The North Fork Board of Education met in Regular session on Monday, May 19, 2025, at Utica Senior High School, 260 Jefferson Street, Utica, OH 43080.

The meeting was called to order by President Cooperider at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Hartley.

The following members were present at roll call: Mrs. Barbara Bruce, Mrs. Farrah Cooperider, Dr. Rob Krueger, and Mrs. Debra Paxton.

RECOGNITIONS

2024-2025 Retirees

- Jackie Burris
- Brian Foley
- Michele Gorius
- Daisy Hazlett
- Linda Heald
- Jeff Hindel
- Paul Italiano

REPORTS:

1. **Superintendent** – Mr. Hartley – Graduation, Retirees, End of Year

2. **Treasurer** – Mrs. Breehl – 5-Year Forecast

3. **Committees**
   - Communications – Mrs. Paxton – Homecoming Dates, Website, School Calendar
   - Finance – Dr. Krueger – 070/035 Funds, 5-Year Forecast

WORK SESSION

- Stephanie Kimpel – Curriculum Budget

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Public comment was requested and the following responded:

- None

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

- **None**

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

2025-05-0060

Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0061

Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve the following personnel actions:

Certified

2.1 Accept a letter of resignation from Jamie Reeves, school psychologist support staff, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

2.2 Accept a letter of resignation from Cassidy Rexrode, middle school math teacher, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

2.3 Accept a letter of resignation from Caitlyn West, elementary teacher, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

2.4 Approve Barbara Almendinger as school counselor for the middle school, effective with the 2025-2026 school year.

Extra Service/Supplemental

2.5 Approve extra service contracts for the following people for the summer maintenance crew, effective June 2, 2025, not to exceed 40 hours per week per person; total hours not to exceed 520 hours per person at the rate of $16.49 per hour.

Deb Parker Kaytlin Poland Shawn Sapp Dewey Wilfong

2.6 Approve the following supplemental positions for the 2025-2026 school year, pending proper certification and background check:

Name	Position	Level	Step
Lee Ann Renner	Cheerleading Assistant Advisor HS	4	4
Kandice Wise	Cheerleading Advisor MS	3	1
Cody Duke	Cross Country Assistant Coach	4	0

(continued)

Name	Position	Level	Step
Brad Kittle	Cross Country Assistant Coach	4	4
Clayton Chaffin	Football Assistant Coach	3	2
Cameron Drake	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
Paul Gregory	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
Michael Heckman	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
James Meek	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
Jamie Taylor	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
Brandon Wygle	Football Assistant Coach	3	4
Garrett Meyers	Football Assistant Coach (50%)	3	2
Mark Smith	Football Assistant Coach (50%)	3	4
Doug Lunsford	Golf – Middle School Coach	5	3
Carol Christopher	Golf Assistant Coach (Girls)	5	2
Brett Bousquet	Golf Assistant Coach (Boys) (50%)	5	1
Randy Whisner	Golf Assistant Coach (Boys) (50%)	5	4
Laura Gilmore	Volleyball Assistant Coach	3	4
Aubrey Hughes	Volleyball Assistant Coach	3	1
Alex Keith	Volleyball Assistant Coach	3	4
Mikaela Reed	Volleyball Assistant Coach	3	4
Tatum Thompson	Volleyball Assistant Coach	3	0
Kirsten Herth	Marching Band Director	2	4
Michael Twymon	Marching Band Assistant Director	6	3
Margaret McCullough	Majorette/Flag Corp Advisor	5	4
Justin Doup	Basketball (Boys) Assistant Coach	3	3
Brody McDaniel	Basketball (Boys) Assistant Coach	3	2
Clay Rowley	Basketball (Boys) Assistant Coach	3	4
Micah Keith	Basketball (Girls) Head Coach	1	4
Shawna Blake	Basketball (Girls) Assistant Coach	3	2
Michele Finkes	Basketball (Girls) Assistant Coach	3	2
Ashley Bauer	Wrestling Assistant Coach	3	2
Dillon Fletcher	Wrestling Assistant Coach	3	4
Jamie Taylor	Wrestling Assistant Coach	3	4
Brandon Wygle	Wrestling Assistant Coach	3	4

2.7 Approve the following teachers as Home Instruction Tutors for the 2025-2026 school year. The Superintendent will approve the number of hours and effective dates as needed. Compensation will be at the Home Instruction Tutor's rate of the NFEA Negotiated Agreement.

