

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, January 19, 2026.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Scott Mann at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, Jim Gray, John Grove, Chad Korpi, Scott Mann

Members Absent: Crystal LaFreniere, Derrick Magnuson

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

Administrator's Absent: None

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: School Board Recognition Month

Consent Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,904,357.59 for the period of December 15, 2025 through January 16, 2026; to approve the December payrolls in the amount of \$928,768.58; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,833,126.17; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,409,911.83 and total disbursements of \$1,728,797.91; 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 \$289,191.63; to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$1,068,788.11 for December 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine mentioned the ribbon cutting for the new gym and classroom space at Aspen Ridge will be held on Wednesday, 1/21/26, at 5:30 pm. He also gave an update on Talon Metals and what that may mean for the district, and also talked about our school bus accident protocol in light of the recent accident involving an Escanaba school bus.

ARES: Chris Marana stated that things are going well and the elementary is in the Winter testing cycle for NWEA currently.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson reported on the positive feedback of the new gym and classroom space for the middle school. He also mentioned the 6th annual lantern lit snowshoe event coming up in conjunction with the beat the winter blues event on 1/31/26 from 5-8 pm. Lastly, he commented that it was a good first semester in the middle school.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt spoke about a guest speaker that was here prior to the winter break with a great message. He said he's received so much positive feedback about it. He also stated that winter carnival is happening this week and the high school will finish exams tomorrow due to the snow days.

SpEd: Nate Longton reported that we recently went through a Medicaid audit by MARESA. He also talked about some of his staff who will attend a Functional Behavior Assessment Truancy Training coming up. Lastly, he thanked all of the Special Ed staff for a great first semester.

Athletics: Bobby Zhulkie reported that the WHS Boys Basketball team is currently ranked number 1 in the UP, and recently Ethan Marta broke the single game scoring record by scoring 46 points in a game. He also reported that middle school volleyball has begun, the bowling teams are doing very well and wrestling had a good showing at UP finals with four medalists, and one UP champ. Lastly, he thanked the custodial staff and bus drivers for their hard work in getting snow removed around the district and for getting our athletes safely to and from their contests.

Transportation: Eric Warlin stated that other than the weather and extra sports trips, things are going well 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 – No activity this month.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to approve Jamee Gobert as our 7th Grade Middle School Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by John Grove to approve Tami Hillis as our 8th Grade Middle School Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve this year's graduation list pending the successful completion of all graduation requirements. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to enter into Closed Session under Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for negotiation purposes to discuss the 27L line item. Motion carried.

The meeting entered Closed Session at 5:55 pm.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 6:07 pm.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and to enter into a Letter of Agreement with both bargaining units to disburse our 27L funds in conjunction with General Fund expenditures as presented.

*NICE Community School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 19, 2026*

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Chad Korpi	abstain	Scott Mann	aye		

Motion carried.

Community Comments None

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent None

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____