

March 17, 2025

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, March 17, 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, Jami Schultz, Sara Smith, Bruce Gracik, Thomas Frisbie and Mary Spicer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Reid Sherwood

Also Present: Ben Gilpin, Superintendent
Kim Bidwell, Business Manager
Christina Wetherell, Administrative Assistant
Andy Cox, Elementary Principal
Allison Hug, Elementary Assistant Principal
Kyle McAlister, Middle School Assistant Principal
John Bull, High School Assistant Principal

Visitors: 21

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to approve the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of March 17, 2025.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Monthly Trial Balances
- C. Accounts Payable Listing

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Spicer, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None

Presentations from the Floor

A. High School Update – Mr. Francis, High School Teacher, gave the Board a presentation proposing a new class on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the next school year.
Superintendent Gilpin announced that Lisa Piccard, High School Counselor, has been chosen to receive the I Care Award in May.

Superintendents Reports

Personnel – Resignations, Retirements & Lay-Offs

The Board was notified of the following retirements, resignations and layoffs:

1. Debra Stanley – Cook
2. Deb Carpentier – High School Aide
3. Jennifer Hurtle – High School Art Teacher, Retire – 25 years
4. Bethanie duChemin – High School Math Teacher, Retire – 20 years
5. Jim Smith – Middle School Principal, Retire
6. John Bull – High School Assistant Principal, Retire

Personnel – Recommendations to Hire

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to hire McKenzie Deems as an Elementary Aide, as recommended by the administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Mr. Fosburg, Athletic Director, gave some information about the interview process for the football coaching position and informed the Board of David Lange's background and experience.

Mr. Gracik stated he would be voting no on this hire.

Motion by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Ms. Smith, to hire David Lange as Head Varsity Football Coach, as recommended by the administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 1

Motion: Carried

Informational Items

1. Finance and Budget Update:

Kim Bidwell, Business Manager gave the Board a summary of the finances of the district.

2. Update on Vera Wilsie Property:

Mr. Gilpin gave an update on the progress of the Vera Wilsie project.

3. Committee as a Whole/Sub-Committees Discussion:

The Board had a discussion about the pros and cons of sub-committees as well as working as a Committee as a Whole.

Administrative Matters

For Action:

A. Wireless Network Upgrades

Walter Aslakson, NPS Technology Director, explained his proposal to enter into a contract with Vector Tech Group for wireless network upgrades.

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to approve entering into a contract with Vector Tech Group for wireless network upgrades, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried

B. Band Camp Approval

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the band camp request as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried

C. Senior Class Trip

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to approve the senior class trip request as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items Not on the Agenda

Four members of the public addressed the Board.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Spicer, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried
Time: 7:14p.m.


Jami Schultz, Board Secretary