

**Minutes** of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, NICE Community School District, Townships of Champion, Ely, Humboldt, Ishpeming, Tilden, and Spurr; Counties of Baraga and Marquette; and the State of Michigan held on **Monday, December 16, 2024.**

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Steve Baril, Kathleen Carlson, John Grove, Chad Korpi, Crystal LaFreniere, Scott Mann, Ron Mariani

Members Absent: None

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Griffin Lawson, Nathan Longton, Chris Marana, Eric Warlin

Administrator's Absent: Cliff Fossitt, Jake Skewis

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: Board Distinguished Service Award

### Consent Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,387,523.40 for the period of November 11, 2024 through December 13, 2024; to approve the November payrolls in the amount of \$759,738.45; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,147,261.85; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,740,551.71 and total disbursements of \$1,535,042.58; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund balance of \$250.00; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$345,907.05 for November 30, 2024. Motion carried.

### Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine reported that things are fairly quiet right now as we head into the Winter Holidays, other than the normal concerts, celebrations, and athletics. He also thanked Chris Marana for being in charge while he was gone out of town.

ARES: Chris Marana thanked all involved with the ARES concerts. He also wanted to give a shout out to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Robotics team for taking 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in their recent competition that was held at NMU. Lastly, he thanked all of the teachers and staff for all of their hard work at this unofficial halfway point in the school year, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson thanked the middle school music departments for their outstanding performances recently. He also mentioned that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team is heading to the championship game tomorrow evening in the middle school basketball tournament. Lastly, he talked about Robotics starting back up in the middle school and the holiday themed dress up days taking place this week before the holiday break.

WHS: Bryan DeAugustine reported on the stellar participation for the high school Thanksgiving food drives and collections. He also thanked the student parkers, fire department, and everyone else involved in the hosting of the elementary concerts. Lastly, he mentioned the upcoming band concert and wished everyone happy holidays.

Athletics: Bryan DeAugustine reported that athletics is very busy but things are going really well.

Special Education: Nathan Longton reported that the Functional Skills Program had another successful field trip to the UP Children's Museum and he thanked Mr. Marana and Mr. Warlin for their help with setting it up. He also mentioned that the SCI class continues with their weekly outings and recently MARESA staff provided a "behavior boot camp" training for some of our paraprofessionals.

Transportation: Eric Warlin reported that things are going well in transportation and that his drivers are looking forward to a bit of a break for the holidays.

Grounds/Facilities: Bryan DeAugustine also reported that things are in good shape and soon we should have the sander attachment for one of our plow trucks.

**Committee Reports**

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – Superintendent gave financing update for upcoming projects.

**Business / Action Items**

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Scott Mann** to acknowledge Kelly Cittadino’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

**Motion by Scott Mann supported by Kathleen Carlson** to appoint Savana Driesenga as a volunteer 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to hire Rachel Howe as a custodian. Motion carried.

**Motion by Crystal LaFreniere supported by John Grove** to hire Jillian Mahaffey as our Cheerleading Advisor. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to acknowledge Hope Marr’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to hire Jessica Scherer as a teacher pending successful completion of all her licensure requirements. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi** to authorize the purchase of one new school bus as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril	aye	Kathleen Carlson	aye	John Grove	aye
Chad Korpi	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye	Scott Mann	aye
Ron Mariani	aye				

Motion carried.

**Community Comments**

Kris Sibley spoke about the many great people we have working for the district and about all of the wonderful things that we have going on.

**Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent**

Crystal LaFreniere thanked Ron Mariani and Steve Baril for their time on the board.

John Grove thanked Ron Mariani and Steve Baril for their time on the board.

Kathleen Carlson thanked both Ron Mariani and Steve Baril for their time on the board and thanked all of the teachers, staff and especially Mr. Skewis for being so helpful.

Chad Korpi thanked Ron Mariani and Steve Baril for serving on the board.

Steve Baril stated that it has been his pleasure to serve on the board. He cited the phenomenal leadership in the district and said that our kids are in good hands. He thanked the students from the Government class for attending the meeting. Lastly he thanked everyone for allowing him to serve.

Scott Mann thanked Steve Baril for literally being his right-hand man, and thanked Ron Mariani for all of his guidance and leadership during his time on the board.

Ron Mariani thanked everyone for their kind words. He stated that he's grateful for the opportunity to work with top-notch and high quality people. He feels that the board and all staff should be proud of all of the accomplishments the district has worked hard for. He has enjoyed being on a board that lets the district leader lead, and that the role of the board is to oversee things as a whole. He said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve and that he knows it's time to pass the gavel.

Bryan DeAugustine thanked Steve Baril for his service in the two different times he's helped out by filling a board vacancy and that that he's been a great asset. He thanked Ron Mariani for his steady leadership and thanked him for his service.

**Motion by Scott Mann supported by Chad Korpi** to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_