

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
4711 S. 500 W., New Palestine, In 46163
Monday, April 13, 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 IHSAA Boys Wrestling Individual State Medalists

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

The Board will recognize IHSAA Boys Wrestling Individual State Medalists Gunner Butt (third-place), William Glesing (third-place), and Colin Whetsel (6th-place).

Minutes:

The Board recognized the IHSAA Boys Wrestling Individual State Medalists.

Attachments:

[ATP - Wrestling - Gunner Butt 2026 .pdf](#)

[ATP - Wrestling - William Glesing 2026 .pdf](#)

[ATP - Wrestling - Colin Whetsel 2026.pdf](#)

3 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Agenda dated April 13, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the agenda for April 13, 2026. Mr. Hooker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker
Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

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. Haeberle motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle
Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

5.1 Meeting Minutes

- a. Executive Session Meeting Minutes dated February 24, 2026.
- b. Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 2, 2026.

Attachments:

Executive Session Minutes dated Feb 24 2026.pdf
Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 2 2026.pdf

5.2 Claims and Finances

- a. Payroll Claims dated February 27, 2026.
- b. Payroll Claims dated March 13, 2026.
- c. Payroll Claims dated March 27, 2026.
- d. Claims dated February 28, 2026.
- e. Claims dated March 31, 2026.

Attachments:

Payroll Claims 02-27-2026.pdf
Payroll Claims 03-13-2026 1 .pdf
Payroll Claims 03-27-2026.pdf
Claims dated 2-28-2026.pdf
Claims dated 3-31-2026.pdf

5.3 Personnel Report

Personnel Report dated April 13, 2026.

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated April 13 2026.pdf

6 New Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

6.1 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

- a. Gregory and Shellane Weltekamp donated \$40.00 to the NPJH Band program.
 - b. Mark and Marlane Harrington donated \$50.00 to the NPJH Band program.
 - c. Fonny Merchant donated \$500.00 to the NPJH Band program.
 - d. NPEF has issued a check to NPHS for \$500.00, which was given in honor of Lisa Hardin, NPCCS 2025 teacher of the year. They would like it to be used by the NPHS Math department.
 - e. NPEF has issued a \$1,000.00 check to NPHS.
 - f. An anonymous donation from an employee of Valvoline Global for \$24.28 was received. The donation will be used to pay for an upcoming daycare food catering invoice.
 - g. Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund has given a grant of \$1,000.00 to Bethany McDonald for the purchase of new music for vocal choirs.
 - h. Tech Point Foundation for Youth donated \$3,500.00 to NPI and NPJH Robotics ECA.
- Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

6.2 Cafeteria Plan (Section 125)

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi is seeking approval of the Section 125 IRS Cafeteria Plan Document. This allows the school corporation to be in compliance with the IRS requirements.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the Section 125 IRS Cafeteria Plan Document. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the document as presented. Mrs. Haeberle seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Attachments:

Restated Amended Cafeteria Plan for Eligible Employess of NPCS.pdf
Resolution to Approve Amendment Restatement of NPCS Cafeteria Plan.pdf

6.3 Walker Career Center & Technical Education Programs Operating Agreement

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak will present the Walker Career Center Technical Education Programs Operating Agreement for 2026-2027.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the Walker Career Center Technical Education Programs Operating Agreement for 2026-2027. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

Attachments:

26 27 WCC CTE Programs Operating Agreement.pdf

6.4 Elementary School Grade Level Reconfiguration

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval to reconfigure Brandywine Elementary School, New Palestine Elementary School, and Sugar Creek Elementary School from serving Pre-K - 4th grade to serving Pre-K - 5th grade, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the reconfiguration of Brandywine Elementary School, New Palestine Elementary School, and Sugar Creek Elementary School. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the reconfiguration. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

6.5 New Palestine Junior High School Grade Level Reconfiguration

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval to reconfigure New Palestine Junior High School from serving grades 7-8 to serving grades 6-8, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the reconfiguration of New Palestine Junior High School. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the reconfiguration. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

6.6 New Palestine Intermediate School Closure

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval for New Palestine Intermediate School located at 5613 West 200 South, New Palestine, IN 46163 to close at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year, as both its grade levels (5th and 6th) are being reconfigured to other schools.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the recommended closure of New Palestine Intermediate School. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to approve the closure at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

