

**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, February 16, 2026.**

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

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, Jim Gray, Crystal LaFreniere, Scott Mann

Members Absent: John Grove, Chad Korpi, Derrick Magnuson

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

Administrator's Absent: Cliff Fossitt, Griffin Lawson

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Scott Mann to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: BPA Regional Results, Honors Band Results, Valedictorian/Salutatorian announcement.

### Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$792,423.38 for the period of January 19, 2026 through February 13, 2026; to approve the January payrolls in the amount of \$820,995.47; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,613,418.85; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$2,541,671.20 and total disbursements of \$2,341,564.38; 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 \$428,145.58; to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$270,248.71 for January 31, 2026. Motion carried.

### Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine gave an update on the Aspen Ridge sewer and heating problem which should be fully functional now at the end of the day today. He also mentioned the estimate for our severance tax payment and an LSCP visit. He also mentioned that the buildings/grounds department has been working hard to keep the parking lots and sidewalks walkable.

ARES: Chris Marana thanked Nurse Danielle Cittadino for continuing the Smile on Wheels program with 103 students participating in it this year. He also mentioned that reading month and kindergarten registration for next year are coming up in March.

ARMS: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Griffin Lawson that the robotics team would be working with elementary students at the Carnegie Public Library in Ishpeming to put together STEM kits. He also mentioned the upcoming dodgeball tournament.

WHS: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Cliff Fossitt that the high school had a successful winter carnival last week and looking ahead, they'll be doing the next testing cycle for NWEA.

SpEd: Nate Longton reported that the SCI class has been busy with some great field trips to the YMCA, Hotplate, Target, Bowling, and the Up North Lodge for a sleigh ride. He also said that the recent Medicaid audit was passed with flying colors and there will be an upcoming post-secondary transition compliance audit coming up in March. Lastly, plans are taking shape for the upcoming PSAT testing for those who need accommodations.

Athletics: Bobby Zhulkie reported on a great weekend for Patriot athletics. The girls bowling team are UP champs, the boys bowling X team took their championship, the boys Varsity basketball team traveled to Traverse City for the Northern Michigan showcase where they defeated Maple City Glen Lake, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team had great success in their tournament with both Aspen Ridge teams ending up in the championship game, the swim and dive team have UP finals coming up on February 20 and 21, and wrestling saw Nick Christesen moving on to regionals. The boys basketball districts begin next week and spring sports are right around the corner!

Transportation: Eric Warlin had nothing new to report.

### **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 acknowledge Betsy Grugin's letter of retirement. Motion carried.

**Motion by Scott Mann supported by Jim Gray** to grant Kathryn Hamel's maternity leave. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray** to hire Billie Jo Krask as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray** to acknowledge Jennie Opperman's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

**Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson** to hire Annie Skewis as our Girls Varsity Track Coach. Motion carried.

**Motion by Jim Gray supported by Scott Mann** to acknowledge Kirsten Wester's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

**Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson** to set next year's school calendar as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray** to renew our service agreement with ESS Midwest, Inc., as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray** to resolve to participate in Schools of Choice as presented. Motion carried.

**Community Comments** None

**Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent** Crystal LaFreniere asked everyone to try and stay healthy with all of the sickness going around.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray** to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

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

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