

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
4711 S. 500 W., New Palestine, In 46163
Monday, June 8, 2026
6:30pm

Present: Mr. Brian McKinney, Board Secretary; Mr. Dan Walker, Board President; Ms. Amber Rush, Executive Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Laura Haerberle, 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 NPHS Music Department

Mr. Jim Voelz, NPHS Principal

The Board will recognize the Music Department at New Palestine High School as a recipient of the Indiana State School Music Association All-Music Award for the 2025-2026 school year. The Music Department is led by Kyle Cantrell, Jon Carney, and Michael Dean.

Minutes:

The Board recognized the NPHS Music Department.

Attachments:

[ATP - NPHS Music Dept.pdf](#)

2.2 Indiana Association of School Principals 2026 District 10 Elementary Principal of the Year

Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning and Communications

The Board will recognize Brandywine Elementary School Principal Mr. Austin Theobald for being named the 2026 District 10 Elementary School Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Minutes:

The Board recognized Mr. Austin Theobald.

Attachments:

2.3 New Palestine Education Foundation United Way Literacy Grant Check Presentation

New Palestine Education Foundation Representatives

New Palestine Education Foundation will present a check to New Palestine Community Schools for literacy training.

Minutes:

New Palestine Education Foundation presented a check to New Palestine Community Schools for literacy training.

2.4 INAPEF Food Insecurity Grant Check Presentation

Indiana Association of Public Education Foundations (INAPEF) Representatives

New Palestine Community Schools has been awarded a \$2,500.00 Food Insecurity Grant through the Indiana Association of Public Education Foundations (INAPEF).

Minutes:

INAPEF Food Insecurity Grant check was presented to New Palestine Community Schools.

2.5 Community Foundation of Hancock County - Community Support Grant for Public Schools

Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent, Lee Ann Oden and Katie Ottinger, CFHC Representatives

Lee Ann Oden and Katie Ottinger will present a check in the amount of \$81,000 to New Palestine Community Schools for the Community Support Grant. The funds will help offset daycare food costs.

Minutes:

A check from the Community Foundation of Hancock County was presented to New Palestine Community Schools.

3 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Agenda dated June 8, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the June 8, 2026 meeting agenda. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

4 First Preliminary Determination Hearing

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Minutes:

Mr. Walker paused the Regular Meeting for the First Preliminary Determination Hearing. There were no comments. Mr. Walker resumed the Regular Meeting.

Attachments:

2026 Building Dragon Exc Project - Notice of Hearings 2 .pdf

5 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

6 Consent Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Board approval of agenda items 6.1-6.3 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. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Hooker seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mr. Jon Hooker

6.1 Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 4, 2026.

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 4 206.pdf

6.2 Claims and Finances

a. Payroll Claims dated May 8, 2026.

b. Payroll Claims dated May 22, 2026.

c. Claims dated May 31, 2026.

Attachments:

Payroll Claims Register 05-08-2026.pdf

Payroll Claims dated 05-22-2026.pdf

Claims dated May 31 2026.pdf

6.3 Personnel Report

Personnel Report dated June 8, 2026.

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated June 8 2026.pdf

7 Unfinished Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

7.1 Second Reading of Student Handbook

Mr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning & Communications

Mr. Smith will present the 2026-2027 Student Handbook to the Board.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker asked for a motion to approve the second reading of the Student Handbook. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the handbook as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

FINAL DRAFT 2026-2027 STUDENT HANDBOOK .pdf

8 New Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

8.1 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

a. The NPCCS Special Education Department received for \$193.61 from the All Means ALL T-Shirt fundraiser. These funds will be accounted for in the Donation Fund.

b. NPHS received a check for \$400.00 from Christopher & Marilou Powers. They would like the donation to be used by We The People.

- c. NPHS received a check for \$450.00 from Linda Wilson. She would like the donation to be used by the NPHS Unified Track Team.
 - d. SCE received \$1,500.00 from Crystal Corwin-Howard. The donation will be used for SCE's 4th-grade April & May Field Trips.
 - e. SCE received a \$2,000.00 grant from the Read to the Final Four Program. The funds will be accounted for in the Miscellaneous Projects Fund.
 - f. NPJH Athletics received a \$10,000.00 donation from the New Palestine American Legion. The donation will go towards the purchase of a high jump mat.
 - g. NPJH Band received a donation of bongo drums from Brian & Codi Strong, valued at \$600.00.
 - h. NPHS received \$1,000.00 from Joseph & Terri Dunn. They would like it to be used by the NPHS Crimson Messenger (newspaper).
 - i. NPCS has been awarded a \$2,500.00 Food Insecurity Grant through the Indiana Association of Public Education Foundations (INAPEF).
 - j. NPCS has been awarded a \$25,000.00 grant from United Way through the efforts of New Palestine Education Foundation. The grant will be used for literacy training.
 - k. The Community Foundation of Hancock County has donated \$81,000 to NPCS for the Community Support Grant for Public Schools. The grant is intended to help districts offset the impacts of funding loss related to SEA 1.
- Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

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

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

8.2 Self-Certification of Micro-Purchase Threshold

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi will present the resolution for self-certifying the corporation micro-purchase threshold of \$50,000 for expenditures of federal funds in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.320.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker asked for a motion to approve the self-certification of the micro-purchase threshold resolution. Mr. Hooker motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Jon Hooker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[8.2 Self-Certification of Micro-Purchase Threshold Resolution.pdf](#)

