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 26, 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 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call indicated the following Board members present:

Members Present:	Daniel Deshetsky, President
	Cory Mabery, Vice President
	Patrick Henne, Treasurer -- absent
	Cheryl Howell, Secretary
	Jason Cullin, Trustee
	Maria Hoebeke, Trustee – arrived at 7:06 p.m.
	Andrew Hebberd -- absent

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
	Dane Terauds	Ruth Fox Middle School Principal
	Theresa Rae	North Branch Elementary Principal
	Brooke Martin	North Branch High School Assistant Principal
	Jennifer Lowe	Ruth Fox Middle School Assistant Principal
	Nik Hopp	North Branch Elementary Assistant Principal
	Mark Brown	Director of Technology
	Jeff Drayton	Director of Operations & Facilities

Community Members – 3

Moved by Mabery, supported by Cullin the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Howell aye, Deshetsky aye
4 aye, 0 nay, 3 absent – Motion Carried

Student Report – none

Presentations --
School Board Recognition and Appreciation – Mr. Kolacz, STEAM teacher at North Branch Elementary, along with a fourth grade student, presented each board member with a plaque in appreciation for their service. The plaques were made during specials by the fourth grade students.

Board Committee Reports – Finance Committee meeting was held on January 23, 2026. Daniel Deshetsky, Finance Committee Chairperson, updated the board on the financial topics that were

discussed at the committee meeting

Comments from the Public – None

Consent Agenda -
Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Howell the Board of Education approve the consent agenda including the approval of the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, acknowledge the resignations of Jennifer Lowe, Assistant Principal at Ruth Fox Middle School and Jodi Hebberd, paraprofessional at North Branch High School, and acknowledge the resignations for retirement purposes of Sara Hyde, teacher at North Branch Elementary and Sheri Cloutier, paraprofessional at North Branch Elementary with regrets and best wishes.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Hoebeke aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Howell aye

5 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent – Motion Carried

Items for Discussion/Action –
Moved by Mabery, supported by Cullin the Board of Education approve the purchase of two 77 passenger school buses as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Hoebeke aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye
5 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Howell the Board of Education approve the purchase of district Chromebooks and Carts not to exceed $235,000.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye, Hoebeke aye, Deshetsky aye
5 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Mabery, supported by Cullin the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Budget Revision #1 as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Hoebeke aye, Deshetsky aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye, Cullin aye
5 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent – Motion Carried

Communications – The Elementary, Ruth Fox Middle School and High School Principals expressed their appreciation to the board and gave building updates on school activities.
The Director of Technology communicated technology updates to the board 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. The Director of Curriculum and Instructions thanked the Board of Ed for their support and communicated several curriculum related updates. The Superintendent gave district updates.

Comments from the Public – none

Comments from Board Members – The board members made comments.

Other Business – none

Moved by Howell, supported by Hoebeke the Board of Education adjourn at 8:44 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Cullin aye, Mabery aye, Deshetsky aye, Hoebeke aye
5 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent – Motion Carried

Cheryl Howell

Cheryl Howell, Secretary