Ellen Carter	Allisha Rauch	Abbie Taylor
Susan Fairbanks	Lori Shomaker	Christopher Trost
Laura Gilmore	Carly Sumption	Jessica Yancey

2.8 Accept a letter of resignation from Sky Young Deemer as district mail courier, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Classified

2.9 Accept a letter of resignation from Ashley Jones, custodian.

2.10 Accept a letter of resignation from David Piper, transportation driver, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

2.11 Approve the employment of Christain Williams in the position of food service server, on a one-year limited contract for the 2025-2026 school year, pending proper certification and background checks; compensation to be Step 5 of the F-1 scale of the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

2.12 Approve the employment of Christina Ford in the position of custodian, on a one-year limited contract effective June 2, 2025; compensation to be Step 4 of the B-1 scale of the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Administrative

2.13 Approve the amended administrative salary schedule effective with the 2025-2026 school year.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0062

Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve the following financial actions:

4.1 Approve the financial and reconciliation reports for the Month of April 2025.

4.2 Approve bills as presented for April 2025 and payment of bills with "Then and Now" certificates.

4.3 Authorize the Treasurer and Superintendent to issue purchase orders in accordance with Board Policy 6400.

4.4 Approve the five-year forecast as submitted by the Treasurer.

4.5 Approve the following appropriation modifications:

Appropriation Modifications	*Fund*	*Prior Appropriation*	*Increase/ Decrease*	*Total Appropriation*
General Fund	*001*	*23,672,765.00*	*6,500,000.00*	*30,172,765.00*
Public School Support	*019*	*40,500.00*	*(8,000.00)*	*32,500.00*
Other Grants	*019*	*18,000.00*	*(10,000.00)*	*8,000.00*
District Managed Student Activities	*300*	*520,914.00*	*35,000.00*	*555,914.00*
Part-B IDEA	*516*	*413,000.00*	*30,000.00*	*443,000.00*
Title I	*572*	*411,000.00*	*25,000.00*	*436,000.00*
Food Service	*006*	*1,103,650.00*	*124,000.00*	*1,227,650.00*
Trust Fund	*008*	*1,000.00*	*225.20*	*1,225.20*

4.6 Authorize closing the 008 Hiltner Scholarship Fund account.

4.7 Approve the curriculum budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0063

4.8 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (USAS 070) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCUMULATING RESOURCES FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, OR IMPROVEMENT OF FIXED ASSETS; ESTABLISHING A TERMINATION BENEFITS FUND (USAS 035) TO ACCUMULATE RESOURCES FOR THE PAYMENT OF ACCUMULATED SICK AND VACATION LEAVE AND FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAKING COMPENSATORY TIME OFF UPON THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE RETIREMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, AND FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY STATE LAW FOR SUCH FUND; AND AUTHORIZING INITIAL TRANSFERS TO BOTH SUCH FUNDS

(Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(C))

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(C), the board of education of a school district may establish one or more capital projects funds for the purpose of accumulating resources for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of fixed assets of the school district; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish and maintain a capital projects fund for the purpose of accumulating resources for the acquisition, construction, and/or improvement of fixed assets necessary to meet the future capital needs of the School District as set forth hereinbelow; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(B), the board of education of a school district may establish a termination benefits fund, which is a special revenue fund, for the purpose of accumulating resources (1) for the payment of accumulated sick leave and vacation leave, and for payments in lieu of taking compensatory time off, upon the termination of employment or the retirement of officers and employees of the School District, and (2) for the payment of salaries during any fiscal year when the number of pay periods exceeds the usual and customary number of pay periods; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish and maintain a termination benefits fund for the purpose of paying termination benefits of its officers or employees and paying salaries when the number of pay periods exceeds the usual and customary for a year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the North Fork Local School District, Licking and Knox Counties, Ohio, that:

Section 1. The Board hereby establishes a capital projects fund (USAS 070) (the "Capital Projects Fund") to be used for the purpose of accumulating resources for the acquisition, construction, and/or improvement of fixed assets (within the meaning of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(C)) necessary to meet the future capital needs of the School District. The fixed assets that the Board intends to acquire, construct, and/or improve with the money to be accumulated in the Capital Projects Fund includes but is not limited to roof repairs and replacement; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) repairs and replacement; pavement repairs and replacement and site improvements at School District facilities; acquiring new school buses and fuel pumps for the bus garage; replacing and upgrading lighting; acquiring cafeteria equipment, including walk-in coolers and dishwashers; acquiring real property and interests therein; and paying rent (principal and interest) on lease-purchase agreements of the Board entered into under Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.375 that were or will be entered into to finance the acquisition, construction and improvement of the improvements described above or other School District fixed assets, including the rent owed under the Base Lease and Lease-Purchase Agreement, dated May 4, 2022, entered into by the Board with Vinton County National Bank. See Exhibit A to this Resolution for more detail on the fixed assets describe above.

