

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138  
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM C120,  
38705 GRAND AVENUE, NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026  
5:30 PM**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the North Branch Area Education Center.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Jesse LaValla, Heather Naegele, Tim MacMillan, Superintendent Paul and Adam Trampe

**Absent:** None

**Others in attendance:** Rachel Kytonen, Pakou Lee, Taylor Swanson, Todd Tetzlaff, Pat Tepoorten, Yu Nyiam Vue, Adam Xiong and Joey Xiong

**Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Trampe, seconded by Grovender, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Paul highlighted student-led arts initiatives and upcoming community events. A districtwide "Viking Way" banner project will replace aging banners along Viking Way (Grand Ave), with students designing artwork inspired by Norwegian rosemaling, Hmong story cloths, Hispanic/Latino mural traditions, and American Indian collage to celebrate cultural heritage. The project is supported through grants from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the North Branch Area Education Foundation.

Updates also recognized student achievement, including Ella Dick's 6th-place finish at the state gymnastics meet, shared experiences from foreign exchange students, and reminded of upcoming activities such as Prom, the "We Are All the Same" Sock Hop celebrating World Down Syndrome Day, and a staff scholarship fundraiser at Jerry's Foods.

**Removal of Consent Items for Discussion:**

None

**Consent Items:**

Moved by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of February 12, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of February 12, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting
- C. Minutes of February 19, 2026 Special School Board Meeting
- D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity
  - Accounts Payable, Bank 07 – \$ 618,336.06
  - Auxiliary, Bank 12 - \$ 2,215.79
  - Payroll, Bank 13 - \$ 2,480,259.03
  - Scholarship, Bank 18 - \$ 12,500.00
  - High School Student Activities, Bank 31 - \$ 23,287.95
  - Middle School Student Activities, Bank 32 - \$ 880.63

E. Personnel

1. Amber Baker, resignation effective March 11, 2026, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools
2. Joel Larson, resignation effective March 6, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
3. Maria Oare, resignation effective February 27, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area High School
4. Jody Spofford, resignation effective July 9, 2026, as Human Resources Specialist at North Branch Area Public Schools
5. Tristan Olson-Wahlroos, leave request effective February 12, 2026 through March 16, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
6. Licia Sieracki, leave request effective February 18, 2026 through March 4, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
7. Amy Pesek, employment effective February 2, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
8. Jena Benson, resignation effective March 6, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
9. 2025-26 Extracurricular Spring Coach Positions
  - a. Steve Christensen, Class 4, Step 10, as Assistant Coach for

Baseball

- b. Katherine Crudo, Class 2, Step 10, as Head Coach for Softball
- c. Lundgren, Class 2, Step 10, as Boys Head Coach for Track and Field
- d. Norm Nagel, Class 2, Step 10, as Girls Head Coach for Track and Field
- e. Nathan Appleby, Class 4, Step 10, as Assistant Coach for Track and Field
- f. Ian McWilliams, Class 4, Step 10, as Assistant Coach for Track and Field
- g. Jonny Bodell, Class 3, Step 1, as Head Coach for Boys Golf
- h. Charlie Linder, Class 5, Step 1, as Assistant Coach for Boys Golf
- i. Chad Carlson, Class 3, Step 7, as Head Coach for Girls Golf
- j. Megan Carlson, Class 5, Step 2, as Assistant Coach for Girls Golf
- k. Joel Santjer, Class 3, Step 10, as Head Coach for Boys Tennis
- l. Kyle Groh, Class 9, Step 10, as Fitness Center Supervisor for Spring Season
- m. Norm Nagel, Class 9, Step 10, as Fitness Center Supervisor for Spring Season
- n. Alyssa Nelson, Class 9, Step 4, as Coach for Adapted Bowling
- o. Josh Reistad, Class 6, Step 10, as Coach for Middle School Track
- p. Scott Schraufnagel, Class 6, Step 5, as Coach for Middle School Track
- q. Natalie Bristol, Class 6, Step 2, as Coach for Middle School Track
- r. Kyle Kahl, Class 6, Step 10, as Coach for Middle School Baseball
- s. Jim Van Eerden, Class 6, Step 10, as Coach for Middle School Baseball