6.7 New Palestine Junior High School Address Change

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent

Dr. Pleak is requesting approval to change the address of New Palestine Junior High School from 2279 South 600 West, New Palestine, IN 46163 to 5613 West 200 South, New Palestine, IN 46163 effective July 1, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the address change of New Palestine Junior High School, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the address change as requested. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

6.8 2026 Robotics World Championship/NPHS

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal and Mr. Timothy Tarplee, NPHS Robotics Coach

Mr. Voelz and Mr. Tarplee are requesting approval for the NPHS Robotics team to travel to St. Louis, Missouri, the week of April 20-24, 2026, and compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve travel to St. Louis for the NPHS Robotics team. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the trip request as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[NPHS Robotics World Championship.pdf](#)

6.9 2026 Robotics World Championship/NPJH

Mrs. Jessica Neill, NPJH Principal

Mrs. Neill is requesting approval for the NPJH Robotics team to travel to St. Louis, Missouri, the week of April 27-30, 2026, and compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve travel to St. Louis for the NPJH Robotics team. 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 Robotics World Championship.pdf](#)

6.10 Archery Nationals

Mr. Vincent Meo, NPI Principal, Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal, and Mrs. Jessica Neill, NPJH Principal

Mr. Meo, Mr. Voelz, and Mrs. Neill are seeking approval for our qualifying student archers to compete at the Archery Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky. The tournament is scheduled for May 7-9, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve travel to Louisville, KY, for archery students from NPI, NPJH, and NPHS. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the trip request as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

NPI Archery Field Trip Form Nationals - 2026.pdf

NPJH Archery Field Trip.pdf

NPHS Archery Field Trip.pdf

7 Informal Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

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Minutes:

No comments.

8 Board Member Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Minutes:

Mrs. Wooton shared that there is so much happening right now. She explained that tonight's decisions have come to fruition through a great deal of thought and conversation, carefully trying to understand implications and focusing on what is right for students. She also hopes the administration and staff know how much the Board supports them and is cheering them on through the process. Mrs. Wooton expressed her delight at the activity throughout the district, specifically highlighting spring sports, archery, music programs, prom, and the upcoming graduation. Mr. Hooker echoed the sentiments shared during the meeting, emphasizing that the impact on parents and students weighed heavily in their decisions. Ultimately, Mr. Hooker is proud to be a part of a team that kept coming back to making the best decisions with the information they have available and understanding what they have to work with. He recognized that while these choices are difficult, the Board is ready to meet the challenge and support the school district. Mr. Hooker concluded by commending everyone who provided research and history regarding these matters. Mr. McKinney expressed his agreement with Mr. Hooker and Mrs. Wooton's remarks, reiterating that the Board's decisions were not taken lightly. Mr. McKinney thanked Dr. Pleak and everyone involved for their efforts in researching and presenting this information to the community. Mr. McKinney expressed that this is one of his favorite times of year, citing graduation as a highlight of being a board member. He enjoys seeing the 250 students walk across the stage in their caps and gowns in our school colors to receive their diplomas, while also seeing the staff who have supported these students over the past twelve years. Mrs. Haeberle congratulated Mr. Mitchaner on his new position as Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Haeberle also shared that while reviewing board materials and watching the Artemis landing, she felt fortunate that our schools offer robotics from elementary through high school. She noted that these programs are cultivating the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and possibly future astronauts. She is grateful for the help from all the teachers, coaches, volunteers, and judges who help make the robotics program possible. Acknowledging the number of recent changes, Dr. Pleak emphasized that every decision was made with significant care and not taken lightly. She believes that throughout the year, it became clear what the best option was, but what she can say is how supportive this community is for our students and that they have a level of understanding of the conditions affecting schools both across the state and nationwide. Dr. Pleak expressed that while she already felt fortunate to join the

district and quickly learned how much everyone cares, she has been amazed by the number of supportive phone calls and emails she has received. She is grateful for their level of understanding and support. Dr. Pleak also congratulated Mr. Mitchaner and shared her excitement about his new position as Assistant Superintendent. She concluded that there are thirty-one more days of school and a lot of work to get done. Mr. Walker echoed the previous comments and congratulated Mr. Mitchaner on his new role.

9 Adjournment

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hooker made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Haeberle seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Dan Walker
Amberett. Walker
Jon Hooker
Brian McKim
Laura J Haeberle