

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, September 21, 2026.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Scott Mann at 5:30 pm.

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

Members Absent: Chad Korpi, Crystal LaFreniere

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

Administrator's Absent: None

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Approval of Agenda

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

Communications & Recognition: None.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to approve the revised General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,250,819.64 for the period of August 17, 2026 through September 18, 2026; to approve the August payrolls in the amount of \$629,033.81; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,879,853.45; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$4,415,633.31 and total disbursements of \$3,567,918.13; 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 \$703,098.21 to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Fund balance of \$232,557.84 for August 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent's & Administrator Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported that he's happy to be back and that the school year seems off to a good start. He thanked all of our employee groups, and mentioned the upcoming Sinking Fund activity with what's on the horizon for Summer 2027 projects.

Chris Marana reported that the school year is off to a good start, NWEA testing has begun, Learning Lab will begin mid/late October, Wednesday playgroups begin October 7th, and Fire Prevention is October 8th.

Griffin Lawson reported that NWEA testing has begun, 7th grade had a great trip to Clear Lake, and Robotics is starting with their first practice and some community outreach at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library.

Cliff Fossitt reported that the first couple of weeks have gone well. He mentioned a visitor who stopped in and was very complimentary of our building. He also mentioned they were looking forward to a guest speaker this week with a great message, and NWEA begins next week for 9th and 10th graders.

Nate Longton reported that MARESA is providing HWC training/recertifications again this year and he also talked about several NMU students in the Special Education program will be doing some observations.

Blake Hewitt reported on all of the Fall sports, highlighting tennis hosting MPC's, Football earning their first victory against Houghton, Cross Country seeing Calvin Carlson winning first place in a meet, Volleyball showing serious promise for the future of the program, and the middle school girls' basketball and middle school cross country starting.

Eric Warlin reported on the two new buses that will be coming in soon, and getting fully inspected and road ready by 10/16.

Bryan DeAugustine also reported that buildings and grounds are in great shape.

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 Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Emma Ballweber as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Derrick Magnuson to hire Courtney Burling as a teacher. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Kathleen Carlson to hire Amanda Adriano as an Assistant Swim Coach. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to hire Samantha Mackey as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Jim Gray to hire Carissa Magnuson as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Jim Gray to hire Hope Marr as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by John Grove to recognize Rachel Scott's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by John Grove to authorize Michele (formerly Talsma) Junak's request to end her leave of absence early under the necessary provisions as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to authorize the transfer of engagement and files (attest) from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC, to A., Cedric, & Michaels (ACM Group) as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize our annual audit engagement with ACM Group as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Derrick Magnuson supported by Jim Gray to resolve to accept Range Bank's bid for financing the two buses being purchased as presented. Motion carried.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Derrick Magnuson	aye	Scott Mann	aye		

Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Gray supported by Kathleen Carlson to authorize our Sinking Fund Operating Millage as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Carlson	aye	Jim Gray	aye	John Grove	aye
Derrick Magnuson	aye	Scott Mann	aye		

Motion carried.

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

Community Comments

Kris Sibley commented on so many positive things happening in the NICE Community School District.

Closing Comments by Board & Superintendent

Kathleen Carlson commented on the apprenticeship wall in the hallway by the cafeteria.

Derrick Magnuson asked about the status of the new tractor, and a new pickup truck.

Bryan DeAugustine said it was good to be back.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.