

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
4485 S. Victory Dr., New Palestine, In 46163
Monday, February 9, 2026
6:30pm

Present: Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary; Mr. Dan Walker, Board President; Ms. Amber Rush, Executive Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member; Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President; 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

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Hooker and Mrs. Haeberle attended the meeting virtually.

2 Accentuate the Positive

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

2.1 IHSAA Girls Wrestling Individual State Medalist

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

The Board will recognize New Palestine High School student, June Wagner-Gilbert, for her 5th place finish at the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Girls State Wrestling Finals.

Minutes:

The Board recognized June Wagner-Gilbert for her 5th place finish at the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Girls State Wrestling Finals.

Attachments:

[ATP - Girls Wrestling State 2025-2026.pdf](#)

2.2 IASP Cheer State Champions/HCCA Spirit State Champions

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

The Board will recognize the Dragons Cheer Partner Stunt Group as Indiana Association of School Principals' (IASP) Indiana Cheer State Champions and the Hoosier Cheer Coaches Association's (HCCA) Spirit State Champions. The stunt group consists of Kalle Jones, Halle Ringham, Olivia Frank, Rylee Stone, and Finleigh White. The group is coached by Madonna McGovern, Carrie Ferguson, Jake Garrison, and Emma Natalie.

Minutes:

The Board recognized the Dragons Cheer Partner Stunt Group for their Indiana Association of School Principals' (IASP) Indiana Cheer State Champions and the Hoosier Cheer Coaches Association's

(HCCA) Spirit State Championships.

Attachments:

ATP - IASP Cheer State Champions HCCA Spirit State Champions .pdf

2.3 2025 Indianapolis Colts Coach of the Year

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

The Board will recognize New Palestine football coach, Kyle Ralph, for being named the 2025 Indianapolis Colts Coach of the Year.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Kyle Ralph for being named the 2025 Indianapolis Colts Coach of the Year.

Attachments:

ATP - Coach of the Year - K. Ralph .pdf

2.4 2025 IHSAA Class 5A Football State Champions

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

The Board will recognize New Palestine High School players, coaches, and managers for their 2025 Class 5A Football State Championship.

Minutes:

The Board recognized New Palestine High School players, coaches, and managers for their 2025 Class 5A Football State Championship.

Attachments:

ATP - 2025-2026 Football State Champions.pdf

3 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Agenda dated February 9, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the agenda for February 9, 2026. Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

4 Citizens Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Dan Walker, 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 Consent Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Board approval of agenda items 5.1-5.3 is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Meeting Minutes, Claims and Finances, and the Personnel Report. Mrs. Wooton motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

5.1 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

a. Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2026.

- b. Special Session Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2026.
- c. Executive Session Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2026.

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated Jan 12 2025.pdf
Special Session Meeting Minutes dated Jan 12 2026.pdf
Executive Session Meeting Minutes dated Jan 12 2026.pdf

5.2 Claims and Finances

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

- a. Payroll Claims dated January 16, 2026.
- b. Payroll Claims dated January 30, 2026.
- c. Claims dated January 31, 2026.

Attachments:

Payroll Claims dated Jan 16 2026.pdf
Payroll Claims dated Jan 30 2026.pdf
Claims dated Jan 31 2026.pdf

5.3 Personnel Report

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Personnel Report dated February 9, 2026.

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated Feb 9 2026.pdf

6 New Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

6.1 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. Ryan and Angela Gookins donated \$50,000 to go towards the School Safety Program. Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

6.2 Cancellation of Outstanding Checks

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

In alignment with State Board of Accounts guidelines, all checks that have been outstanding for two years from the date of issue may be canceled and receipted back into the designated fund after December 31st of the second anniversary date. Attached is a list of eligible checks for consideration. Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[NPCS Outstanding Checks .pdf](#)

[NPHS Outstanding Checks.pdf](#)

[NPJH Outstanding Checks.pdf .pdf](#)

[NPI Outstanding Checks.pdf](#)

[BWE Outstanding Checks.pdf](#)

[NPE Outstanding Checks .pdf](#)

[SCE Outstanding Checks.pdf](#)

6.3 Diamond Sensations Field Trip Request

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Michael Dean, NPHS Choir Director

The Diamond Sensations will compete late into the evening on February 27, 2026, at Franklin Central High School and early morning on February 28, 2026, at Mooresville High School. In an effort to

maximize student safety and rest, Mr. Voelz and Mr. Dean are seeking approval for the group to stay overnight in a hotel near Plainfield, IN for these competitions.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the Diamond Sensations' overnight stay near Plainfield, IN. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

