

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

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Administration Office, 4711 S. 500 W. New Palestine, In 46163

Monday, September 29, 2025

6:30pm

Present: Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Member; Mr. Dan Walker, Board Member; Ms. Amber Rush, Executive Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President; Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Secretary; Mrs. Katy Eastes, Assistant Superintendent; Sarah Gizzi, Business Manager; Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning & Communications; Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent; Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member; Nicholas Mitchaner, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator

1 Welcome

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 Accentuate the Positive

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

2.1 Eagle Scout Project at NPI

Mr. Matt Lawson, NPCS Director of Facilities and Mr. Anthony Stone, Cubmaster, Pack 234 and Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 244

The Board will recognize Eagle Scout and New Palestine High School student, Alex Appley, for his efforts in organizing the installation of pond aerators at New Palestine Intermediate.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Alex Appley for organizing the installation of pond aerators at NPI.

Attachments:

[ATP - Eagle Scout - Alex Appley .pdf](#)

2.2 Mulch Project at NPE

Mr. Matt Lawson, NPCS Director of Facilities and Mr. Anthony Stone, Cubmaster, Pack 234 and Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 244

The Board will recognize Scout Troops 244 and 254 for spreading mulch on the Tiny Dragons playground area at New Palestine Elementary.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Scout Troops for spreading mulch on the Tiny Dragons playground area at NPE.

Attachments:

3 Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Agenda dated September 29, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the agenda for September 29, 2025. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

4 Hearing on 2026 Budget

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle paused the Regular Board Meeting to open the Hearing on the 2026 Budget. Mrs. Haeberle opened the meeting for public or board member comment. There were no comments. Mrs. Haeberle closed the Hearing on the Budget.

Attachments:

2026 Budget Advertisement.pdf

5 Hearing on 2026 Capital Projects Plan

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle paused the Regular Board Meeting to open the Hearing on the 2026 Capital Projects Plan. Mrs. Haeberle opened the meeting for public or board member comment. There were no comments. Mrs. Haeberle closed the Hearing on the Capital Project Plan.

Attachments:

2026 Capital Projects Plan.pdf

6 Hearing on 2026 Bus Replacement Plan

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle paused the Regular Board Meeting to open the 2026 Bus Replacement Plan. Mrs. Haeberle opened the meeting for public or board member comment. There were no comments. Mrs. Haeberle closed the Hearing on the 2026 Bus Replacement Plan.

Attachments:

7 Citizens Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Persons wishing to address the Board on an agenda item shall register by completing the Comments on Agenda Items Form and submitting the form to the Secretary of the Board prior to the start of the meeting. The registration form will include the name of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any), and identify the agenda item to be addressed. The agenda will be posted at the administration office and at each of the school buildings at least five (5) days (including Saturday and Sunday) prior to the meeting (i.e., by Wednesday before a Monday meeting). Copies of the agenda will also be available at the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments on agenda items will be heard at the start of the Board Meeting.

Minutes:

No Comments.

8 Consideration of Routine Business

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

8.1 Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 8, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting dated September 8, 2025. Mr. Hooker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 8 2025.pdf

8.2 Claims and Finances

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Payroll Claims dated September 12, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the claims and finances. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the claims and finances as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker
Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

Payroll Claims dated September 12 2025 .pdf

8.3 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. An anonymous donor issued a check for \$2,500.00. They would like to donate this check to the NPHS Robotics team.
- b. Mt. Lebanon Community Church has issued a check for \$470.00 to be donated to the BWE Meal Accounts with Deficit Balances.
- c. The Hancock County Health Department has donated \$10,000.00 for the purchase of AEDs for our school corporation.
- d. Knauf Insulation (Knauf Cares) has donated \$2,101.70 for the NPHS Manufacturing Program to purchase a 3D printer.
- e. New Palestine Education Foundation has donated \$2,091.25 for the purchase of an AED for our school corporation.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the donations received. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the donations as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

9 New Business

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

9.1 2026 Capital Project Plan Resolution

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi will present the Capital Projects Plan Resolution.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle asked for a motion to approve the Capital Projects Plan Resolution. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the resolution as presented by Mrs. Gizzi. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

