

June 16, 2025

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025 in the Newaygo High School Library. Vince Grodus, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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
Gena Dietz, High School Principal
John Bull, High School Assistant Principal

Visitors: 13

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Smith , seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of June 16, 2025.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - 2. May 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
 - 3. May 15, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
- B. Monthly Trial Balances
- C. Accounts Payable Listing
- D. 2025-2026 MHSAA Membership Resolution
- E. 2025-2026 School Calendar/First Day of School

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

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Ms. Smith, to rescind the previous motion and to approve the consent agenda items A, B, C and D, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar, item #4E, as presented.

The Board had discussion regarding late start Mondays.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

One member of the public addressed the Board.

Presentations from the Floor

A. Melissa Hreha, NES Literacy Coach, gave the Board her annual presentation on the elementary literacy program.

B. Gena Dietz, High School Principal, presented 6 class proposals for next school year to the Board.

Superintendents Reports

Personnel – Resignations, Retirements and Lay-Offs

The Board was notified of the following resignations, retirements and lay-offs:

1. Jennifer Larsen – Elementary Academic Interventionist
2. Latasha Hathaway – Elementary Aide
3. Laureen Thorne – High School Aide – Retire
4. Jon Nelson – Middle School Math Teacher
5. Jeff Bauer – 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
6. Nancy Van Hall – Middle School Math Teacher - Retire
7. Tim Horton – Elementary Behavior Interventionist
8. Sherry Davis – High School Academic Interventionist
9. Samantha Carrico – High School English Teacher

Presentation of Retirees

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

Laureen Thorne: 31 years of service

Nancy Van Hall – 20 years of service

Personnel – Recommendations to Hire

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

1. Emily Krueger – Middle School Secretary
2. Joe Barrette – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach
3. Dara Willhite – Kindergarten Teacher
4. Rick Hatfield – Middle School Assistant Principal

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Informational Items

1. Finance and Budget Update:

Kim Bidwell, Business Manager presented her budget update at the budget hearing.

New Business

Spring NEOLA Policy Updates:

Mr. Gilpin gave the Board a summary description of the Spring policy updates that would be up for approval at the July regular board meeting.

2025-2026 Student Handbooks:

Mr. Gilpin gave the Board a summary of the changes that were applied to the student handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year. Student handbooks will be approved at the July regular board meeting.

Administrative Matters

For Action:

A. 2024-2025 Budget Amendments for Food Service, General Fund & Student Activities Fund

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendments for Food Service, General Fund & Student Activities Fund, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

B. Approval of 2025-2026 Budgets/Resolution for Levying 2025 Taxes

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Resolutions for General Fund Operating, Food Service Fund and Student Activities Fund, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

C. Administrator Wages

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the proposed 2025-2026 Administrator Wages, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

D. History of American Sports Class Approval

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Gracik to approve the addition of the class, History of American Sports, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items Not on the Agenda

None

Closed Session – Superintendent Evaluation

Motion by Mr. Gracik, seconded by Ms. Smith, to move into closed session for the purpose of the superintendent evaluation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:16pm

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Gracik, to return to open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 8:16pm

Superintendent Evaluation Rating

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spicer, to rate the superintendent as effective for the 2024-2025 school year and renew the superintendent contract for one year with a pay increase that is commensurate with the NEA union increase.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 8:18p.m.



Jami Schultz, Board Secretary