- t. Carlie Hart - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- u. Cole Olson - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- v. Adam Klick - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- w. Mitch Minnig - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- x. Kristi Pilz - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- y. Melissa Jarvi - Volunteer Coach for Softball
- z. Carl Newman - Volunteer Coach for Track & Field
- aa. Nate Halseth - Volunteer Coach for Boys Golf
- bb. Jack Gladitsch - Volunteer Coach for Boys Golf
- cc. Casey Thiel - Volunteer Coach for Girls Golf

F. Policy

- a. Policy 520 - Student Surveys
- b. Policy 714 NB - Fund Balances

G. Acceptance of Donations

FEBRUARY 2026			
DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT USE
2/2/2026	Kathleen Fisk, 5905 Chippewa Trl, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$1,000.00 Scholarship Donation
2/2/2026	General E W Rawlings Chapter Air Force Association, PO Box 11802, St. Paul, MN 55111	NBHS Athletics	\$750.00 JROTC Program Donation for Field Building Supplies
2/2/2026	William & Linda Hackett, 4748 381st Trl, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 Boys Basketball Program Donation
2/2/2026	Jayne & Timothy Taylor, 31000 N Lakes Ct, Lindstrom, MN 55045	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/3/2026	Anonymous	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00 Field Trip Fund Donation
2/13/2026	American Legion Post No. 85, PO Box 87, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$5,000.00 JROTC Program Donation
2/13/2026	Richard & Randi Greene, 37655 Oriole Ave, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/13/2026	H & L Machine, 27380 Lofton Ave, Chisago City, MN 55013	NBHS Athletics	\$350.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/13/2026	Lakes Region EMS, 40245 Fletcher Ave, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$500.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/13/2026	Margaret Lindlof, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/13/2026	Brian Nysse	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/13/2026	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 Boys Basketball Program-Sports Physical Donation
2/13/2026	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00 Wrestling Program-Sports Physical Donation
2/13/2026	Sun Dental, PO Box 40, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$1,500.00 Scholarship Donation
2/26/2026	Richard & Wanda Evans, 9171 Green Lake Trl, Chisago City, MN 55013	NBHS Athletics	\$500.00 FRC Robotics Program Donation
2/26/2026	Prism Design & Embroidery, PO Box 820, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$500.00 Scholarship Donation
			<b>\$10,514.00</b>
FEB	Heather Grell, 8905 275th St, Chisago City, MN 55013	NBHS	*Donated 4 Prom Dresses
FEB	Emily Havgen, 29230 Vale St NW, Isanti, MN 55040	NBHS	*Donated 3 Prom Dresses
FEB	Shakarah Jackson	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress
FEB	Kayla Krey, 28256 Potomac St NE, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	*Donated a Speech Generating Device (Approx Value \$500)
FEB	Jennifer Melton, 37310 Fill Ave, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	*Donated 2 Prom Dresses
FEB	Terry Nelson, 42100 Falcon Ave, Harris, MN 55032	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress
FEB	Megan Paul, 31050 Foster Ave, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress
FEB	Melissa Rafferty, 7391 Wellington Dr, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress
FEB	Christy Tallman, 34135 Grange Circle, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress

**Open Mic**

None

## **New Business**

- A. Approval of the Agreement Between Therapeutic Services Agency (TSA) and Independent School District No. 138 (North Branch) to Provide Mental Health Services and Support Services for the School Academic Year 2026-2027 and 2027-2028

Moved by Trampe, seconded by LaValla, and carried unanimously to approve the Agreement Between Therapeutic Services Agency (TSA) and Independent School District No. 138 (North Branch) to Provide Mental Health Services and Support Services for the School Academic Year 2026-2027 and 2027-2028.

- B. Approval of First Reading of the Following Policies

Moved by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve First Reading of the Following Policies

1. Policy 799 – OPEB Investment Policy Statement

## **Addendum**

None

## **Information**

Policy 528 – Student Parental, Family and Marital Status Nondiscrimination was recently reviewed and approved by the School Board in November 2025. However, it has been brought back to the Policy Committee for further review after Member Johnson raised several thoughtful questions.

## **Board Requests**

None

## **Committee Reports**

Member Grovender gave an update on SCRED highlighting Fast Bridge Assessment Tool.

## **Dates to Remember**

- A. March 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM - MSBA/MASA Day at the Capitol, Minnesota History Center - St. Paul
- B. March 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, Sunrise River Elementary School, Media Center
- C. April 9, 2026 at 4:30 PM - Policy Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122
- D. April 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room, Room B122

**Adjournment**

Moved by Grovender, seconded by Trampe and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:59 PM.

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Heather Naegele, Clerk