

May 19, 2025

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025 in the Newaygo High School Library. Vince Grodus, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vince Grodus, Jami Schultz, Sara Smith, Thomas Frisbie and Mary Spicer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Reid Sherwood and Bruce Gracik

Also Present: Ben Gilpin, Superintendent  
Kim Bidwell, Business Manager  
Christina Wetherell, Administrative Assistant  
Andy Cox, Elementary Principal  
Allison Hug, Elementary Assistant Principal  
Jim Smith, Middle School Principal  
Gena Dietz, High School Principal

Visitors: 31

#### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Spicer, to amend the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of May 19, 2025, to add the following and approve the proposed amended agenda:

Resignation of Jon Nelson, Middle School Math Teacher – Item #7A-4 and the approval of the Band Summer Camp on June 10<sup>th</sup> – Item #8H.

#### VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Monthly Trial Balances
- C. Accounts Payable Listing

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

#### VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None.

## Presentations from the Floor

A. Chief Andres gave the Board a presentation on the SRO contract renewal which is due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

B. Melissa Hreha, NES Literacy Coach, gave the Board a presentation on the Amplify curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

C. Nate Thomasma, High School History Teacher, presented a class proposal for next school year to the Board – History of American Sports.

## Superintendents Reports

### *Personnel – Resignations*

The Board was notified of the following resignations & retirements:

1. Garret Simons – Academic Interventionist
2. Taylor Byrnes – Middle School Aide
3. Jason Long – Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
4. Jon Nelson – Middle School Math Teacher

### *Personnel – Recommendations to Hire*

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

1. Cassie Watson – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
2. Courtney Steers – Summer ESY Teacher
3. Jeff Bauer – Boys Varsity Basketball Coach

### VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

### *Informational Items*

#### 1. Presentation of Retirees

The following staff were recognized for their years of service to Newaygo Public Schools:

Julie Berwald – 26 years of service

Bethanie duChemin – 20 years of service

Jennifer Hurtle – 25 years of service

Mary Schisel – 25 years of service

Pam Barton – 25 years of service

#### 2. Presentation of Scholarship

High School Principal Gena Dietz and Board President Grodus presented scholarships to a high school senior and recognized his academic achievements.

#### 3. Finance and Budget Update:

Kim Bidwell, Business Manager gave the Board an update on the finances of the district.

## Administrative Matters

For Action:

A. NCRESA 2025-2026 General Fund Budget

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the NCRESA 2025-2026 General Budget, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

B. NCRESA 2025 Biennial Election Resolution

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the Resolution for the Newaygo County Regional Service Agency's election of board members indicating Mary Spicer as our voting representative, and Bruce Gracik as our alternative voting representative, with the following candidates for the following terms:

- Reid Sherwood: 6 year term
- Jenna Zeerip: 6 year term
- Emily Salacina: 4 year term
- Nicole Klomp: 4 year term

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

C. Athletic Overnight Camps

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the following athletic overnight camps as presented:

Newaygo Cross Country Team: August 17-20

Newaygo Girls Basketball Team: June 18-20

Newaygo JV & Varsity Volleyball: July 14-16 and July 20-22

Newaygo JV & Varsity Football: June 20-21

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

D. NPS Logo Approval

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Frisbie to approve Option 1 proposed update, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Spicer to approve Option 2 proposed update, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve Option 3 Letter “B” proposed update, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### E. SRO Contract Renewal

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the SRO contract renewal, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### F. 2025 Tax Rate Request Form L-4029 Millage Request Report to County Board of Commissioners

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Schultz, to approve the 2025 Tax Rate Request Form L-4029 Millage Request Report, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### G. Amplify Curriculum Approval

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the full implementation of the Amplify curriculum for the fourth grade, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### H. Band Camp Approval

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the Band Camp proposal allowing the Newaygo Band to attend the Blue Devils Experience in Mishawaka, IN on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### Public Comments – Items Not on the Agenda

One member of the public addressed the Board.

#### Superintendent Presentation

Mr. Gilpin gave the Board a presentation to be used as part of his superintendent evaluation which is scheduled to take place at the next regular board meeting.

#### Adjournment

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

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:26p.m.



Jami Schultz, Board Secretary