58pm

January Regular Meeting Date Change

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to change the January 19th regular board meeting to January 12th, 2026.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to adjourn the meeting.

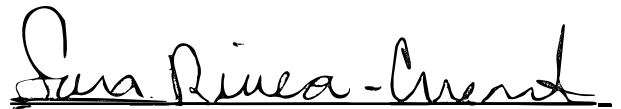
VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 8:59p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sara Rivera-Cronk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Sara Rivera – Cronk Board Secretary