2026 Capital Projects Plan Resolution.pdf

9.2 2026 Bus Replacement Plan Resolution

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi will present the Bus Replacement Plan Resolution.
Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle asked for a motion to approve the Bus Replacement Plan Resolution. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the resolution as presented by Mrs. Gizzi. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[2026 Bus Replacement Plan Resolution.pdf](#)

9.3 Litigation Against Social Media Companies Resolution

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval of the Litigation Against Social Media Companies Resolution.
Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle asked for a motion to approve the Litigation Against Social Media Companies Resolution. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the resolution as presented by Dr. Pleak. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LITIGATION.pdf](#)

[Attorney-Client Engagement Agreement.pdf](#)

[Social Media Litigation School Districts.pdf](#)

9.4 Board Required Reporting of Support Organizations

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Attached for review. No action is required.

Minutes:

No action is required.

Attachments:

[BWE 2025-2026 Fundraising Report.pdf](#)

[NPE 25 26 Fundraising Report .pdf](#)

[SCE 25 26 Fundraising Report.pdf](#)

10 Informal Comments

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

The Board President may call for additional informal public comment at this time, if, in his/her judgement, time permits and more comment is warranted. The time limit for such comments will be set by the President, who may also permit the administration or Board to respond to these public comments at his/her discretion.

An informal comment form must be completed on the evening of the board meeting and submitted to the Secretary of the Board prior to the start of the meeting.

Minutes:

No comments.

11 Board Member Comments

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Minutes:

Mr. McKinney was happy to honor the local scout troops for their help. Mr. McKinney expressed his appreciation for the relationships administrators and staff have cultivated with various community organizations. Mr. McKinney attended the recent high school play. He was impressed with the performance and strong student involvement. Mr. McKinney extended his gratitude to those involved in preparing the budget, recognizing the significant time and effort required for the process. Mr. McKinney finished with his appreciation for our community and continued donations. Mr. Hooker expressed his enthusiasm for recognizing student achievements and seeing their involvement. He commended the leaders and parents in the community for the positive impact and difference they make. Mr. Walker commended the outstanding performance of our Dragons sports teams. Mr. Walker has been able to attend at least one event for each fall team; this included his first time attending a girls' golf meet. Mr. Walker wished NPHS student Lauren Deering luck at the upcoming girls' golf State Finals. Mrs. Wooton was encouraged by the high number of surveys completed. She further commented on the value of including students in the survey and is happy they will have a voice and input. Mrs. Wooton congratulated the girls' soccer team on their recent conference championship. She shared that the victory was a sweet spot for her, as her daughter is a senior on the team. Mrs. Eastes shared recent legislation requiring the availability of AEDs at school events, including music activities and sporting events. Following a collaborative meeting with the nursing, athletic, and music departments, it was determined that the district needed to acquire additional AED units to comply with the new requirements. Mrs. Eastes extended her gratitude to the health department and the education foundation for their support in acquiring the necessary AEDs to meet the district's needs. Dr. Pleak extended her gratitude to the local scout troops for spreading mulch on the Tiny Dragons playground. Special acknowledgment was given to Alex Appley for organizing the project at NPI and to Matt Lawson for his mentorship throughout the process. Dr. Pleak acknowledged Mr. Dean and the staff helping him with the recent high school play and the upcoming choir concert. She acknowledged the significant time and effort dedicated to organizing these events. Dr. Pleak reported that she and Mrs. Eastes hosted Senator Crider and Representative Lawson for a campus and school corporation visit. She extended thanks to Jessica Neill and Jim Voelz for leading the tours of their respective buildings, which included visits to classrooms and conversations with staff. Dr. Pleak expressed her gratitude for the legislators' willingness to dedicate time to visit the school district and for their support. She expressed hope that this could become an annual visit. Dr. Pleak concluded by wishing everyone a wonderful fall break. Mrs. Haeberle thanked the scouts for attending the meeting and for their hard work helping at our schools. She acknowledged the significant time and dedication required to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, as her son was also an Eagle Scout. Mrs. Haeberle commented on watching the Westfield events unfold on the news and was reassured and grateful for the safety plans we have in place.

12 Adjournment

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McKinney made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

