

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Middle/High School Cafeteria
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
February 24, 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. Items too Late for Printed Agenda: None
5. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Thun
Second: Churchill
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: 01-27-2025
Meeting Minutes: 02-12-2025
 - B. General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:
 1. General Fund: \$332,541.94
 2. Payroll: \$894,553.12
 3. Food Service: \$14,520.15
 4. Scholarship Fund: \$94,188.80
 5. Public Improvement: \$109,619.96
 - C. Financials
Motion: Churchill
Second: Thun
All ayes, motion carried.

7. Communications

A. Class President: Charlee Churchill - 9th Grade:

SAT testing is approaching soon and many students are applying for scholarships. Student Senate hosted a very successful Empty Bowls fundraiser event. Hummingbird Lounge served Italian dishes to the World Travel group that will be going to Italy this summer. Musical "Little Shop of Horrors" to run Friday, March 14th at 7pm, Saturday, March 15th at 7pm, and Sunday, March 16th at 2pm. Students' mental health seems to be well, expecting some stress during exam week. Mello Monday's offer calming activities for students to choose from. Prom scheduled for May 10th. Thank you to the Board for all that you do and keeping students safe and healthy.

8. Committee Report(s)

Cannabis Meeting: 1-28-25

BRESA: Board President/Superintendent Meeting 1-29-25

Foundation Meeting: 2-5-25

9. Presentation: David Kelly - Special Education/Curriculum:

Presentation covering NBAS Special Education numbers, District Action Plan, and District NWEA Data Overview. (Complete report attached)

10. The Superintendent and Food Service Director recommend the Board adopt the National School Breakfast Week Proclamation, March 3-7, 2025.

Motion: Summers

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve hiring Emily Keller for the position of Day Camp Director for 2025.

Motion: Thun

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt Thrun Board Policy #3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment.

Motion: Thun

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

13. Remarks from the Superintendent

- The Empty Bowls event, hosted by our high school, was once again a tremendous success. This annual tradition not only brings our community together but also raises important funds for the Blessings in a Backpack program, which helps support local students in need. A special thank you to Amy Quick and Beth Scoggin for their leadership in organizing the event. I'd also like to recognize Ashley Jager and her art students, along with community members, for crafting the beautiful handmade bowls, and Nicole Bowen and her health class for preparing the delicious soups. This event is a true reflection of the collaboration and generosity within our community, and we are proud to continue hosting it each year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a meaningful evening.
- Retirement Incentive: part of our planning for the future, the district offered a retirement incentive to help manage the anticipated wave of retirements among eligible teachers. The goal was to encourage a gradual transition rather than experiencing a large number of retirements at once, which could create significant challenges in filling multiple positions simultaneously. Unfortunately, no staff members opted to take advantage of the incentive. While this outcome was not what we anticipated, we remain committed to exploring additional strategies to ensure smooth staffing transitions and maintain the high standards of education and services for our students.

- Strategic Plan Community Involvement: Last week, Matt Johnson and I met with Chamber Executive Director Kimberlee Wendt to discuss opportunities for stronger collaboration between our schools and the local business community. Matt has put forth a proposal in partnership with the Chamber, and he will be speaking at their event on Wednesday evening to present ideas on how we can spotlight local businesses during school events. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance community engagement, strengthen local partnerships, and create meaningful connections between our schools and businesses. We look forward to further developing these opportunities and fostering a stronger relationship between education and the local economy.
- I'm pleased to share some exciting news regarding the city-owned softball field. The City Council has approved the use of its Pokagon Fund allocation to support improvements to the field. Additionally, the NBARA has secured a \$150,000 DNR Passport Grant, which requires a minimum match of \$120,000. This investment will significantly enhance the facility and benefit our student-athletes and the broader community. In addition to these developments, we are continuing to explore opportunities for improving the school-owned baseball field. Over the past month, there have been several productive discussions about facility upgrades, and I look forward to sharing more details as those plans take shape. Thank you to everyone involved in these efforts to enhance our athletic facilities for students and the community.
- PUD: there has been a lot of activity regarding the Planned Unit Development. Dr. Lindley and Ed Gausselin will provide the board with an update on March 27.
- Today, we had the opportunity to work with Studer Education during their onsite visit, focusing primarily on leadership development. A key area of discussion was our rounding reports—specifically, how we can better utilize the feedback gathered to drive meaningful action and enhance communication with staff. Additionally, we reviewed our strategic scorecard and were pleased to see significant progress on several of our strategic goals. Based on this progress, Brent from Studer Education recommended that we refine and update some of our strategic initiatives to ensure they align with our evolving needs and priorities. We will be working on these revisions in preparation for the next school year, ensuring our goals remain relevant and impactful for our district.
- Lisa and I had our monthly Board President, Union President, Superintendent meeting today. The purpose of these meetings is to stay on top of items and have open communication. It has been a great addition to increasing our communication.
- The elementary will have Artist and Author Night on Wednesday starting at 6 PM. Also, the elementary will start their winter field trips of ice skating at The Garden Ice Arena in St. Joe. The PTO book fair is happening this week as well.
- Raptor: over the past 3 months, we have been working on the back end to implement the Raptor crisis management system. This week, all staff will attend a mandatory training session so that they will be able to implement the crisis management system. This system is very complex and will integrate with our electronic key card system, cameras, smart boards, PA system, computers, phone systems, and clocks.

14. Remarks from the Board President and Members:

Churchill: Commented on the Pre-Festival Band Concert and the excellent job they did. Mrs. Hoty has done a wonderful job.

15. Discussion Item(s)

A. MASB School Boards 2025 Election:

TiAnna Harrison: Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County

Elizabeth O'Dell: St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County

B. The Superintendent approved the following hire:
Jacqueline Quach - BASE Aide

C. Kylie Lijewski - Resignation effective 03/04/2025

D. B3: Media Relations Professional Standards for Educational Leaders: Actively engages the media to promote the district and provide timely and effective information.

E2: Building-Level Leadership Professional Standards for Educational Leaders: Principals are provided defined autonomy consistently with accountability. Goals for learning and instruction are prioritized.

B4: District Image Professional Standards for Educational Leaders: Projects a positive image at all times and is a champion for the district. Knowledge and speaks well for the district.

16. Other Business

Motion by Presisent Werner to elect TiAnna Harrison, MASB School Boards Election 2025. Supported by Summers. All ayes, motion carried.

17. Adjournment

Motion: Thun

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourend at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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