

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

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

Monday, November 10, 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/Call to Order/Pledge

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 2024-2025 Red Wagon Corporation

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Jason Zuniga, Riley Children's Foundation Representative

A representative from Riley Children's Foundation will recognize and present a Red Wagon School certificate to all six New Palestine Community Schools. Together, all schools raised more than \$1 per student, earning the school corporation the status of a 2024-2025 Red Wagon Corporation.

Minutes:

A representative from Riley Children's Foundation recognized all six New Palestine Community Schools as Red Wagon Schools, as well as recognizing NPCS as a 2024-2025 Red Wagon Corporation.

2.2 Lilly Scholarship Finalists

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Ms. Sarah House, Community Foundation of Hancock County Representative

The Board will recognize New Palestine High School students, Heidi Bloomer and Isabelle Singer, as Lilly Scholarship finalists.

Minutes:

The Board recognized students, Heidi Bloomer and Isabelle Singer, as Lilly Scholarship finalists.

Attachments:

[Heidi Bloomer Lilly Scholarship Finalists 2025.pdf](#)

[Isabelle Singer Lilly Scholarship Finalists 2025.pdf](#)

2.3 2025 IREAD Assessment

Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning and Communications

The Board will recognize Brandywine Elementary School, New Palestine Elementary School, and Sugar Creek Elementary School for their exemplary performance on the 2025 IREAD assessment.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Brandywine Elementary School, New Palestine Elementary School, and Sugar Creek Elementary School for their performance on the 2025 IREAD assessment.

Attachments:

BWE 2024-2025 IREAD .pdf

NPE 2024-2025 IREAD .pdf

SCE 2024-2025 IREAD .pdf

3 Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Agenda dated November 10, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the November 10, 2025 agenda. Mr. Hooker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

4 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.

5 Consideration of Routine Business

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

5.1 Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 27, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 27, 2025. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated Oct 27 2025.pdf

5.2 Personnel Report

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Personnel Report dated November 10, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated Nov 10 2025.pdf

5.3 Claims and Finances

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Payroll Claims dated October 24, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Dan Walker

Attachments:

Payroll Claims dated 10-24-2025.pdf

5.4 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. Jason Greulich has donated \$500.00 to the NPHS Robotics Program.
- b. John Ilang-Ilang of Salesforce has donated \$105.00. The donation will go into the Donation Fund and will be used to help pay an upcoming daycare food catering invoice.
- c. NPHS Photography received an \$820.00 award in honor of Hayden Ramsey from the Community Foundation of Hancock County.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve donations. 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

5.5 Varsity Winter Guard Field Trip

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Jon Carney, NPHS Band Director

Mr. Voelz and Mr. Carney are requesting permission for the Varsity Winter Guard to attend the WGI World Championships on April 8-11, 2026, in Cincinnati, OH and Dayton, OH.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the Varsity Winter Guard to attend the WGI World Championships. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the trip request as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[5.5 Varsity Winter Guard.pdf](#)

5.6 Color Guard

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Jon Carney, NPHS Band Director

Mr. Voelz and Mr. Carney are seeking approval for the Color Guard overnight event at NPHS 12/29/25-12/30/25.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the overnight Color Guard event. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the event as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker
Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

5.6 Color Guard.pdf

5.7 Varsity and Game Day Competition Cheer Teams

Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

Mr. Murphy is requesting approval for the 2025-2026 Varsity and Game Day Competition Cheer teams to travel to Orlando, FL on 1/30/26-2/1/26. The teams will compete in the 2026 National High School Cheer Championship at the ESPN World of Sports Complex.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the Varsity and Game Day Competition Cheer teams to travel to Orlando and compete in the 2026 National High School Cheer Championship at the ESPN World of Sports Complex. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the trip as presented. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker
Seconded: Mr. Dan Walker

Attachments:

5.7 Varsity and Game Day Competition Teams.pdf

5.8 NPHS Boys Wrestling Team

Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

Mr. Murphy is requesting permission for the NPHS Boys Wrestling team to stay overnight in Evansville on 12/29/25-12/30/25, for the wrestling tournament being held at Mater Dei High School.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the NPHS Boys Wrestling team to stay overnight in Evansville for the wrestling tournament being held at Mater Dei High School. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the overnight trip as presented. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney
Seconded: Mr. Dan Walker

Attachments:

