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, March 23, 2026 in the boardroom located in the North Branch Educational Services Center, 6655 Jefferson, 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	
	Andrew Hebberd, Trustee	
Others Present:	James D. Fish	Superintendent
	Melissa Montgomery	Director of Finance & Human Resources
	Amber White	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
	Doug Lindsay	North Branch High School Principal

Community Members – 19

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

Student Report – Alex Kozlowski, Quest High School student, informed the Board of his recent visit to a State Board Meeting in Lansing.

Presentations –
National Merit Scholarship Finalists – John Ehardt and Logan Burack were recognized and congratulated by the Board of Education for achieving the status as National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Recognition of Varsity Wrestling State Qualifiers – Martin Knight, high school senior, Christian Rodriguez, high school sophomore, and Tim Hanna, high school sophomore, were recognized and congratulated by the Board of Education for being state qualifiers at the MHSAA State Finals.

L & L Products thanked the Board of Education for the continued partnership. L & L Products has donated several dollars toward district STEM programs.

Board Committee Reports –
Long Range Facility Planning Committee Meeting – Cory Mabery updated the Board on facility related items that were discussed at the March 18, 2026 committee meeting which included the 5 year plan updates that the board will review and approve at the April meetings.

Curriculum Committee Meeting -- Cheryl Howell updated the board on curriculum related items that were discussed at the March 23, 2026 committee meeting which included the 5 year plan updates that the board will review and approve at the April meetings.

Comments from the Public – relating to agenda items -- none

Consent Agenda -

Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Henne the North Branch Board of Education approve the consent agenda including the approval of the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, the resignation of Dane Terauds, Ruth Fox Middle School Principal and acknowledge the resignation for retirement purposes of Michelle Goldstein, Ruth Fox Middle School teacher with regrets and best wishes.
Roll Call Vote: Cullin aye, Deshetsky aye, Hebberd aye, Henne aye, Hoebeke aye, Howell aye, Mabery aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Items for Discussion/Action –

Moved by Mabery, supported by Howell the Board of Education approve the ratification of the 2026-2029 AFSCME Master Agreement as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Henne aye, Hoebeke aye, Howell aye, Cullin aye, Deshetsky aye, Hebberd aye, Mabery aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Cullin, supported by Hebberd the Board of Education acknowledges the North Branch Area Schools Triennial Local Wellness Policy Assessment as presented
Roll Call Vote: Mabery aye, Hebberd aye, Deshetsky aye, Henne aye, Hoebeke aye, Howell aye, Cullin aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Communications – The high school principal gave updates on student activities and events to the board. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction gave district updates to the board. The Superintendent gave district updates to the board.

Comments from the Public – The Public made comments.

Comments from Board Members – The board members made comments.

Break at 8:22 p.m.

Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Henne the Board of Education enter into a closed session for the purpose of a student discipline hearing at 8:27 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Howell aye, Hebberd aye, Cullin aye, Hoebeke aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Return to Open Session at 9:28 p.m.

Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Mabery the Board of Education approve the minutes of the closed session.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Hoebeke aye, Cullin aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Deshetsky aye, Hebberd aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Moved by Deshetsky, supported by Henne the Board of Education suspend the student for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
Roll Call Vote: Howell aye, Hoebeke aye, Cullin aye, Mabery aye, Henne aye, Deshetsky aye, Hebberd aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Other Business - none

Moved by Mabery, supported by Henne the Board of Education adjourn at 9:51 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: Deshetsky aye, Mabery aye, Howell aye, Henne aye, Hebberd aye, Cullin aye, Hoebeke aye
7 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent – Motion Carried

Cheryl Howell

Cheryl Howell, Secretary