

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 17, 2026**.

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

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, Jim Gray, John Grove, Crystal LaFreniere, Derrick Magnuson, Scott Mann

Members Absent: Chad Korpi

Administrator's Present: Chris Marana, Cliff Fossitt, Blake Hewitt, Griffin Lawson, Nathan Longton, Eric Warlin

Administrator's Absent: Bryan DeAugustine

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Scott Mann to appoint Jim Gray to be the acting secretary for the purposes of this meeting. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Scott Mann support by John Grove to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: None.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion by Kathleen Carlson support by John Grove to approve the revised General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,165,008.30 for the period of July 20, 2026 through August 14, 2026; to approve the July payrolls in the amount of \$622,258.83; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,787,267.13; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,271,582.31 and total disbursements of \$1,790,768.87; 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 \$778,226.62 to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$231,987.44 for July 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent's & Administrator Report

Chris Marana reported that the buildings are getting busier with students and staff as we finalize preparations for our first day of school. He also thanked the kindergarten team, Nurse Cittadino, and the Marquette County Health Department staff who helped out with a successful kindergarten screening. Summer school wrapped up last week successfully at ARES and he also thanked the custodial/maintenance crew for getting the building ready.

Griffin Lawson reported that ARMS is welcoming two new teachers this year, and everyone is gearing up for the new school year. He also mentioned that they are getting to the end of the video production for the latest highlight video featuring some middle school programs.

Cliff Fossitt reported on his recent event of hosting three former administrators to Westwood High School. He showed them all of the updates the building has seen since their time here and it was great time spent. He also reported that WHS is getting ready for the open house and he thanked the custodial/maintenance staff for getting the building ready.

Nathan Longton reported that his department held two programs throughout the summer (SCI & FSP) and he thanked his staff for taking time out of their summer to work those programs. He also gave an update on the mental health supports that we will have available from MARESA at both of our buildings this year, in addition to our district staff.

Eric Warlin reported that he has a bus driver meeting coming up this week and sports trips are beginning. He expects two new buses to be delivered in September, and he shared that the transportation department logged 280,000 miles of bus travel last school year.

Chris Marana reported for Blake Hewitt that all the fall sports are off to a good start, and our first home contest is a tennis match vs. West Iron County tomorrow. Middle School sports will begin in the next two weeks, and Meet the Patriots for WHS is tonight out in the football complex.

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 Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to recognize Danny Adkins' letter of resignation as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Tara Alderton as an Assistant Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Derrick Magnuson to hire Madison Marta as an Assistant Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Dennis Henson as a Bus Driver. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to hire Alison L'Huillier as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to hire Alison L'Huillier as our Kids Club Director. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to grant Michele Talsma a leave of absence. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to authorize our annual audit engagement with Anderson Tackman. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to accept Jilbert Dairy's bid for our dairy products, Scott Brennehan Distribution & Trenary Home Bakery's bids for our bakery products, and Gravedoni's Pizza bid for our pizza offerings as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mann supported by John Grove to resolve to solicit competitive financing for our bus purchases as presented. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to recognize the second reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 40, Number 2. Motion carried.

Motion by Crystal LaFreniere supported by Scott Mann to adopt NEOLA Policy Update Volume 40, Number 2. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to authorize our WHS Wrestling Team to Co-Op with Ishpeming High School as presented. Motion carried.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

None.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

President: _____ **Secretary:** _____