8.3 Education Fund to Daycare Fund Transfer

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi is requesting permission to transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Daycare Fund to ensure a positive June 30, 2026 balance.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the transfer of funds from the Education Fund to the Daycare Fund. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to approve the transfer of funds. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 5-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

Attachments:

[8.3 Education Fund to Daycare Fund Permission to Transfer Funds.pdf](#)

8.4 First Reading of Policies

Mrs. Laura Haeberle, Board Member

- a. A200 Firearms, Weapons, and Destructive Devices
- b. A275 School Wellness
- c. A300 Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy
- d. A301 Wireless Communication Devices
- e. B105 Mission / Vision / Belief Statements
- f. B110 Educational Beliefs / DELETE
- g. C175 Attendance, Academic Engagement, and Truancy Prevention
- h. C525 Medical Needs at School
- i. D100 Corporation Organization
- j. F101 Budget Adoption and Implementation
- k. F125 Purchasing Procedures and Capital Assets
- l. F176 Unpaid Meals
- m. G325 Free and Reduced Price Meals
- n. H125 Corporation Support Organizations
- o. H150 Public Records

First reading of policies. No action required at this time.

Minutes:

First reading. No action is required.

Attachments:

[A200.pdf](#)

[A275.pdf](#)

[A300.pdf](#)

[A301.pdf](#)

[B105.pdf](#)

[B110 Delete.pdf](#)

[C175.pdf](#)
[C525.pdf](#)
[D100.pdf](#)
[F101.pdf](#)
[F125.pdf](#)
[F176.pdf](#)
[G325.pdf](#)
[H125.pdf](#)
[H150.pdf](#)

9 Informal Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

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Minutes:

No comments.

10 Board Member Comments

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Hooker congratulated the boys golf team on winning the sectional championship and wished the girls softball team the best of luck in their upcoming state championship game. He noted that Dr. Pleak often says, "Winning is fun," and agreed that it is. However, he emphasized that winning extends beyond athletic competition. It also includes achievements such as being named Principal of the Year, winning Final Four reading contests, and the many outstanding accomplishments of the district's staff and students. Mr. Hooker remarked that the graduation ceremony was a wonderful event. He expressed his appreciation for the significant number of students who graduated with honors, earned two-year degrees, or earned college credits at a magnitude he did not believe was possible at the high school level. Mrs. Wooton congratulated the boys golf team on its sectional championship and enthusiastically remarked, "Go Dragons!" She also wished the girls softball team the best of luck in the state championship. Mrs. Wooton expressed her appreciation for the list of donations, noting the wide variety of families and businesses that contributed, as well as the diverse programs and initiatives they chose to support. She stated she feels the variety is a good sign of cultural health, family health, business health, and the interconnectedness of the school and community. She wants to frame the list of donations as a reminder that the school is a battery, fueling our community with energy, not sucking out the energy. Mr. McKinney shared that graduation is always one of his favorite times of the year. He reflected that while every graduate wears the same school colors, each student has a unique story and has followed a different path to reach the graduation stage. He congratulated the 289 graduates on their accomplishments and wished them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their lives. Mr. McKinney noted that the district continues to earn recognition in a variety of areas. He highlighted recent achievements by the music department, recognized the accomplishments of the district's administrators, and expressed appreciation for the generous donations received in support of the schools. Mr. McKinney welcomed Matt Bush, the Incoming NPJH Principal, to the school district. He also expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in the student handbook, acknowledging the significant time and effort required. He finished by thanking the policy team for their work on updating policies. Mrs. Haeberle expressed her appreciation to the principals, teachers, and support staff for their hard work during the busy final weeks of the school year. She acknowledged the significant amount of classroom transitions, relocation efforts, and other end-of-year responsibilities, recognizing

that the process required considerable time and coordination. She thanked everyone for their efforts and for helping ensure a successful transition. Mrs. Haeberle highlighted the generous grant received from the Community Foundation of Hancock County, noting that it was part of a larger \$300,000 contribution from Lilly that was distributed among the four local county school districts. She shared that Lilly has invested significant resources into community foundations across the state and recognized the positive impact these funds are having in supporting meaningful work throughout local communities. Dr. Pleak began her remarks by stating, "Winning is fun." She shared that she has now completed two years as Superintendent and expressed how incredibly proud she is of all that has been accomplished during that time. She commended the district's administrators for their leadership and dedication in supporting staff and families, noting the important role they play in the success of the district. Dr. Pleak also expressed appreciation for the continued support of the community and recognized the strong partnership between the schools and those they serve. She echoed Mrs. Haeberle's gratitude toward teachers and staff for their efforts in managing end-of-year transitions and classroom moves, acknowledging the hard work and collaboration that contributed to a successful process. Dr. Pleak concluded her remarks by saying how incredibly blessed and lucky she feels to be here. Mr. Walker concluded his remarks by humorously stating that when everyone else has already said everything, he simply says, "Ditto." He then enthusiastically expressed his pride in the district by declaring, "Dragon Dominance!"

11 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

Quenda H. Hooker
Jon Hooker
Dan Walker
Brian McKinney
Laura J. Haeberle