

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, May 19, 2025.**

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, Derrick Magnuson

Members Absent: Scott Mann

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Cliff Fossitt, Griffin Lawson, Nathan Longton, Jake Skewis, Eric Warlin

Administrator's Absent: Chris Marana

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: BPA National Leadership Conference Report and NMU Presentation on Best Practices by Dr. Joe Lubig and Dr. Derek Anderson from Northern Michigan University.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,025,528.41 for the period of April 21, 2025 through May 16, 2025; to approve the April payrolls in the amount of \$716,990.66; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,742,519.07; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,413,790.38 and total disbursements of \$1,481,453.86; to approve the Debt Retirement Fund balance of \$225.00; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$706,723.66 for April 30, 2025. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent: Bryan DeAugustine reported on the upcoming ARS Sinking Fund Project Bond Sale, upgrading the ARS dismissal process and will be placing some extra staff and locking up some additional areas, new Emergency Response Plan New Legislation, NMU English and Science Update, and gym floor refinishing.

ARES: Bryan DeAugustine reported for Chris Marana and thanked John Kinney for all of his hard work with the MSTEP testing. He also reported on the numbers so far registered for the GRASP summer program and also an August session of summer school.

ARMS: Griffin Lawson reported on the 8th grade class trip to Six Flags Great America, the 6th grade rock-climbing field trip and upcoming Mackinac Island field trip and the ARMS talent show coming up this Friday here at WHS. Lastly, 8th grade graduation is coming up on Tuesday, June 3, in the ARMS gym.

WHS: Cliff Fossitt reported that graduation is coming up this week on Thursday. He also wanted to provide some well-deserved recognition for our music department for the successful Collage Concert. Lastly he talked about the Excellence in Education events.

Special Education: Nathan Longton reported on the recent preschool screening, where 28 kids came in to be screened. He thank the NICE, MARESA and CAAM staff for a well-coordinated and smoothly run event. He also reported on an IEP audit that was held recently where we were found 100% compliant.

Athletics: Jake Skewis reported that UP contests begin next week to already close out spring sports. He gave a shout out to Senior golfer Tanner Annala, Senior pole vaulter Lexi Olson and Junior pole vaulter Louis Salmi. Lastly he stated that we are the host for softball districts.

Transportation: Eric Warlin said they busy with spring sports trips and he thanked Jake Skewis for everything.

Committee Reports

Finance and Ops – No activity this month. A meeting coming up in June.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – No activity this month.

Negotiations – both AFSCME and NTA negotiation sessions are set to begin.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Crystal LaFreniere supported by Derrick Magnuson to hire Savana Driesenga and Abigail Moffett as Assistant Volleyball Coaches, and to appoint Karlie Patron as an Assistant Softball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to acknowledge Dindy Cousineau's letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to acknowledge Jennifer Hodgins letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to hire Sheena Kestila as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to acknowledge Catherine Lange's letter of retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Crystal LaFreniere supported by John Grove to authorize maternity leave for Ella Luke. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Derrick Magnuson to hire Katie Martinac as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to acknowledge Jake Skewis' letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Jim Gray to hire Bethany Troupe as a Summer SCI Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to approve the designation of President Crystal LaFreniere as the representative of this Board for the electoral body of the Marquette-Alger RESA biennial election. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Chad Korpi to authorize the resolution to finance our technology purchases through Huntington Bank's bid as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Jim Gray to continue our participation in INN as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Derrick Magnuson to authorize the resolution to continue our participation in the MHSAA. Motion carried.

Community Comments Kris Sibley thanked Jake Skewis for everything he has done for the District.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

None

Motion by Chad Korpi supported by Kathleen Carlson 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 6:30 pm.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 6:52 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

President: _____

Secretary: _____