

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

January 12, 2026 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

“Building Better Futures for Children and Communities”

"This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda item as, "introduction of guests."

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Rosenbaum.

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

A. Mr Wolff introduced Title 1 Director, Amy Wheaton, who is also serving as the NEA-MEA representative, and Early Childhood Administrator Amanda Beery, who also serves as part time kindergarten teacher. The board thanked both guests for their service to the district.

III. Correspondence:

A. No correspondence to share at this time.

IV. Presentations if any:

A. School Board Member Appreciation Month

Refreshments and snacks were served in conjunction with School Board Member Appreciation Month. A message of appreciation was shared with the community on the district's Facebook Page. Board of education members were presented with certificates of appreciation from MASB, and the NEA provided small tokens of their appreciation; with each board member receiving a welcome mat and insulated grocery bag. The board expressed its gratitude for the appreciation.

B. Michigan Public School Districts and Nottawa's unique role as a small district serving the community.

Mr. Wolff presented a slideshow and a data sheet about the sizes of school districts throughout Michigan, noting that Nottawa is among the smallest districts in Michigan, with 92% of districts bigger in size based on 2024-2025 state enrollment data. The presentation highlighted recent growth of the district while acknowledging that the Nottawa School District is very small and will continue to be small. Mr. Wolff noted that the small size of the district is part of what makes it so special. This information should be considered while we address the questions of a recent survey about school growth and interest in offering secondary education.

V. Consent Agenda

All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless there is a request from a board member to remove an individual agenda item (or items) from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and possibly voted upon separately. All agenda items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be placed under Action Items.

- A. Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2025 Board of Education Meetings
- B. Approval of Financial Report.
- C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$60,860.28 through December 30, 2025.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 5-0.

VI. Action items

A. Organizational Meeting

In accordance with MCL 168.302 and bylaw 0150 The Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to nominate Rosenbaum for Board President.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Motion Carried.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to nominate Danberry for Board Treasurer.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Brandon- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes Motion Carried.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to nominate Borkholder for Board Secretary.

Roll call vote: Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes Motion Carried.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to nominate Brandon for Board Trustee.

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes Motion Carried.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to nominate Hochstetler for Board Trustee..

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Rosenbaum- yes Motion Carried.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to confirm standing subcommittees as follow:

Curriculum: Borkholder, Brandon

Collective Bargaining: Danberry, Rosenbaum

Finance/Negotiations; Danberry, Rosenbaum

Building and Site: Brandon, Hochstetler

Communication: Borkholder, Brandon

Roll call vote: Borkholder- yes; Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Rosenbaum- yes Motion Carried 5-0.

B. Lane Change Recommendation: Mary Borkholder

Mr. Wolff presented a letter recommending that Mary Borkholder, Title 3 Director and Teacher, be promoted in the step scale to Step 6, of the Masters lane of the 2025-2026 NEA-MEA Collective Bargaining Agreement in accordance with her recent completion of her Master's Degree, previous years of service to the district. There

was discussion and consensus by the board which expressed appreciation for Ms. Borkholder's continued service to the pupils of Nottawa Community School.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder (no relation) to move Mary Ellen Borkholder from BA to MA and vertical movement to step 6 on the pay scale. Motion Carried 5-0.

C. Storage Recommendation

1. Trailer
2. Pallet Shelves

There was discussion concerning the continued need for storage in order to free up more space in the main school building as well as the Stone School. In order to purchase and install pallet shelving the board noted that it was necessary to first have a storage trailer to make the needed space available in the bus garage. The board discussed authorization of a trustee to address this need.

Motion by Borkholder, support by Hochstetler to approve up to \$6000 for trailer and up to \$1500 for pallet shelves for storage to be selected by Trustee Hochstetler. Motion Carried. 5-0.

D. Roof Project, Next Steps

Mr. Wolff reported contacting One Way Plumbing, and Eckert Wordell. Per those conversations the next steps should be to have the drain scoped, with a roof patch to follow. Once the functionality of the drains is fully assessed then the engineered drawings can be revised or redrawn depending on how the board would like to proceed. Trustee Hochstetler will work with Mr. Wolff to coordinate the scoping and the roof patch in order to get the needed information to revise the engineered drawings.

VII. Information items

A. Early Elementary Update

Mrs. Beery shared that Kindergarten/Pre-K open house will be held on April 16th from 4:30-6. It was also discussed that the Preschool team will be attending the county-wide Pre-K family fair at Firm Foundations Church on March 17th from 2-7.

B. Data Gathering/Survey RE: Educational Offerings

The survey concerning building space and additional educational offerings, specifically secondary education was sent home January 9th. The initial responses were shared with the board. Absent data tabulation the board reviewed the initial comments and discussed some of the responses to open ended questions. These are the initial responses and the board will review a more comprehensive school level response at next month's meeting.

C. Update on fundraiser suggestion to treat hard water.

Per last month's meeting this plan was placed on temporary hold until we can evaluate the engineering improvements that are needed before being able to install a system to treat the hard water.

D. Parking Lot Improvements

1. Stone School Exit: gravel/slag for Stone School planned for spring.

Nothing new at this time. Additional gravel/slag for the Stone School entrance is still being planned for the spring.

E. Superintendent Evaluation in two parts: February and March

Mr. Wolff noted that the Superintendent evaluation begins next month.

F. Theresa Danberry: Important Updates to Board Operations

Nothing new for this month.

G. Legal Update(s)

Mr. Wolff shared legal updates from THRUN Law.

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. Motion Carried 5-0.

VISION

“Nottawa Community School will encourage the involvement of parents and community to embrace a shared purpose in the education of our students to become problem solving, responsible, and contributing members of society.”