

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NIAGARA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
Niagara High School, Room 113

PRESENT: Mrs. Teresa Clement, Mrs. Lisa Swanson, Mr. Joe Champeau, Mr. Brock Payette, Mrs. Karie Curran

BY PHONE: Mrs. Debra Tauriainen

ABSENT: Mrs. Kim Dumke

OTHERS PRESENT: Nathaniel Burklund, Shawna Lindow, Rachael Butler, Terry Hanson, Scott Trevillian, Sherri Petschar, Ginger Anderson

The meeting was called to order by Clement at 5:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken by Ms. Butler with members present as mentioned above.

Motion by Curran/Swanson to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

Correspondence

- No correspondence to report.

Gifts, Grants and Bequests

- Thank you to Boss for a scrap metal donation.
- Thank you to Northwoods IGA for donating cheese and sausage platters.

Public Appearances

- No public appearances to report.

Approve Hiring of Jordan Larock as Part Time Custodian

A motion was made by Champeau and seconded by Tauriainen to approve the hiring of Jordan Larock as Part Time Custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Speech and Language Time

Mr. Burklund discussed the responsibilities and workload of the current Speech and Language Specialist, emphasizing the need to make her schedule more manageable. The recommendation was to redistribute a few students to help balance the workload effectively.

Approve Contract for Lori Lamy

A motion was made by Swanson and seconded by Curran to approve the contract for Lori Lamy. The motion passed unanimously.

Substitute Teacher Rate

Mr. Burklund discussed the need to increase the substitute teacher wage to remain competitive.

Approve Substitute Teacher Rate

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Swanson to approve increasing short-term substitute teacher rate. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Removing Gayle Zychowski from Nicolet Petty Cash and Safety Deposit Box

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Clement to remove Gayle Zychowski from Nicolet Petty Cash and Safety Deposit Box. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Resolutions Designating Public Depository and Authorizing Withdrawal of County, City, Village, Town, or School District Moneys

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Clement to approve resolutions designating public depository and authorizing withdrawal of county, city, village, town, or school district moneys. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Removing Gayle Zychowski from Forward Financial Credit Union Accounts

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Tauriainen to approve removing Gayle Zychowski from Forward Financial Credit Union accounts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Removing Gayle Zychowski from Incredible Bank Money Market Account

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Clement to approve removing Gayle Zychowski from Incredible Bank Money Market account. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve First Reading of Neola EDGAR Policy 6325 (Purchasing)

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Swanson to approve first reading of Neola EDGAR Policy 6325 (purchasing). The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Second Reading EDGAR Policies

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Champeau to approve second Reading EDGAR Policies. The motion passed unanimously.

Fund Balance Policy 6235

Mrs. Lindow reported on discussions from the recent Budget and Finance Committee meeting regarding the fund balance and the potential need to update Policy 6235. It was determined that the policy would remain unchanged for now, with plans to revisit it as needed. This recommendation was shared with the board.

Approve Second Reading of Neola Policy Update Vol. 34-1: Policies for the Board; except for Fund Balance Policy 6235

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Tauriainen to approve second reading of Neola Policy Update Vol. 34-1: Policies for the Board; except for Fund Balance Policy 6235. The motion passed unanimously.

Neola Policy 2264 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities)

Mr. Burklund provided a brief overview of the history of this policy and informed the board that it now be inactive.

Approve Making Neola Policy 2264 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities) Inactive

A motion was made by Swanson and seconded by Curran to approve making Neola Policy 2264 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities) inactive. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Revisions to Neola Policy 2266 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities)

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Clement to approve revisions to Neola Policy 2266 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities). The motion passed unanimously.

2025 – 2026 Curriculum Schedule and Potential Needs

Mrs. Petschar discussed the need to review the curriculum schedule and the need for an additional 5th-grade teacher. In recent years, the district has operated with only one 5th-grade teacher due to class size

and curriculum demands. After running scheduling scenarios for the 2025–2026 school year, she expressed concern about several class periods not fitting in their schedule. Following discussion, the board supported posting for an elementary school teacher.

2025 – 2026 School Calendar

Mr. Burklund presented the 2025–2026 school calendar and highlighted key changes. He specifically noted adjustments to the schedule around the Christmas holiday and how the additional days off during that period impact the traditional mid-winter break.

Approve 2025 – 2026 School Calendar

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Swanson to approve 2025 – 2026 School Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Finance Manager

Mrs. Lindow provided an update on her work and the progress made on the 2025–2026 budget, noting that it remains on track. She also shared that preliminary wage discussions have begun and informed the board that requisitions opened on Friday.

Director of Pupil Services

Mr. Hanson reviewed the highlights of the Pupil Services Report, including:

- **Early Childhood Child Development Days** – Met with staff to discuss options and plans for Development Day, scheduled for March 18th and 20th.
- **Reading ACT 20** – Attended the winter reading teachers' networking meeting with Megan Wagner at CESA 8. Elementary staff have been meeting to discuss assessment results and Act 20 requirements, as well as meeting with parents to develop personal reading plans. Mr. Hanson inquired if the board would like ACT 20 to be added to a future meeting for further discussion, and the board agreed.
- **February 21st In-Service** – JoAnn Miller from CESA 8 presented on increasing student engagement and incorporating student self-assessment into instruction.
- **Family Literacy Night** – Met with Ms. Wagener and elementary staff to plan for this year's event, scheduled for Thursday, March 13th. The theme is Racing into Literacy.
- **Scholastic Book Fair** – Scheduled for March 10th–14th.

Principal

Mr. Trevillian reviewed the highlights of the Principal's Report, including:

- **Future Planning** – Ongoing meetings with Mr. Burklund, Mr. Hanson, and Mrs. Petschar to discuss scheduling, staffing, and district needs.
- **State MS/HS Principal Conference** – Attended recently; topics included legal updates, AI, and cell phone policies in schools.
- **Scheduling** – Students have completed class entries for next year, and work on the Master Schedule is underway.
- **National Honor Society** – Committee meeting held; induction ceremony took place on February 16 at Pine Grove.
- **HI-Q and Forensics** – Both teams have begun their seasons and are performing well.
- **Swim Lessons** – Third graders have started swim lessons at the YMCA, which continues to be a valuable program.
- **Basketball** – Provided an update on the playoff schedule.

Superintendent

Mr. Burklund reviewed the highlights of the Superintendent's Report, including:

- **Staff Engagement** – Continuing to explore opportunities to build staff engagement and create a positive work environment.
- **Running Program** – Met with Mr. Krznarich to discuss implementing a running program for 3rd and 4th grade students.
- **Child Advocacy Committee** – Serving on the WASDA Child Advocacy Committee and participating in award selections on February 19th.
- **Scoreboard Sponsorship** – Completing a sponsor banner for the new scoreboards; expressed gratitude to all sponsors.
- **Bus Driver Licensing** – Announced that Derrell Coates is now licensed to drive a bus, which is a valuable addition for the district.
- **Commons Area Flooring** – Evaluating the condition of the main commons area floor, with further discussion to follow.
- **Great 8 Ceremonies** – Attended the event and games, noting the excellent turnout from both the school and the community.

Future Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting, in room 113.

A motion was made by Curran and seconded by Champeau to adjourn at 6:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.