Diamond Sensations Field Trip Request.pdf

6.4 **Recommendation for Commencement Date**

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal

Mr. Voelz is requesting approval of commencement dates for the Class of 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the commencement dates for the Class of 2026. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the dates as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[2026 Recommendation for Commencement Date.pdf](#)

6.5 Staff Daycare Fees

Cheryl Rose, Early Childhood and Special Education Coordinator

Mrs. Rose is requesting approval of the 2026-2027 Staff Daycare fees.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Staff Daycare fees. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[2026-2027 Staff Day Care Fees.pdf](#)

6.6 2027-2028 NPCS Master Calendar

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval of the 2027-2028 NPCS Master Calendar.

Board approval is requested.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the 2027-2028 NPCS Master Calendar. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the calendar as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

2027-2028 NPCCS Master Calendar Draft .pdf

6.7 Update to the 2026-2027 NPCCS Master Calendar
Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval to update the 2026-2027 NPCCS Master Calendar.
Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the recommended update to the 2026-2027 NPCCS Master Calendar. Mrs. Wooton motioned to approve the update as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

Updated 2026-2027 NPCCS Master Calendar.pdf

6.8 Professional Service Agreement
Mrs. Katy Eastes, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Eastes is presenting this student support professional service agreement with Angels of Hope Home Care for services provided to students with identified special needs.
Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Waker requested a motion to approve the service agreement with Angels of Hope Home Care. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haerberle, Board Member	X		
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

Professional Service Agreement.pdf

7 Reports

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

7.1 Facilities Update

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Pleak presented the Board with a Facilities update.

Mr. McKinney thanked Dr. Pleak for the Facilities Update, noting his appreciation for proactive thinking regarding the district's short- and long-term needs. He emphasized the importance of providing a safe and exceptional learning and teaching environment for our students and staff.

8 Informal Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, 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.

9 Board Member Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Minutes:

Mrs. Haeberle congratulated Dr. Katy Eastes on recently earning her doctorate. Mr. Hooker congratulated Dr. Eastes on earning her doctorate. Serving as our legislative liaison, Mr. Hooker also reported a quiet February legislative session but noted the Indiana School Board Association is monitoring a few education-related bills. Mrs. Wooton shared her praise for the high school cabaret, describing the performance as incredible. She also expressed her excitement over the New Palestine football team's recent state championship and noted the success of alumni, including former players who were a part of the IU national championship team and the Super Bowl-winning Seattle Seahawks. She is extremely impressed and proud of New Pal. Mr. McKinney commented that we recognize many student-athletes, but the 'student' always comes before the 'athlete.' From our kindergartners to our seniors, we have incredible students who prioritize their education and then bring that same excellence to the field. Mr. McKinney also commented on how well done the high school cabaret was and how much he enjoyed the performance. He ended his comments by congratulating Dr. Eastes for earning her doctorate. Dr. Pleak shared how choked up she was while listening to the cabaret perform "What a Wonderful World". She agreed the performance was fantastic and she loved it. She noted the high number of students participating, and she is excited to see how they do this season. She also shared that our boys' wrestling program won its first sectional since 2008 and its first regional win in school history. She commented on what an incredible job the wrestlers and coaching staff are doing. Dr. Pleak announced that we had just been notified that five of our staff members received recognition awards from the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children. The five staff members receiving awards are Vincent Meo, Mindy Huseman, Jordan Miller, Jen Norton, and Hannah Mashino. Dr. Pleak ended her comments by congratulating Dr. Eastes on earning her doctoral degree and how proud she is to know one of the 290 superintendents is Dr. Katy Eastes. She commented on how much Dr. Eastes will be missed and how lucky Batesville is to have her join them. Dr. Eastes thanked our amazing staff, community, and students. She has enjoyed watching our students grow into parents over the 26 years with our school district. She also thanked our Board for believing in her as a teacher and administrator. Dr. Eastes also thanked Dr. Pleak for her support and shared her gratitude for her encouragement and guidance. Mr. Walker thanked Dr. Eastes for all she had done for our school district and wished her good luck, and also expressed how much she would be missed. Mr. Walker also shared his excitement for former NPHS player, Maxen Hook, and his Super Bowl Championship. He also commented on the successful winter season our teams were having.

10 Adjournment

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker 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

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary	X		
Mr. Dan Walker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President	X		
Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member	X		

Amanda Wooton

Jon Hooker

David

Brian McKinney

Karen J. Haeberle