

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

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

Monday, December 8, 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 AP Scholar with Distinction Recipients

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Mitch Burk, NPHS Assistant Principal

The Board will recognize NPHS students and 2025 NPHS graduates, Evan Barone, Bethany Blachly, Jacob Cooper, Chase Emberton, Carson Eyerman, Madelyn Geryak, Stephanie Girolami, McKenzie Hacker, Andrew Hertig, Blake Hurst, Jackson Kamp, Arjomand Khokhar, Eli Martin, Blake Pool, Ayden Rush, Chase Shinkle, Gavin Smith, Emma Snyder, Kendall Steele, Jace Sutton, Cooper Trimpe, and Benjamin Wilson. These students received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Minutes:

The Board recognized AP Scholar with Distinction recipients.

Attachments:

[ATP - Scholar w Distinction 2025.pdf](#)

2.2 Brandywine Elementary School / 2025 Indiana Blue Ribbon School Recognition

Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning and Communications

The Board will recognize Brandywine Elementary School for being named a 2025 Indiana Blue Ribbon School.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Brandywine Elementary School staff for being named a 2025 Indiana Blue

Ribbon School.

Attachments:

[ATP - BWE Blue Ribbon School .pdf](#)

3 Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

Agenda dated December 8, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the agenda for December 8, 2025. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

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 November 10, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes dated Nov 10 2025.pdf](#)

5.2 Personnel Report

Mrs. Laura Haerberle, Board President

Personnel Report dated December 8, 2025.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[5.2 Personnel Report dated Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

5.3 Claims and Finances

Mrs. Laura Haerberle, Board President

- a. Payroll Claims dated November 7, 2025.
 - b. Payroll Claims dated November 21, 2025.
 - c. Claims dated October 31, 2025.
 - d. Claims dated November 30, 2025.
- Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haerberle requested a motion to approve the claims and finances. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the claims and finances as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[5.3a Payroll Claims dated 11-07-2025.pdf](#)

[5.3b Payroll Claims dated 11-21-2025.pdf](#)

[5.3c Claims dated 10 31 25.PDF](#)

[5.3d Claims dated 11 30 25.pdf](#)

5.4 NPHS Robotics Competition

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Tim Tarplee, NPHS Robotics Coach

Mr. Voelz and Mr. Tarplee are requesting permission for the robotics team to travel to Sandusky, OH, to compete at the Kalahari Signature Event on January 23-24, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the robotics team to attend the Kalahari Signature Event in Ohio. 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:

[5.4 NPHS Robotics to OH.pdf](#)

5.5 NPHS Robotics Competition

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Tim Tarplee, NPHS Robotics Coach

Mr. Voelz and Mr. Tarplee are requesting permission for the robotics team to travel to Bristol, TN, to compete at the Bots @Bristol Signature Event on February 12-13, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the robotics team to attend the Bots @Bristol Signature Event in Tennessee. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the trip request as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[5.5 NPHS Robotics to TN.pdf](#)

5.6 NPJH Robotics Competition

Mrs. Jessica Neill, NPJH Principal and Mrs. Jennifer Dropsey, NPJH Volunteer Assistant Robotics Coach

Mrs. Neill and Mrs. Dropsey are requesting permission for the robotics team to travel to Sandusky, OH, and compete at the Kalahari Classic on January 19-20, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the robotics team to attend the Kalahari Classic in Ohio. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the trip request as presented. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Dan Walker

Attachments:

[5.6 NPJH Robotics Competition to OH.pdf](#)

5.7 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. Pinnacle Construction Group has donated \$500.00 each to NPI and NPJH Robotics Programs.
 - b. Integrity Machine Systems, Inc. has donated \$500.00 to the NPI Robotics Program.
 - c. NPI received a cash donation of \$100.00 from Danisha Kennedy for the NPI Fun Run Fundraiser.
 - d. A \$200.00 grant was awarded to Sarah Dobbins at NPI from the Forum Credit Union Foundation. The funds will be accounted for in the Miscellaneous Projects fund.
 - e. Kids & Kettles Extension donated \$300.00 to the BWE, NPE, and SCE Meal Accounts with Deficit Balances.
 - f. Service Engineering donated \$1,000.00 for the NPHS Robotics Program.
 - g. NPCS Facilities received a \$500.00 grant from the New Palestine Education Foundation to be used for staff appreciation.
 - h. BWE received a \$1,500.00 grant from the New Palestine Education Foundation to be used for the BWE Blue Ribbon School Celebration.
 - i. Integrity Machine Systems donated \$500.00 to the NPHS Robotics Program.
 - j. MG Landscape & Design, Inc. donated \$1,000.00 to NPHS to be used for the We the People account.
 - k. NPJH Robotics Program received a \$1,000.00 grant from Duke Energy.
 - l. Structural Design, Inc. donated \$250.00 to the NPI Robotics Program.
 - m. Steven & Ashley Warren donated \$500.00 to the NPI Robotics Program.
 - n. Employee Wellness Fair list of donations/sponsorships: Humana Dental (\$100.00), 5/3 Bank (\$253.00), Grand Canyon Education (\$1,000.00), Jason Woodruff (Equitable) (\$250.00), Greenfield Banking Company (\$500.00), Corebridge Financial (American General Life Insurance Company) (\$250.00), and Hancock Regional Hospital (Hancock Health) (\$1,000.00).
- Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Dan Walker

