

**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 13, 2025
6:00 PM**

The New Buffalo Area Schools, in partnership with our community, will provide opportunities for students to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive global citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in a safe and positive environment. We believe all children can learn and excel with developmentally appropriate materials, practices, and strategies.

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
5. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Churchill
Second: Summers
All ayes, motion carried.
6. Communications
 - A. New Buffalo Area Schools MiMTSS Recognition
 - B. Rick Edgerle - Outstanding School Officer Award
 - C. WNDU and Martins Supermarket's for \$1000 Grant
 - D. Class President: Bianca Ilescas-Villa 12th Grade
7. Committee Report(s)
8. Presentation: Food Service Director - Susan Martinic
Food Service Director Susan Martinic, hired just a year ago, has made significant progress in enhancing meal programs across New Buffalo Area Schools. Superintendent Adam Bowen commended her positive impact on students, while Martinic praised her dedicated cafeteria teams, noting the addition of five new staff members and their ongoing training. She announced continued free breakfast and lunch for all students through 2025–26 and highlighted efforts to connect with the community by providing fresh snacks to Flowers Learning Center and partnering with Roma's Pizzeria for Count Day. In celebration of National School Lunch Week, themed "Taste the World," international dishes were featured, and "Bring a Pal to Lunch Day" drew strong parent participation. Martinic also discussed new nutritional standards focused on reducing added sugars and sodium, as well as procedures for managing student food allergies through detailed menu tracking.

9. The Superintendent and Food Service Director recommend the Board approve the following lunch prices for 2025-2026:

Elementary School Student Lunch- \$3.70

Middle/High School Student Lunch - \$4.00

Elementary School Adult Lunch - \$5.15

Middle/High School Adult Lunch - \$5.50

Motion: Thun

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

10. The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt the resolution for National School Lunch Week, October 13-17, 2025.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the attached "Letter of Agreement" items associated with the New Buffalo 5-C Education Association for inclusion in the 2024-2027 Agreement.

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

12. Remarks from the Superintendent

- On Friday, all teachers and administrators attended the Ed Forward Conference at St. Joseph High School, which brought together approximately 1,200 educators for professional development. A variety of topics were offered in breakout sessions to ensure there was something relevant for everyone. This is the second year of the conference, which was designed in collaboration with the Berrien County Superintendents' group.
- Homecoming is taking place this week, with a variety of festivities planned throughout. The week will culminate with the football game against Bridgman on Friday at 7:00 PM.
- Bison Preserve - The district's prior development agreement with the Bradford Group has expired and was not renewed. Many agreed-upon timelines outlined in the original agreement were not met, and as a result, that partnership will not be moving forward. The district will now explore other potential opportunities for the property that align with our community's interests and the Board's vision.
- Baseball / Softball Field Update - The artificial turf installation at both fields is now complete. The next steps include installation of the backstop netting and padded wall systems. At the baseball field, irrigation and sod installation are scheduled for this week. Once that work is complete, fencing will be attached to the installed fence poles, which will largely wrap up the project—aside from the Building Trades students constructing the baseball dugouts.
- On the softball field side, which is funded through the state grant and includes pathways and access to the park, ADA-compliant features, dugouts, and bleachers—the project recently went out to bid. Two bids were received last week, and those are currently under review. The NBARA is scheduled to meet on Thursday with the goal of awarding the bid at that time.
- Tomorrow, the high school students will visit Valparaiso University for their college visit. According to Tracy Ripley, Valpo is a new destination for our students and one that has not been explored in previous years. Traditionally, our college visits have focused on Michigan-based public universities, making this trip a unique opportunity for students to explore a different type of institution.

- The Service League Annual Arts and Craft Show will take place this Saturday from 9:30-4:00 at New Buffalo High school in both the gold and blue gyms.
- Staff members at all three buildings will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding of district initiatives through “Coffee with the Superintendent.” This program is designed to foster increased engagement and communication with staff members.

13. Remarks from the Board President and Members

Churchill – Spoke about the email received from Superintendent, Eric Hoppstock of BRESA regarding speaker that will be covering information for School Board members and encouraged board members to attend.

President Werner – Commented on conversations taking place regarding the funding for the Baseball/Softball fields and signage.

Bowen – Stated that part of the grant approval for Baseball/Softball field funding is the signage expectations and that signage will be installed for public view.

14. Discussion Item(s)

A. The Superintendent approved the following hires:

Basketball:

Boys Head Coach: Nate Tripp

Boys JV "A" Coach: Nate Tripp Jr

Boys JV "B" Coach: Adam Forker

7th Grade Boys Coach: Kevin Ebbeson

8th Grade Boys Coach: Conner Lijewski

7th Grade Girls Coach: Natalie Walter

B. New Buffalo Area Schools Planned Unit Development.

15. Other Business

Motion by President Werner to approve the release of the *Request for Qualifications (RFQ)* to the public for the purpose of seeking private investors/developers to partner with New Buffalo Area Schools in the development of the property located at 12332 Lubke Road, New Buffalo, MI 49117, beginning Monday, October 13, 2025.

Approved by Churchill

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

16. Adjournment

Motion: Vosberg

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS