

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, April 21, 2025**.

The meeting was called to order by President Crystal LaFreniere at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, Jim Gray, John Grove, Chad Korpi, Crystal LaFreniere, Derrick Magnuson, Scott Mann

Members Absent: None

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

Administrator's Absent: None

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: None

Consent Agenda

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,258,448.53 for the period of March 17, 2025 through April 18, 2025; to approve the March payrolls in the amount of \$833,216.77; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,091,665.30; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,645,013.62 and total disbursements of \$1,687,349.52; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund balance of \$250.00; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$943,625.42 for March 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine reported on the questions about the State's upcoming budget and what that means for education. He also reminded the board about his upcoming legislative trip to Lansing, gave a driver's education update, talked about additional NMU partnerships, and provided a financial snapshot regarding the District's budget.

ARES: Chris Marana reported on the start of Mstep state testing, summer school registration, 5th grade field trips to the Mqt symphony orchestra and Bay Cliff Health Camp, the annual children's art exhibit at NMU, an author visit and Family Night, which will be held on Wednesday, May 21.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson reported on the Mstep state testing, the 3rd annual talent show coming up on Friday, May 23, the end of the year class trips and the high school orientation for 8th graders.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt reported on the wrap-up of the standardized testing, the upcoming Prom on Saturday, April 26, the HOSA competition in Traverse City, and a potential start date for the driver's ed program of Monday, May 19.

Special Education: Nathan Longton on an interview workshop held in conjunction with Michigan Rehab Services and MARESA, and preschool screening will be held on Thursday, May 15.

Athletics: Jake Skewis reporting on the spring sports season and the all-state basketball honors. He also talked about the MHSAA change from Class B to Class C, and said the main difference here at NICE will be the number of MHSAA Scholar Athlete nominations.

Transportation: Eric Warlin said they are gearing up for spring sports trips and field trips.

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Committee Reports

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – No activity this month.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to acknowledge June Ayotte's retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to hire Savana Driesenga as a Special Education Teacher and as our SCI Summer School Teacher for Summer 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Scott Mann to hire Rachel Kallioinen as a Family Resource Room Assistant. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to acknowledge Kathy Swanson's retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Kathleen Carlson to acknowledge Tom Wagner's retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to authorize the sale of bonds as presented to finance our Aspen Ridge Sinking Fund Project.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Chad Korpi	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye	Derrick Magnuson	aye
Scott Mann	aye				

Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to renew our service agreement with ESS as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Jim Gray to accept MARESA's budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Chad Korpi	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye	Derrick Magnuson	aye
Scott Mann	aye				

Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Scott Mann to authorize the technology upgrades as presented and authorize soliciting bids for financing these technology purchases. Motion carried.

Community Comments Several AFSCME members spoke in support of the grievance they have filed.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

Bryan DeAugustine spoke on the grievance hearing process, including the arbitration process and associated responsibilities and working through these processes and tough times together.

Crystal LaFreniere spoke on the grievance hearing process and provided a statement.

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Chad Korpi spoke about his appreciation for all of the community support.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____