5.8 Boys Wrestling to Mater Dei High School.pdf

5.9 NPHS Boys Wrestling Team

Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

Mr. Murphy is requesting permission for the NPHS Boys Wrestling team to stay overnight in Mishawaka on December 19, 2025, for the wrestling tournament being held at Penn High School on December 20,

2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the NPHS Boys Wrestling team to stay overnight in Mishawaka for the wrestling tournament being held at Penn High School. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the overnight trip as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[5.9 Boys Wrestling to Penn High School.pdf](#)

5.10 NPHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team

Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

Mr. Murphy is requesting permission for the NPHS Varsity Boys Basketball team to stay overnight in Lawrenceburg and participate in the Ray Furney Holiday Classic hosted by Lawrenceburg High School, January 2-4, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the NPHS Varsity Boys Basketball team to stay overnight in Lawrenceburg and participate in the Ray Furney Holiday Classic hosted by Lawrenceburg High School. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the overnight trip as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[5.10 Varsity Boys Basketball.pdf](#)

6 New Business

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

6.1 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval of the proposed 2026 Regular Board Meeting dates.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates. Mrs. Wooton motioned to approve the dates as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[2026 Board Meeting Dates.pdf](#)

6.2 New Course Recommendations for 2026-2027

Mr. Nicholas Mitchaner, Curriculum Coordinator

Mr. Mitchaner is seeking approval of course recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year.

- a. 2516 Algebra I Lab
- b. 4512 Business Math
- c. 7218 Technical Math
- d. 1084 Digital Media
- e. 1080 Journalism
- f. 1096 Technical Communication
- g. 3524 Introduction to Public Service
- h. 7290 Heavy Equipment Fundamentals
- i. 7291 Advanced Heavy Equipment Operations

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[2516 .pdf](#)

[4512.pdf](#)

[7218.pdf](#)

[1084.pdf](#)

[1080.pdf](#)

[1096.pdf](#)

[3524.pdf](#)

[7290.pdf](#)

[7291.pdf](#)

7 Reports

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

7.1 Enrollment Update

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi will present the Board with an update on enrollment.

Minutes:

Mrs. Gizzi presented the Board with an enrollment update.

Attachments:

Enrollment Update 11-10-2025.pdf

8 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.

9 Board Member Comments

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Minutes:

Mr. McKinney was delighted to recognize our students as Lilly Scholarship Finalists and highlight the importance of philanthropy. He truly enjoyed hearing about the impressive ways students dedicate their time outside of school hours to give back to the community, emphasizing his belief that philanthropy is a vital component of becoming a well-rounded individual. Mr. McKinney also took pleasure in recognizing each elementary principal for their strong performance on the IREAD assessment, though he noted that every principal would be the first to praise and credit their dedicated teachers. Mr. Hooker echoed the sentiment that discussing philanthropy and community service is valuable. He highlighted the special coincidence that both recognized students were cousins from great families, who also happen to be alumni of New Palestine High School. Mr. Walker commented on the excellent performance of both our Girls' Varsity Basketball and Varsity Football teams. He was able to attend two incredible events and thought both teams played awesome! Mr. Walker also made sure to mention the pep band's outstanding performance at the game, crediting them for the fantastic energy they brought to the atmosphere. Mrs. Wooton expressed excitement regarding the addition of so many writing courses. She believes writing is a fundamental life skill that will undoubtedly help students prepare for all the challenging work ahead of them. Mrs. Eastes reminded the Board members that House Enrolled Act 1002 reduced the rigid requirements for teacher evaluations, providing the district with the opportunity to reimagine the evaluation process. A committee of teachers and administrators met to start the conversation on what teacher evaluations will look like. Dr. Pleak expressed her gratitude to all the custodial, maintenance, administrative staff, officers, and other team members who worked the recent football game. She also extended her thanks to the coaches, players, cheerleaders, band, students, and families, acknowledging their collective effort in successfully hosting over 4,300 people for an incredible evening. Dr. Pleak concluded her remarks by reminding the crowd that the following day was Veterans Day; she urged everyone to express their gratitude to those who have served our country in the military. Mrs. Haeberle expressed her belief that New Palestine Community Schools have a lot to be thankful for.

10 Adjournment

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Amber H. Walker

Dan Walker

Laura J. Haeberle

Janet Hahn

Brian McKinney