NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Performing Arts Center
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
October 26, 2026
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 Denise Churchill - 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. Items too Late for Printed Agenda

5. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Summers
Second: Thun
All ayes, motion carried.

6. Adoption of the Consent Agenda: Items on the Consent Agenda are to be voted on as a single item by the Board. Board Members may remove items from the Consent Agenda prior to vote. Discussion of the items that have been removed can take place at the appropriate time listed on the Agenda.

A. Minutes:
Meeting Minutes: September 28, 2026
Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2026

B. General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:
1. General Fund: $331,904.87
2. Payroll: $979,452.16
3. Food Service: $25,412.24
4. Scholarship Fund: $32,093.25
5. Public Improvement: $407,496.32

C. Financials
Motion: Werner
Second: Summers
All ayes, motion carried.

7. Communications

A. Class President: Jacqui Behzadi
The Student Representative reported on recent district activities, including PSAT testing, a Forensics field trip, a Corewell Health field trip, a Purdue University college visit for students in grades 9–12, and a Lake Michigan

Any person with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this meeting should contact the Superintendent's office at 269-469-6010 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request assistance.

College Career Pathways opportunity for ninth-grade students. Students also participated in a blood drive, while the elementary school hosted its second annual Trunk or Treat event. Additional updates included the implementation of a mental health and empathy class and the introduction of a new format for Presidential Council meetings, allowing students to bring concerns directly to the principal. The Student Voice Survey also provided opportunities for student feedback, contributing to improvements in locker and cell phone policies. Superintendent Bowen added that he plans to attend the Presidential Council meetings periodically.

B. School Wellness Award
New Buffalo Area Schools representatives traveled to Lansing to accept the Bronze Level Michigan School Wellness Award, presented by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). This recognition highlights the district's commitment to supporting the whole child by fostering a healthy, active, and supportive learning environment through physical education, health curriculum, nutritious meal programs, and schoolwide wellness initiatives.

8. Committee Report(s)

9. Presentation: VK Civil - Future Building Trades Sites: Colin Finch, P.E., of Vriesman & Korhorn (VK Civil), presented an overview of the proposed Building & Trades Subdivision project. He outlined the three-phase development process, including preliminary planning, engineering and permitting, and construction. The project would include public roadways, water and sewer infrastructure, and residential building lots. The subdivision would provide New Buffalo Area Schools' Building & Trades program with opportunities for students to gain hands-on construction experience for years to come.

10. Presentation: Susan Martinic – Food Service Director: A presentation highlighting the New Buffalo Area Schools Food Service program emphasized the importance of providing students with nutritious, balanced meals featuring fresh produce and healthy proteins. The presentation showcased partnerships with local farms and businesses, positive feedback from the Head Start program, and the Food Service team's involvement in school and community activities. The presentation reinforced the district's commitment to supporting student health, wellness, and academic success through quality nutrition and community partnerships.

11. The Superintendent and Finance Director recommend the Board approve 31aa Resolution B.
Motion: Donnelly
Second: Summers
All ayes, motion carried.

12. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Website Overhaul & Digital Refresh: As part of our commitment to transparent communication and community engagement, our communications team is actively reviewing our district website. We are purging obsolete content and building a fresh, user-friendly digital format for New Buffalo Area Schools that better serves our families and community.
- We had our marketing team on-site last week to capture fresh video footage and update our facility photos. We recognize that some of the content on our social media and websites is outdated, so this effort is focused on refreshing those platforms to ensure everything aligns with our unified district branding and truly showcases the current, vibrant learning environment we have here at New Buffalo across all grade levels.
- We are constantly looking for ways to grow and refine our work across all grade levels. To that end, I have been invited to serve on an expert panel for Studer Education at the K-12 Systems Improvement Conference in Chicago on November 2nd. I will be sharing New Buffalo's continuous improvement journey—specifically, how we systematically take feedback from our parent, student, and employee surveys and translate those insights directly into actionable, measurable improvement plans for every building and department in our district. It is a great honor to represent our entire PK-12 team and highlight the meaningful progress happening across New Buffalo Area Schools.

Any person with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this meeting should contact the Superintendent's office at 269-469-6010 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request assistance.

- This week, our district is focusing on wellness and positive choices through Red Ribbon Week. Across our schools, we are reinforcing the importance of taking care of one another, making healthy decisions, and standing up against substance abuse. I want to extend a sincere thank you to our counselors, teachers, and student advisors for leading these meaningful conversations around peer support and personal well-being with our students. This Thursday at 6:00 PM: New Buffalo Elementary Trunk or Treat! This is our 2nd annual event providing a safe, fun, and welcoming environment for our kids to wear their costumes and build great memories together.
- Elementary classroom Halloween parties take place this Friday.
- High School will have their Veteran's Day assembly on November 11. We are ironing out the details of the event and will be sharing information soon.

13. Remarks from the Board President and Members
President Churchill: Thanked the Teachers Union for organizing the Board Candidate Meet and Greet event and reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 3. President Churchill also reported that she and Board Member Thun attended the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Annual Leadership Conference, where they participated in valuable leadership training sessions, heard from motivational speakers, and representatives. They also spent time connecting with neighboring River Valley School District board members to strengthen relationships. Board Member Thun added that the conference was an excellent learning and networking opportunity, providing valuable insights and resources to help them better serve the district.

14. Discussion Item(s)
A. The Superintendent approved the following hires:
Boys MS Basketball:
7th grade - Kevin Ebbeson
8th grade - Conner Lijewski

Girls MS Basketball:
8th grade - Zack Robertson (paid thorough RV)

HS Boys BB
Varsity - Nate Tripp Sr
JV - Nate Tripp Jr
JV "B" -Tyler Haske (paid through RV)
Flex Position - Adam Forker (program assistant)

HS Girls BB
Varsity - Jason Alexander (paid through RV)
JV - Shawn Gedert (paid through RV

15. Other Business

16. Adjournment
Motion: Donnelly
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS

Any person with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this meeting should contact the Superintendent's office at 269-469-6010 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request assistance.