

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 15, 2025**.

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

Members Present: Jim Gray, John Grove, Crystal LaFreniere, Derrick Magnuson, Scott Mann

Members Absent: Kathleen Carlson, Chad Korpi

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

Administrator's Absent: Eric Warlin, Bobby Zhulkie

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: None

Consent Agenda

Motion by John Grove supported by Jim Gray to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Jim Gray to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Jim Gray to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,519,606.08 for the period of November 10, 2025 through December 12, 2025; to approve the November payrolls in the amount of \$887,067.79; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,406,673.87; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$3,057,091.11 and total disbursements of \$2,481,548.47; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund (2023) balance of \$250.00; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund (2025) balance of \$250.00; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$270,805.87; to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$1,065,355.71 for November 30, 2025. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine gave an update on 31aa, spoke about a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Aspen Ridge gym, and mentioned a Westwood boiler malfunction that Johnson Controls is working on.

ARES: Chris Marana thanked all those involved with the ARES Christmas program, especially thanking the students and Ms. Patselas. He also mentioned the ARES robotics teams took a 4th and 6th place at their recent competition at NMU. Lastly, he thanked everyone for a good unofficial first half of the school year.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson talked about the upcoming concerts for middle school band and chorus and the recent volleyball tournament that just wrapped up. He also mentioned that they've brought back the job shadowing unit for 8th graders. Lastly, this week in the middle school is filled with holiday fun like door decorating, 3D printed ornaments, and dress up days.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt thanked the Ishpeming Township Fire Department for their assistance with parking for the ARES concerts held at Westwood. He also wanted to recognize the Drama and VIM productions and the band for their concert last week. Lastly, he wished everyone a very happy holiday season.

SpEd: Nate Longton talked about the SCI field trips, a grant that Mr. Galvin is working on, and gave a special thanks to Barb Potts and Elissa Harju from MARESA for their extra support with our students.

Athletics: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Bobby Zhulkie that so far this winter sports season, we've seen some great success. He also said that the NFHS camera is down but is scheduled to be fixed, and our games can be streamed on Hudl Fan and some of them on Facebook. Lastly, he wanted to give a special thank you to the custodial staff for making sure that everything is ready to roll for athletic contests after the busy concert schedule!

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Transportation: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Eric Warlin that things are rolling along nicely in the transportation department.

Committee Reports

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – Project on time. Preparing a ribbon cutting. All board members will be invited, of course.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to hire Savana Driesenga as our Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to hire Sam Gilles as our next Head Varsity Football Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Jim Gray to hire Amya Johnson as a special education teacher. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to recognize Sheenah Kestila's resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Jim Gray to recognize Stacey Lee's resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by Jim Gray to hire Jamie Skytta as a custodian. Motion carried.

Community Comments Kris Sibley spoke in support of so many different things happening in the district.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

Crystal LaFreniere wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Scott Mann, Jim Gray, and Derrick Magnuson all dittoed Crystal's wishes.

Bryan DeAugustine clarified some points about School of Choice students.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____