Section 2. The Capital Projects Fund shall be funded over a maximum period of ten (10) years by (a) periodic transfers at the discretion of the Board from the School District's General Fund (USAS 001) and by (b) transfers of other amounts from such funds and sources as the Board may determine from time to time, which transfers by separate resolutions of the Board shall determine the amount of money to be accumulated for the aforementioned purposes. The Board hereby directs the Treasurer to make an initial transfer of $5,500,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for the acquisition, construction, and/or improvement of the fixed assets described herein. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to establish such special cost centers within the Capital Projects Fund as may necessary or advisable to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

Section 3. If the School District has not entered into a contract for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of fixed assets relating to the Capital Projects Fund during a period of ten (10) years after the date of this Resolution, then the Treasurer shall return such monies to the fund or funds from which they originated or to the fund that originally was intended to receive such monies.

Section 4. The Board hereby establishes a termination benefits fund (USAS Fund 035) (the "Termination Benefits Fund") to be used for the purpose accumulating resources (1) for the payment of accumulated sick leave and vacation leave, and for payments in lieu of taking compensatory time off, upon the termination of employment or the retirement of officers and employees of the School District, and (2) for the payment of salaries during any fiscal year when the number of pay periods exceeds the usual and customary number of pay periods.

Section 5. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(B), the Board may transfer money to the Termination Benefits Fund from any other fund of the School District from which such payments may lawfully be made. The Board hereby directs the Treasurer to make an initial transfer of $1,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Termination Benefits Fund. The Termination Benefits Fund shall be further funded in such amounts as shall be separately determined by the Board from time to time. Should the Board subsequently rescind the Termination Benefits Fund, the balance remaining therein shall be returned to the fund or funds from which such monies had originally been transferred by the Board pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(B).

Section 6. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0064

6.1 Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve the following coaching **volunteers** for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and background checks.

Geannie Hagen Hettema	Cross Country	Doug Vickers	Golf
Carly Sumption	Cheerleading	Stacey Lambert	Golf
Melissa Wray	Cheerleading	Josh Lambert	Golf
Joe Beaubien	Football	Tracy Givens	Marching Band
Terry Logue	Football	Rob Krueger	Basketball (Boys)
Collin McCullough	Football	Jessica Lyon	Bowling
Jacob Rohrbaugh	Football	C. J. Tilley	Bowling
Clay Rowley	Football		
Eric Unger	Football		
Scott Webster	Football		

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider – 3
Nay: - 0
Abstain: Dr. Krueger
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0065

6.2 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve the Service Agreement with Knox Educational Service Center for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0066

6.3 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Paxton, that the Board approve the Service Level Agreement with the Licking Area Computer Association (LACA) for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0067

6.4 Mrs. Cooperider moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve the student fees, as presented, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Newton and Utica Elementary Schools Utica Middle School Utica High School

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Atherton, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0068

6.5 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve the student handbooks, as presented, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Newton and Utica Elementary Schools Utica Middle School Utica High School

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0069

6.6 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Paxton, that the Board approve the Athletic Handbook, as presented, for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0070

6.7 Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Cooperider, that the Board approve the following dates for Capital Improvement/Strategic Planning meetings. The meetings will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the high school conference room.

August 13, 2025 October 29, 2025 December 10, 2025

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger– 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0071

6.8 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE NORTH FORK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures ("Model Policies") that were released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") in December 2024, and directs all staff in the District to use and comply with the Model Policies. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent to notify the DEW of the Board's adoption of the Model Policies through the DEW's Monitoring System by uploading a copy of this Board resolution on or before March 30, 2025, and by November 30 for each subsequent school year.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0072

6.9 Mrs. Cooperider moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve an overnight trip to Logan, Ohio, for the Utica FFA Chapter's officers to attend the yearly officer retreat from June 30, 2025, to July 2, 2025.

