

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
4711 S. 500 W., New Palestine, In 46163
Monday, August 10, 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; Sarah Gizzi, Business Manager; Craig Smith, Director of Student Learning & Communications; Dr. Gina Pleak, Superintendent; Mrs. Amanda Wooton, Board Member; Nicholas Mitchaner, Assistant Superintendent

Absent: Mr. Jon Hooker, Board Vice President

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. Mr. Hooker was not present.

2 Accentuate the Positive

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

2.1 2026 IHSAA Class 3A Softball State Championship Runner-Up

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

The Board will recognize the NPHS softball players and coaching staff for their outstanding season. The team finished as the runner-up in the IHSAA Class 3A Softball State Championship.

Minutes:

The Board recognized the NPHS softball players and coaching staff.

Attachments:

[ATP - Girls Softball State Runner Up 2025-2026.pdf](#)

3 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Agenda dated August 10, 2026.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the August 10, 2026 agenda. Mrs. Haeberle moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

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

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 items 5.1-5.3. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the items as presented. Mrs. Haeberle seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney
Seconded: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

5.1 Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes dated July 13, 2026.
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes dated July 13, 2026.

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated July 13 2026.pdf
Executive Session Meeting Minutes dated July 13 2026.pdf

5.2 Claims and Finances

- a. Payroll Claims dated July 17, 2026.
- b. Payroll Claims dated July 31, 2026.
- c. Claims dated July 31, 2026.

Attachments:

Payroll Claims dated 07-17-2026.pdf
Payroll Claims dated 07-31-2026.pdf
Claims dated July 31 2026.pdf

5.3 Personnel Report

Personnel Report dated August 10, 2026.

Attachments:

Personnel Report dated Aug 10 2026.pdf

6 New Business

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

6.1 NPHS Boys Tennis Team

Mr. Brian Murphy, NPHS Athletic Director

Mr. Murphy is requesting approval for the boys tennis team to participate in the Silver Creek Invitational, September 4-5, 2026. This invitational will be played over two days in Sellersburg, IN.

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the boys tennis team to participate in the Silver Creek Invitational. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

Boys Tennis Field Trip Request.pdf

6.2 Donations

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

a. NPE received a donation from Scopelitis Law Firm, on behalf of employee Ashley Jennings, for \$75.00.

b. NPJH received a donation from the Jones Family Foundation Inc. for \$4,416.96 to be used for an Interactive TV in NPJH's Missy Wolf's Essential Skills Room 101.

c. NPHS received a check for \$985.25 for the NPHS Robotics Program from Jason Greulich.

d. NPHS Library received a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Friends of Hancock County Public Library.

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 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dan Walker

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

6.3 2027 Budget Calendar and Advertisement

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi will be presenting the 2027 Budget Calendar and requesting permission to advertise the Form 3, Capital Projects Plan, and Bus Replacement Plan. In alignment with State guidelines, the hearings will be held on September 14, 2026, and the approvals will be requested at the October 26, 2026 meeting.

Permission to advertise is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the advertisement of Form 3, Capital Projects Plan, and Bus Replacement Plan. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the advertisement. Mrs. Wooton seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Amanda Wooton

Attachments:

[2027 Budget Calendar and Advertisement.pdf](#)

6.4 Permission to Advertise for Bids

Mrs. Sarah Gizzi, Director of Finance

Mrs. Gizzi is requesting permission to advertise for bids for the NPCS Building Demolition Package.

Permission to advertise is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to approve the advertisement for bids for the NPCS Building Demolition Package. Mr. McKinney motioned to approve the advertisement as presented. Mrs. Haeberle seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Brian McKinney

Seconded: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Attachments:

[NPCS Building Demolition Package.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 expressed her gratitude that the school year started well. Everything seems to be underway, especially at the junior high, with everyone in their new spot. Mrs. Haeberle thanked Mr. Bush and his staff for hosting the Back to School breakfast, noting that it was a wonderful and enjoyable morning. She also thanked the administration and staff at each school for welcoming the Board as they toured each building, recognizing that it is a busy time for them, prepping for the first day of school. Additionally, Mrs. Haeberle commented on the 'NPCS World Tour' video; she applauded Dr. Pleak for the outstanding video. She urged everyone to watch the video on YouTube if they have not seen it. Mr. McKinney echoed previous sentiments regarding a great start to the school year, sharing that it seems our students are excited to be at school, based on the coverage on social media and pictures in the newspaper. Mr. Mitchaner shared that the school year is off to a strong start across multiple areas district-wide. He noted that we have welcomed new staff members who are settling in and are receiving great support. Additionally, he highlighted the success of the recent Special Education kick-off meeting, which brought together the entire team. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Mitchaner expressed enthusiasm for the opening of Amplify Hancock, the new Hancock County Career Center, and for our students to take advantage of what is offered. Dr. Pleak opened her remarks by extending congratulations to Abbey Krauskopf for being named a Top 25 candidate for the 2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year award. Dr. Pleak noted that she has greatly enjoyed the 'NPCS World Tour' theme and shared that the sentiment seems to be shared by the staff, as demonstrated by over half of the staff purchasing T-shirts. Dr. Pleak agreed that the "NPCS World Tour" song does get stuck in your head, noting that people tell her that all the time, especially when she goes to celebrate staff who have been nominated as NPCS Rock Stars. Dr. Pleak concluded her remarks by echoing previous sentiments regarding a successful start to the school year, extending her appreciation to all staff, with special recognition given to the maintenance, custodial, and transportation staff. Mr. Walker commented that the start of the year was awesome. He shared that the back-to-school breakfast and the end-of-the-year celebration are two of his favorite events to be a part of. Mr. Walker concluded his comments by agreeing with Mr. McKinney that staff and students seemed excited to be back at school. He believes the excitement comes from great leadership and culture in the buildings.

9 Adjournment

Mr. Dan Walker, Board President

Board approval is requested at this time.

Minutes:

Mr. Walker requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Haeberle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, and the vote passed 4-0.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Laura Haeberle

Seconded: Mr. Brian McKinney

D. W. Allen

Amendett, Weston

Jonathan Hecker

Brian McKim

Jaun J. Haebler