

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 20, 2026**.

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

Members Absent: Derrick Magnuson, Scott Mann

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Chris Marana, Cliff Fossitt, Griffin Lawson, Nathan Longton, Bobby Zhulkie, 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 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 revised General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,507,683.73 for the period of March 16, 2026 through April 17, 2026; to approve the March payrolls in the amount of \$833,216.77; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,340,900.50; 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 (2023) balance of \$250.00; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund (2025) balance of \$250.00; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$1,081,348.69 to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$240,733.16 for March 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine gave a budget snapshot, a snow day update with some potential legislation in the works to forgive extra days, and talked about energy bills work, more collaborations with NMU, and the potential revisit of the foreign exchange student program.

ARES: Chris Marana reported on state and local testing, summer school registration, 5th grade students attending the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, the upcoming children's art exhibit at NMU, Young Authors, and Family Night.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson reported on state and local testing, 8th grade PSAT testing, the upcoming talent show, and final prep for the 6th and 8th grade trips.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt reported on a successful prom with special thanks to all involved, the Excellence in Education luncheon, state testing, Mobile Secretary of State visit, and graduation.

SpEd: Nate Longton thanked Ms. Moffett for all of her help with testing accommodations and reported on an upcoming practice interview event and preschool screening.

Athletics: Bobby Zhulkie reported on spring sports taking a back seat to the weather, and how it will now be a mad dash now through the end of May for this season. He also mentioned that both the girls and boys basketball teams earned academic all-state honors, the most up to date athletic calendar is now pinned to the top of the NICE Facebook page, and the updated Hudl package will now include a third camera at the Aspen Ridge competition gym. Lastly, he thanked Mr. Marana for all of his help with basketball broadcasting with Quinton Carr.

Transportation: Eric Warlin said there was nothing new to report in transportation.

Committee Reports

Finance and Ops – No activity this month. Budget of the Whole snapshot in preparation for our June Budget Hearing.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – No activity this month.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by John Grove to acknowledge Emily Arseneau’s letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to acknowledge Jillian Mahaffey’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to hire Jadyn Maki as a teacher. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to extend Chris Marana’s contract as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to acknowledge Isabelle Shevy’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to acknowledge Jill Sladek’s letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to acknowledge Sandy Tarvainen’s letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by John Grove to acknowledge Sabina Villar’s letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to resolve to endorse MARESA’s annual budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Chad Korpi	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye		

Motion carried.

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

Motion by John Grove supported by Kathleen Carlson to adopt NEOLA Policy Update Volume 40, Number 1. Motion carried.

Community Comments Kris Sibley spoke of the many positive things happening in the district and gave thanks to so many people involved in our district.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

Kathleen Carlson thanked Cliff Fossitt for the opportunity to be the graduation speaker for the class of 2026.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____