Yea: Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0073

6.10 Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve an overnight trip to Carrollton, Ohio, for the Utica FFA Chapter to attend Ohio FFA Camp from July 7 – 11, 2025.

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0074

6.11 Dr. Krueger moved, seconded by Mrs. Cooperider, that the Board approve the lunch rates for the 2025-2026 school year:

Elementary	$2.70	Middle School/High School	$3.20

Yea: Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperier, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0075

6.12 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Paxton, that the Board approve the Apple Inc. proposal in the amount of $75,442.50 for the purchase of iPads, cases, and keyboards.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger, – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0076

6.13 Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Cooperider, that the Board approve the quote from Renaissance for the STAR/Renaissance platform for grades K – 8 for FY26.

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0077

6.14 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Cooperider, that the Board approve the renewal contract with EMS LINQ, LLC, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, in the amount of $2,482.30.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0078

6.15 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Paxton, that the Board approve the renewal with OASIS Trust as the district's dental insurance carrier for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, at the following rates:

Single Rate	Family Rate
$45.50	$105.67

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0079

6.16 Mrs. Paxton moved, seconded by Mrs. Bruce, that the Board approve the renewal with Anthem as the district's health insurance carrier for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, at the following rates:

Single Rate	Family Rate
$946.05	$2,554.04

Yea: Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Cooperider, Dr. Krueger – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

2025-05-0080

6.17 Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the Board approve following resolution:

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH MIDSTATES RECREATION FOR THE PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT AT NEWTON ELEMENTARY

The Treasurer recommends the Board authorize an agreement with Michigan Playgrounds, LLC d/b/a Midstates Recreation ("Contractor") for the Playground Renovation Project at Newton Elementary (the "Project").

Rationale:

1. The District needs to renovate the playground at Newton Elementary, including the replacement of several pieces of old equipment at the end of their useful lives.
2. The Board is a member of Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Solutions ("Sourcewell"), a purchasing cooperative operating pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.48.
3. Ohio Revised Code Section 9.48 authorizes boards of education, as political subdivisions, to participate in joint purchasing programs operated by or through a national or state association of political subdivisions in which the purchasing political subdivision is eligible for membership.
4. Pursuant to Attorney General Opinion 2024-003, Ohio Revised Code Section 9.48 allows a board of education to procure installation, maintenance, and repair services through a joint purchasing program with the procurement being exempt from the competitive bidding requirements set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.46 (the school bidding statute). The Project consists of installation, maintenance, and repair services.
5. Contractor is an authorized representative and installer of PlayPower, Inc. PlayPower was awarded Sourcewell Contract 010521-LTS. Pursuant to the agreement between PlayPower and Sourcewell, Contractor may provide Sourcewell pricing to the Board for the Project.
6. Contractor has provided a proposal for the Project in the amount of $288,473.40 (the "Proposal Sum"), which the Treasurer, in consultation with the Maintenance Supervisor, believes to be competitive, reasonable, and in the best interest of the District (the "Proposal").
7. The Treasurer recommends the Board authorize the Superintendent and Treasurer, with assistance of legal counsel, to negotiate and execute an agreement with Contractor for the Project in an amount not to exceed the Proposal Sum.
8. The Treasurer also requests authority for the Superintendent and Treasurer to enter change orders on behalf of the Board in a total amount not to exceed 10% of the Proposal Sum. Change orders in excess of that aggregate amount will be brought to the Board for its approval.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. Based on the information provided, the Board authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer, with assistance of legal counsel, to negotiate and execute an agreement with Contractor for the Project in an amount not to exceed the Proposal Sum.

The Superintendent also requests authority for the Superintendent and Treasurer to enter change orders on behalf of the Board in a total amount not to exceed 10% of the Proposal Sum. Change orders in excess of that aggregate amount will be brought to the Board for its approval.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton – 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC
Public comment was requested and the following responded:

- None

Mrs. Bruce moved, seconded by Dr. Krueger, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yea: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Krueger, Mrs. Cooperider, Mrs. Paxton - 4
Nay: - 0
The president ruled the motion carried.

Time: 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2025 ***(Planning Meeting)***

Location:	Utica Senior High School, Room 106 260 Jefferson Street Utica, OH 43080
Time:	**9:00 a.m.**

Next **Regular** Meeting: June 23, 2025

Location:	Utica Senior High School 260 Jefferson Street Utica, OH 43080
Time:	6:00 p.m.

Farrah Cooperider, President

Kellie Breehl, Treasurer