

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
4711 S. 500 W., New Palestine, In 46163
Monday, March 2, 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; 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

2 Accentuate the Positive

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

2.1 Indiana Council for Exceptional Children Award Winners

Mr. Nicholas Mitchaner, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator; Mrs. Amber Franklin, Special Education Coordinator; Mrs. Cheryl Rose, Early Childhood and Special Education Coordinator

The Board will recognize Vincent Meo, Hannah Maschino, Mindy Huesman, Jen Norton, and Jordan Miller for being named Indiana Council for Exceptional Children Award Winners. The Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (INCEC) focuses on high-quality, inclusive education for individuals with disabilities. The INCEC recognizes outstanding educators, leaders, advocates, and students each year.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Vincent Meo, Hannah Maschino, Mindy Huesman, Jen Norton, and Jordan Miller for being named Indiana Council for Exceptional Children Award Winners.

Attachments:

[Vincent Meo Letter.pdf](#)
[Hannah Maschino.pdf](#)
[Mindy Huesman Letter.pdf](#)
[Jen Norton Letter.pdf](#)
[Jordan Miller Letter .pdf](#)

3 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Agenda dated March 2, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated Mar 2 2026.pdf

6 New Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

6.1 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. Wayne and Amy Hedden donated \$200.00 to NPI. They have requested that the donation go to NPI's Essential Skills Program.
- b. Debra and Mark Cavin have donated \$200.00 to NPHS. They have requested that the donation go to the NPHS Athletic Department in memory of James Evans.
- c. Risin' Dough (Mozzi's Pizza) donated \$100.00 for the Community Education program. The donation will be receipted to the Operations Fund to be used for Community Education needs.
- d. Brandon and Jennifer Wilson donated \$3,778.50 to the NPHS Robotics Program.
- e. Angela and Mark Baker donated \$400.00 to NPHS. They would like the donation to go to the NPHS Boys Golf Program.
- f. Walmart Stores East Distribution Center donated 7 pallets (2500 pounds) of LEGOs for our elementary schools.
- g. Bell Professional Mortuary donated \$403.10 towards the College & Career Fair.
- h. Koenig Equipment, Inc. donated \$100.00 towards the College & Career Fair.
- i. Kokosing Industrial, Inc. donated \$500.00 towards the College & Career Fair.
- j. Central Indiana Communications, Inc. (NineStar Connect) donated \$1,000.00 towards the College & Career Fair.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

6.2 Summer Enrichment Programs and Summer School

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

Mr. Smith and Mr. Mitchaner are seeking approval for the Summer Enrichment Programs and Summer School.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve Summer Enrichment Programs and Summer School. Mrs.

Wooton motioned to approve recommendations as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[Summer School Classes and Fees.pdf](#)

6.3 English and Language Arts Adoption

Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning and Communications

Mr. Smith is seeking approval of English and Language Arts textbook adoption.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the English and Language Arts textbook adoption. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to approve the textbook adoption as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[ELA Reading Adoption.pdf](#)

6.4 NPYL Hitting Barn Proposal

Mr. Matt Lawson, NPCS Director of Facilities and Mr. John Keefe, NPYL Representative

Mr. Lawson and Mr. Keefe are seeking approval of the NPYL Hitting Barn Proposal.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the NPYL Hitting Barn Proposal. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

[NPYL Hitting Barn Proposal.pdf](#)

6.5 NPJH Band and Choir Trip to Kings Island

Mrs. Jessica Neill, NPJH Principal and Mrs. Bethany McDonald, NPJH Choir Director

Mrs. Neill and Mrs. McDonald are requesting permission for the NPJH band and choir students to travel to Mason, OH, and visit Kings Island for an end-of-the-year reward trip and celebration on May 29,

2026. Board approval is requested at this time.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the NPJH band and choir trip to Kings Island. 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:

[NPJH Kings Island Trip.pdf](#)

7 Reports

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

7.1 Annual Hancock County Public Library Update

Mr. Fred Fox, Hancock County Public Library Board Member and Mr. Dave Gray, Executive Director of Hancock County Public Library

Mr. Gray and Mr. Fox will present the Board with the Hancock County Public Library annual update. No action is required.

Minutes:

Mr. Gray and Mr. Fox presented the Board with the Hancock County Public Library annual update.

Attachments:

[HCP Library Update 2026.pdf](#)

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. Wooton was honored to recognize the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children Award winners. She shared that their hard work is especially meaningful to her because she has family members who were born with challenges. Mr. Hooker represented the district at the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) Legislative Day again this year. He highlighted several key issues currently under debate and will provide further updates as the legislative session progresses. Mr. McKinney highlighted the Imagination Library, praising the strong partnership between local schools, the public library, and the community foundation. While noting that future state funding has been a topic of legislative debate, he expressed gratitude for the community's foresight in establishing an endowment to sustain the program for local families. Mr. McKinney also thanked those who were a part of reviewing the materials for the textbook adoption and appreciated their time and efforts. Mrs. Haeberle noted that Dr. Pleak shares weekly updates to celebrate the wonderful things our staff and students are achieving. She took a moment to congratulate everyone on all the success across our district. Dr. Pleak read a statement regarding facility updates. She is thankful for all the suggestions, thoughtful questions, and support she has received. She realizes speculation is increasing and understands that it's natural when you're working and choosing transparency while still gathering information, nearing options, and thoughtfully contemplating next steps. Mr. Walker expressed appreciation for the extensive efforts involved in the textbook adoption process. He concluded by wishing the boys' basketball team success in their upcoming sectional competition.

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

Amendette Wooton
Jon Hooker
Dan Walker
Brian McKinney
Laura J Haeberle