BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH BRANCH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER
6655 JEFFERSON, PO BOX 3620
NORTH BRANCH, MICHIGAN 48461-3620

The regular meeting of the North Branch Board of Education was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026 in the board room located in the North Branch Educational Services Center, 6655 Jefferson Road, North Branch, Michigan.

President Deshetsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call indicated the following Board members present:

Members Present:	Daniel Deshetsky, President
	Cory Mabery, Vice President
	Patrick Henne, Treasurer
	Cheryl Howell, Secretary
	Jason Cullin, Trustee
	Maria Hoebeke, Trustee – arrived at 7:26 p.m.
	Andrew Hebberd

Others Present:	James D. Fish	Superintendent
	Melissa Montgomery	Director of Finance & Human Resources
	Amber White	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
	Douglas Lindsay	North Branch High School Principal
	Mark Brown	Director of Technology
	Jeff Drayton	Director of Operations & Facilities

Community Members – 27

Election of Officers

Cory Mabery nominated Daniel Deshetsky for President

Moved by Howell, supported by Mabery to close nominations for President and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Daniel Deshetsky.
Roll Call Vote: Henne aye, Mabery aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Cullin aye, Hebberd aye
6 aye, 0 nay, 1 absent

Patrick Henne nominated Cory Mabery for Vice-President

Moved by Howell, supported by Henne to close nominations for Vice-President and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Cory Mabery.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Henne aye, Mabery aye, Deshetsky aye, Cullin aye, Hebberd aye
6 aye, 0 nay, 1 absent

Cheryl Howell nominated Patrick Henne for Treasurer

Moved by Mabery, supported by Howell to close nominations for Treasurer and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Patrick Henne.
Roll Call Vote: Hebberd aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Henne aye, Deshetsky aye
6 aye, 0 nay, 1 absent

Jason Cullin nominated Cheryl Howell for Secretary

Moved by Henne, supported by Mabery to close nominations for Secretary and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Cheryl Howell.
Roll Call Vote: Hebberd aye, Howell aye, Henne aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Deshetsky aye
6 aye, 0 nay, 1 absent

Moved by Mabery, supported by Cullin the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Henne aye, Howell aye, Hebberd aye, Deshetsky aye
6 aye, 0 nay, 1 absent – Motion Carried

Student Report – Josie Greschaw, North Branch High School Student Council President, gave the Board of Education an update of all the events and activities happening at the high school.

Presentations --
High School Band Recognition – Mr. Ehardt, high school band director, recognized several band students on their recent achievements.

College and Career Readiness Advisor, Kristina LaBarge, informed the board of a new partnership with St. Clair Community College that will provide a new opportunity for students to receive a free college education through their College. She also informed the Board of Education the recent FAFSA grant award the district has received.

Board Committee Reports – none

Comments from the Public – None

Consent Agenda -
Moved by Hebberd, supported by Mabery the Board of Education approve the consent agenda including the approval of the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, review of the December Account Payables in the amount of $1,395,916.97, review of the December Food Service Bills in the amount of $95,018.67, review of the December Financial Report and acknowledge the resignation of Melissa Swoish, Student Services Coordinator, and the resignation for retirement purposes of Elizabeth Grzecki, Ruth Fox Middle School Special Education Teacher with regrets and best wishes.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Hoebeke aye, Henne aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Hebberd aye, Howell aye

7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Items for Discussion/Action –
Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Hebberd the Board of Education approve the employment of Autumn Fackler as an ELA Teacher at North Branch High School.
Roll Call Vote: Hebberd aye, Hoebeke aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Cullin aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Henne, supported by Howell the Board of Education approve the employment of Mary Yeman as a 2.5 hour lunch/recess aide at North Branch Elementary.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Henne aye, Hoebeke aye, Hebberd aye, Deshetsky aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Hebberd, supported by Howell the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting dates for 2026 as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Hebberd aye, Hoebeke aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Cullin aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Mabery, supported by Deshetsky the Board of Education adopt the 2026 District/Superintendent shared goals as stated:

1. North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will teach, measure, and continuously improve instruction aligned with state standards for increased student achievement and College and Career readiness.
2. North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will evaluate and enhance opportunities for students by adopting and executing a budget that prioritizes teaching and learning in a safe environment while improving the district's financial stability.
3. North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will validate the importance of every staff member as critical to the success of the district and will maintain partnerships of integrity and trust within the North Branch Community.
4. North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will support professional learning, teaching and integration of generative Artificial Intelligence as a way to ensure BK-12 students acquire the AI literacy skills and dispositions needed for College and Career readiness.

Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Deshetsky aye, Hoebeke aye, Hebberd aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Cullin aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Mabery, supported by Henne the Board of Education approve the designation of Thrun Law Firm for the district's legal counsel, the firm of Taylor Butterfield PC of Lapeer for all real estate transactions and other local matters.
Roll Call Vote: Henne aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Hoebeke aye, Hebberd aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Howell, supported by Cullin the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 E-Rate Bid Proposal from Vector for an amount not to exceed $430,000 in which the school district would be financially responsible for 15% of the total cost not to exceed $64,500 contingent upon E-Rate funding as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Hoebeke aye, Hebberd aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Communications – The High School Principal gave updates on high school student activities and current contract negotiations with Dean Transportation. Superintendent, The Director of Finance and Human Resources, the Director of Facilities & Operations, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Director of Technology gave district updates.

Comments from the Public – The Board entertained comments from the public.

Comments from Board Members – The board members made comments.

Other Business –
Mr. Fish provided information regarding the purchase of 2 electric grant funded school buses.

Moved by Mabery, supported by Henne the Board of Education approve the purchase of two electric school buses using the Section 74(b) Clean Bus Energy grant monies awarded to North Branch Area Schools as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Hoebeke aye, Hebberd aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Mabery, supported by Howell the Board of Education adjourn at 9:05 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Hebberd aye, Cullin aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Deshetsky aye, Hoebeke aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Cheryl Howell

Cheryl Howell, Secretary