

**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 **Wednesday, March 25, 2026.**

The meeting was called to order by President Crystal LaFreniere at 5:31 pm.

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, John Grove, Crystal LaFreniere, Derrick Magnuson

Members Absent: Jim Gray, Chad Korpi, Scott Mann

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

Administrator's Absent: Cliff Fossitt, Griffin Lawson, Eric Warlin

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

### Approval of Agenda

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

Communications & Recognition: Solo & Ensemble Festival results, Conference Band results, Elementary Honors Choir results, and BPA State Leadership Conference results were reported.

### Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion by John Grove supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve the revised General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,058,872.89 for the period of January 19, 2026 through February 13, 2026; to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,501,363.03 for the period of February 16, 2026 through March 13, 2026; to approve the February payrolls in the amount of \$885,280.10; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,386,643.13; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$3,014,316.88 and total disbursements of \$1,876,717.87; 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 \$947,103.57 to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$256,598.87 for February 28, 2026. Motion carried.

### Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine reported on the total snow days used and attempts to get some additional days forgiven. He also gave an update on the Aspen Ridge project issues that had come up.

ARES: Chris Marana reported on Kindergarten registration, Elementary Honors Choir, Art "food truck design" project in conjunction with local businesses, and the online cybersecurity program that elementary students participate in. He also said that reading month wraps up tomorrow and spring carnival on Friday.

ARMS: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Griffin Lawson on the recent music performances, Project Keep Kids Warm participation, and he wished everyone a good spring break.

WHS: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Cliff Fossitt that testing cycles begin when we return from spring break. He also mentioned new courses added for next year with scheduling almost complete.

SpEd: Nate Longton reported that the FSP went on another field trip to the UP Children’s Museum, some staff attending a dyslexia summit at MARESA, and early advertising for preschool screening has begun, with a bigger push after we return from spring break.

Athletics: Bobby Zhulkie reported on a great winter season for athletics with many noteworthy items. He also said spring sports have begun with softball kicking off their contests with a tournament at the Superior Dome at NMU. After spring break, work will take place with scheduling of contests depending on weather and locations that can host contests.

Transportation: Bryan DeAugustine had nothing new to report for transportation, but talked about the process in place going forward for snow removal.

**Committee Reports**

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – Met prior to board meeting. First reading of NEOLA Volume 40, Number 1 updates in tonight’s action items.

Sinking Fund – No activity this month.

**Business / Action Items**

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to hire Bianca Parsley as a bus driver. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to accept Range Bank’s bus financing bid as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Kathleen Carlson	aye	John Grove	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye
Derrick Magnuson	aye				

Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to recognize the first reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 40 Number 1. Motion carried.

**Community Comments** April Korpi spoke on behalf of the AFSCME group to thank the board for the educator stipend that everyone will be receiving.

**Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent**

Kathleen Carlson said it’s so nice to see Bobby Zhulkie’s presence at all of the events, and it’s also nice to see so many new young coaches.

Crystal LaFreniere wished everyone a good spring break and echoed Kathleen Carlson's sentiments.

Derrick Magnuson asked how things went with snow plowing and talked about how the snow removal process could be better next year.

Bryan DeAugustine spoke about conversations he's had with staff about snow removal in the future and he feels like a good plan is in place.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

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

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