

Proposed

August 18, 2025

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, August 18, 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, Thomas Frisbie, Reid Sherwood, 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. Andy Cox, Elementary Principal
Ms. Allison Hug, Elementary Assistant Principal

Visitors: 33

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of August 18, 2025.

Ms. Smith rescinded her motion.

Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to amend the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of August 18, 2025, to remove Item#7B-5, the recommendation to hire a MTCC & Assessment Director, and approve the proposed agenda.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. July 21, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

B. Monthly Trial Balances

C. Accounts Payable Listing

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

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

One member of the public addressed the Board.

Presentations from the Floor

Community Partner Recognitions – Superintendent Gilpin

Several community businesses were recognized for their contributions and ongoing partnership with Newaygo Public Schools. Mr. Gilpin explained that the recognition of local partnerships is something that the district plans to continue emphasizing throughout the years moving forward.

Green School Certifications

Mr. Goebel explained that NPS was recognized as a “Green School” at all building levels for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bond Update

Mr. Ben Globke, Project Manager from The Christman Company, gave the Board an update on the construction progress.

Superintendents Reports

Personnel – Resignations, Retirements and Terminations

The Board was notified of the following resignations:

1. Autumn Hutchinson – Elementary Academic Interventionist
2. Amber Cooper – Middle School Cook
3. Rachel DeBeau – 3rd Grade Teacher
4. Kortni Wiltfang – Elementary Aide
5. Tami Maring – Bus Driver
6. Ashlee Hook – High School Aide
7. Jacob Mayle – Elementary Aide
8. McKenzie Deems – Elementary Aide

Personnel – Recommendations to Hire

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

1. Nancy Van Hall – Middle School Math Teacher
2. Amy VanHarten – 3rd Grade Teacher
3. David Lange – Field Care & Athletic Facilities Manager
4. Amanda Wood – Middle School Secretary
5. Director of MTSS & Assessment

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Building principals introduced new staff to the Board.

Informational Items

1. Finance and Budget Update:

Kim Bidwell, Business Manager presented a finance update to the Board.

2. Board Work Session

The Board discussed possible dates for a board work session. The Board determined they would hold a special board meeting on September 22nd at 6pm for the purpose of a board work session.

Administrative Matters

For Action:

A. 2025-2026 Student Handbooks

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the 2025-2026 Student Handbooks with the necessary changes to school start and end times, as recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

B. 2025-2026 Athletic Code of Conduct

Mr. Fosburg explained the proposed changes/additions to be made to the current Athletic Code of Conduct Handbook.

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the 2025-2026 Athletic Code of Conduct, as presented.

The Board discussed the options that were presented for the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Mrs. Schultz rescinded her motion.

Motion by Mrs. Spicer, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the 2025-2026 Athletic Code of Conduct with option B/option 2 for the first proposed section update and option b for the second proposed section update, as presented.

VOTE:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

C. Athletic Field Robotic Painter Approval

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the Turf Tank Proposal for the Athletic Field Robotic Painter, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

D. MASB Delegate Assembly – Voting Delegate & Alternates

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Schultz, to select Mary Spicer as the voting delegate for the MASB Delegate Assembly on October 23rd and Vince Grodus as the alternate voting delegate.

VOTE

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items Not on the Agenda

Five individuals addressed the Board.

Closed Session

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to move into closed session under MCL 15.26(e) to consult with legal counsel on the case Lemson v. Newaygo Public Schools.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Frisbie, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Ms. Smith, Aye.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried
Time: 7:15pm

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to return to open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus, Aye; Mr. Frisbie, Aye; Mr. Gracik, Aye; Mrs. Spicer, Aye; Mrs. Schultz, Aye; Mr. Sherwood, Aye; Ms. Smith, Aye.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried
Time: 7:49pm

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Carried
Time: 7:56p.m.

Jami Schultz, Board Secretary