

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Performing Arts Center
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
May 12, 2025
6:00 PM**

New Buffalo Area Schools will be a beacon of academic excellence and individualized learning, where every student thrives in a supportive and inclusive environment. We will lead in preparing students for future success, driven by strong community partnerships and a commitment to growth and sustainability.

1. Call to Order by President Lisa Werner - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Roll Call: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, Lisa Werner
Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools
Devinnie Wysocki, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
3. Expressions from the Public: None
4. Tiffani Dash - Rebecca Dewey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution Donation Presentation to New Buffalo Art Teacher, Ashley Jager
5. Items too Late for Printed Agenda
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Thun
Second: Churchill
All ayes, motion carried
7. Communications
A. Class President: Senior Presidents (Addison Lamport, **Ellen Ripley**)
Spoke about the 5K Event for Cancer Awareness scheduled for Monday, May 19th and the events . Blossomtime Parade for the Miss./Mr. New Buffalo Court, Prom event May 10th was a great time for the students. Graduation is May 30, 2025. Senior Trip is scheduled for May 22nd.
8. Committee Report(s)
Foundation Meeting: May 7, 2025

9. Presentation: GeoSurfaces/TenCate (Baseball Field Renovation) - James Beaver

Presentation on the a potential renovation of the baseball field. The New Buffalo Community Education Foundation will serve as a support for this project. The vision is to design a build for the baseball field and proposing a new type of turf system that has been developed by Pivot, by TenCate. The turf includes an iteration of the fiber that that “requires no infill, or sand so it makes it very unique.” The company is committed to a 12-year warranty on the new system. They have references adding that it has a good success rate.

10. Presentation: Counselors/Social Workers/Student Advocate

Lisa Price, Angela Robertson, Keri Haskins, Megan Smith, Caroline Fortunato

The superintendent emphasized the importance of test scores, noting their direct connection to ensuring students are mentally prepared and ready to learn. He shared that the district has restructured the Wellness Team and it has had a great positive result. This group does a lot of the behind the scenes work and it contributes to the success of our student test scores. (Complete Report Attached)

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Operation Agreement For Participants Involved in the LaPorte County Career and Technical Area Vocational District #6, as attached.

Motion: Haskins

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following openings for School of Choice enrollment for the start of 2025-2026:

Kindergarten	6th Grade	9th Grade
1st Grade	7th Grade	10th Grade
4th Grade	8th Grade	11th Grade
5th Grade		

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

13. The Superintendent recommends the Board grant tenure status to middle school teacher, Julie Raducha.

Motion: Summers

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

14. The Superintendent recommends the Board grant tenure status to elementary school teacher, Lisa Ziel

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

15. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Zion from Vive 18 presented to all 5 -12 grade students on May 2. This presentation was geared towards making healthy choices and substance awareness. The mission of Vive18 is to help youth make educated decisions about drugs, and to rewrite social norms around drug use while protecting their friends and their future. Bloomery paid Vive18 directly to provide this educational opportunity for our students.
- Prom was this past weekend at Sawyer Section House.
- 8th Grade students went to Washington DC and returned last Wednesday.

The New Buffalo Community Education Foundation is now officially established. While the initial motivation was to improve our baseball and softball fields, the foundation's purpose has grown to encompass broader educational support. You can find more information about the foundation through our website and Facebook page created for the foundation.

Foundation Focus Areas:

- Providing student scholarships
- Supporting student enrollment and success
- Assisting in educator recruitment and retention
- Enhancing school facilities
- Promoting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and the arts

This foundation represents a long-term commitment to strengthening our schools and enriching opportunities for all New Buffalo students.

- NBARA meeting this Wednesday at 9 AM
- Bike to the Park for the elementary is Friday at 2 PM
- Annual 5K Monday, May 19 at 2 PM at the multiplex field

Graduation is Friday, May 30 at 7 PM. The morning of graduation will determine if it is held outside at the multiplex field or inside the gold gym.

16. Remarks from the Board President and Members

Thun: Commented on Ashley Jager and what a beautiful job she does. She attends so many events and supports our students in every way. I am on the board of the Railroad Museum and we decided to change our name. The students created a logo after visiting the Museum and at our Boxcar Buffet we revealed the new logo for the newly named "The Harbor Country Museum of History and Rail." Thank you again for all that you do!

17. Discussion Item(s)

A. Berrien RESA Election Official Candidate(s)

Consideration of Resolution for Berrien RESA Board of Election

18. Other Business

19. Adjournment

Motion: Haskins

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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