6 New Business

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

6.1 Education Fund and Operations Fund

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi is requesting permission to transfer funds to ensure all accounts have a positive end-of-year balance. Funds will be transferred from line items that were unspent to line items in which additional

dollars are needed.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the recommended transfer as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[6.1 Education Fund and Operations Fund Permission to Transfer.pdf](#)

6.2 Education Fund to Daycare Fund

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi is requesting permission to transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Daycare Fund to ensure a positive end-of-year balance.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the recommended transfer as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[6.2 Education Fund to Daycare Fund Permission to Transfer Funds.pdf](#)

6.3 Consumable and Supplemental Course Fees for Spring 2026

Mr. Nicholas Mitchaner, Curriculum Coordinator and Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning and Communications

Mr. Mitchaner and Mr. Smith will be seeking board approval on consumable and supplemental material fees for specific courses to begin in the Spring 2026 semester.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the consumable and supplemental material fees for the Spring 2026 semester. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the recommended fees. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

6.4 Joint Services Agreement of the Hancock County Career Center

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is seeking approval of the Joint Services Agreement of the Hancock County Career Center. Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the Joint Services Agreement of the Hancock County Career Center. Mrs. Wooton motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[6.4 Joint Service Agreement of the Hancock County Career Center.pdf](#)

6.5 First Reading of Policies

Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Member

- a. C525 Medical Needs at School
- b. D300 Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing
- c. F100 Internal Controls
- d. F125 Purchasing Procedures and Capital Assets
- e. F176 Unpaid Meal Policy
- f. F225 Fundraising and Crowdfunding

First reading of policies. No action is required at this time.

Minutes:

First reading of policies. No action required.

Attachments:

[C525-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

[D300-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

[F100-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

[F125-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

[F176-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

[F225-First Reading on Dec 8 2025.pdf](#)

6.6 Deletion of Policy G125

Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Member

Mr. McKinney is seeking approval to delete policy G125 Criminal Organization Activity. This policy is no longer required.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle requested a motion to approve the deletion of policy G125. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the deletion. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[G125.pdf](#)

7 Reports

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board President

7.1 Latin Honors and Weighted Grades Report

Mr. Nicholas Mitchaner, Curriculum Coordinator

Mr. Mitchaner will present a report on Latin Honors and Weighted Grades.

Minutes:

Mr. Mitchaner presented a report on Latin Honors and Weighted Grades.

Attachments:

[NPHS Weighted Grades and Latin Honors Board Report.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 noted that the first semester is nearing the end, and the district has enjoyed a successful fall season. He expressed enthusiasm for the transition into the winter season of academics and athletics. He shared his personal pride in recognizing two significant achievements: Celebrating students for their outstanding performance in Advanced Placement programs and honoring Brandywine Elementary School (BWE) for being named a Blue Ribbon School. Mr. McKinney admitted a heartfelt bias toward BWE, having attended the school himself along with his children. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of recognizing the individuals who make a meaningful impact on students' lives every day. Mr. Hooker was touched to look out from his seat at the state football championship game and see a sea of red supporting our team. The on-field achievements were excellent, but he felt the show of support truly speaks to who we are as a school and community. He attests as a

former NPHS athlete that these experiences stay with you and are why so many return to live in communities like ours—to remain part of a winning, supportive culture that allows our students' talents to be showcased. Mr. Walker congratulated the football coaches and players on their state championship win, joking that he lost his voice for a week after cheering so enthusiastically at the game. He also echoed Mr. McKinney's fondness for Brandywine Elementary School, noting that he, too, attended there as a student. Mrs. Wooton shared her excitement about receiving a Brandywine Elementary School Blue Ribbon T-shirt, proudly noting that she now owns clothing and accessories from every school in the district. She expressed her pride in Brandywine and its achievements—Go Bulldogs! Mrs. Eastes shared a fun fact that she and Mr. Theobald went to high school together many years ago, joking that he is slightly younger. She expressed how proud she is of him and shared that while he credited his teachers during Brandywine Elementary School's recognition, she believes his leadership as principal has been key to building success and a positive school culture. Mrs. Eastes closed by acknowledging the generous number of donations received, noting that she has never seen so many. She expressed her sincere gratitude to all who contributed and gave special thanks to those who donated to the staff wellness fair. Dr. Pleak mentioned that she had a list of items to comment on, but chose to paraphrase and condense, saying, "I love New Palestine Community Schools. I love being the superintendent—and winning is fun!" On her drive to the meeting, Mrs. Haeberle reflected on how much there is to be thankful for in our school district. She thanked Mr. Theobald for the invitation to attend Brandywine's celebration and Day of Yes. She described the event as magical and wonderful, and she especially enjoyed seeing the staff, students, parents, and community members come together to celebrate.

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. Hooker made the motion to adjourn. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Amber Rush
D.W. Walker
Laura Haeberle
Jon Hooker
Brian McKinney