

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, August 18, 2025.**

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

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

Members Absent: Kathleen Carlson

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

Administrator's Absent: Eric Warlin

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 Chad Korpi to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Chad Korpi to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Chad Korpi to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,745,017.44 for the period of July 21, 2025 through August 15, 2025; to approve the July payrolls in the amount of \$582,310.64; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,327,328.08; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$2,842,911.24 and total disbursements of \$2,650,796.36; 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 \$441,185.90; to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of 4,878,531.00 for July 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine updated the Board on the Sinking Fund Project progress, the State School Aid Budget, and Free meals for all students to begin this school year. The meal prices could change depending on the outcome of the state budget.

ARES: Chris Marana thanked the Kindergarten team and Nurse Cittadino for their help with the recent Kindergarten screening. Staff from the Marquette County Health Department also joined the Kindergarten staff to do their vision and hearing screening to those students. Summer school wrapped up last week and went well. He also thanked the maintenance/custodia/grounds staff for keeping everything looking nice. Lastly, he's looking forward to the Open House on 8/28/25.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson reported that he's excited to get the school year started. The building is looking nice and the crews have done a great job. New this year, he reported that a section of Spanish is being offered to 8th graders this year taught by Mr. Boburka. He also mentioned the math lab and extra math supports in place for this year.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt said the building is buzzing with activity now that Fall Sports and other activities have begun. The custodial staff has refinished the stage floor in the theatre. WHS is ready for the Open House.

SpEd: Nate Longton thanked all of the special education staff who came in over the summer to work the SCI summer program and also summer school. He also shared an update about NMU partnerships and our in-house mental health supports.

Athletics: Bobby Zhulkie shared that Fall Sports are rolling with the first competitions taking place this week. He also thanked the coaches and all of the staff for being so welcoming to him. And Fall Meet the Patriots is tomorrow, 8/19/25.

Transportation: Bus routes are being finalized with some adjustments being made to accommodate student numbers on some of the routes.

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 Scott Mann supported by John Grove to acknowledge Kristen Grondz's resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to hire Mark Korpi as an Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Jim Gray to acknowledge Isabel Luke's resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to hire Teresa Marietti as a Bus Driver. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by John Grove to hire Shelly Whitaker as our Middle School Cheer Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Scott Mann to authorize the wage increases and compensation as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Derrick Magnuson to hire Andrew Pershinske as a Math Teacher. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by Jim Gray to accept Jilbert's Dairy bid for our dairy products, Scott Brenneman Distribution Company's bid for our bakery products, and Gravedoni's Pizza bid for our pizza offerings as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Jim Gray to authorize the order of two buses as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye	Crystal LaFreniere	aye
Chad Korpi	aye	Derrick Magnuson	aye	Scott Mann	aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to authorize our District Course Offerings as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to authorize or General Fund Operating Millage as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Jim Gray to authorize our Sinking Fund Operating Millage as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Scott Mann to recognize the second reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 39, Number 2. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by John Grove to adopt NEOLA Policy Update Volume 39, Number 2. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Derrick Magnuson to authorize our service agreement with CAAM as presented.
Motion carried.

Community Comments None

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

None

Motion by Crystal LaFreniere supported by Scott Mann to enter into Closed Session under Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.
Motion carried.

The meeting entered Closed Session at 5:57 pm.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 6:02 pm.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by Derrick Magnuson to ratify the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye	Chad Korpi	recused*
Crystal LaFreniere	aye	Derrick Magnuson	aye	Scott Mann	aye

**Chad Korpi recused himself from the negotiating process due to familial relations.*

Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Chad Korpi to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____