

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION  
Performing Arts Center  
1112 E. Clay Street  
P.O. Box 280  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
January 12, 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 Superintendent Adam Bowen - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Appointment of Temporary Secretary  
Ms. Thun accepted the appointment
3. Roll Call: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, Lisa Werner  
Absent: Vosberg  
Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools  
Devinnie Wysocki, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
4. Expressions from the Public: None
5. Items too Late for Printed Agenda: None
6. Adoption of the Agenda  
Motion: Thun  
Second: Summers  
All ayes, motion carried.
7. Election of Officers (Meeting turned over to newly elected President immediately after position nomination/voting)  
**President:**  
Nomination of: Churchill  
By: Werner  
Support: Summers  
  
Motion to close nominations:  
By: Haskins  
Support: Summers  
Action with Roll Call Vote:  
  
Churchill: Y  
Donnelly: Y  
Haskins: Y

Summers: Y  
Thun: Y  
Werner: Y  
All ayes, motion carried.

Declared President: Denise Churchill – Meeting turned over to President

**Vice President**

Nomination of: Donnelly  
By: Haskins  
Support: Werner

Motion to close nominations:

By: Haskins  
Support: Werner  
Action with Roll Call Vote:

Haskins: Y  
Summers: Y  
Thun: Y  
Werner: Y  
Churchill: Y  
Donnelly: Y

All ayes, motion carried. Declared Vice President: Stephen Donnelly

**Secretary**

Nomination of: Thun  
By: Summers  
Support: Haskins

Motion to close nominations:

By: Werner  
Support: Donnelly  
Action with Roll Call Vote:

Summers: Y  
Thun: Y  
Werner: Y  
Churchill: Y  
Donnelly: Y  
Haskins: Y

All ayes, motion carried. Declared Secretary: Vanessa Thun

**Treasurer**

Nomination of: Haskins  
By: Donnelly  
Support: Summers

Motion to close nominations:

By: Werner  
Support: Thun  
Action with Roll Call Vote:  
Churchill: Y  
Donnelly: Y  
Haskins: Y

Summers: Y

Thun: Y

Werner: Y

All ayes, motion carried. Declared Treasurer: John Haskins

#### 8. Adoption of 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. Selection of Regular Meeting Time, Date, Place. (Board Retreat Dates: Wednesday: 01/28/2026 and Monday: 08/10/2026)

B. Designation of Banks as Depositories/Signatures.

C. Copy Charges

D. Supervision of Election

E. Re-adopt existing Board policies per its authority as a General Powers School District.

F. Post Legal Notices in the New Buffalo Times.

G. Designate Barbara Woerdehoff, Beth Arvanitis, Devinnie Wysocki, Lori Gramelspacher, and Tracy Ripley to issue work permits.

H. Designate Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools, or his designee, to sign all necessary paperwork for sale/purchase of district properties and all other documents required by the district.

I. Rebecca O'Donnell Resignation

J. Personal Matter Resolution

Motion: Werner

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

#### 9. Communications

Staff "Thank You" card

A. Class President: Jacqui Behzadi - 10th Grade

Quiz Bowl undefeated, half day for students Thursday 1/15 and Friday 1/16 (Parent/Teacher Conferences 1/15).

Winterfest week begins Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> with games and dress up days throughout the week. AK Smith

Field Trip this month and No Bullying Schools students previewed a movie.

#### 10. Committee Report(s)

Personnel - 12/16/2025

Foundation - 01/07/2026

Bullying Task Force – 01/08/2026

#### 11. Presentation: Radio Program - Jonny Reinhardt

Reinhardt provided an update on recent and ongoing projects within the broadcast program. Students recently completed a Pecha Kucha project, described as short, informal presentations used to help students get to know one another. Three outdated computers have been replaced, and work is underway to implement a new automation system, with additional equipment to be upgraded, or replaced as needed. These improvements will be supported through partnerships with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Midwest Family Marketing and Media, broadcast and audio engineers, and Niles-based Theory One Productions. Enrollment remains strong, with 21 students last trimester and approximately 16 this trimester. Students continue to create content that extends beyond the classroom, including a recent interview with New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit regarding the future of Veterans Park. Looking ahead, Reinhardt plans to pursue collaboration with other broadcast CTE programs across the county and state and to organize field trips to broadcast and television-related facilities.

12. The Superintendent and the Director of Technology recommend the Board approve the erate bid from MOSS for access point upgrades, per attached.

Motion: Thun

Second: Werner

All ayes, motion carried.

13. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Services Agreement with Chikaming Open Lands (COL), of New Buffalo Area Schools property on Lubke Road within the New Buffalo Elementary School Prairie East and West Nature Study Trails Project Areas, per attached.

Motion: Summers

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

14. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation recommend the Board approve the addition of cameras to 5 buses per the attached quote.

Motion: Werner

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

15. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the New Buffalo Area Schools Storm Water Management Plan.

Motion: Summers

Second: Werner

All ayes, motion carried.

16. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the NBARA 2026 Annual Contribution Invoice in the amount of \$5,000.

Motion: Werner

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

17. Remarks from the Superintendent

- January is School Board Appreciation month, and I'd like to take a moment to thank the Board of Education for your time, leadership, and continued support of our students, staff, and community. We truly appreciate your dedication and service.
- P/T conferences are on Thursday 1/15 1-4 and 6-8 PM.
- No school Monday, January 19th to observe MLK Day. Teachers all day professional development.
- The next January board meeting will be replaced with our board retreat which will be Wednesday, January 28 at Hummingbird Lounge.

18. Remarks from the Board President and Members

Churchill: Thanked Superintendent Bowen for the Board of Education recognition.

19. Discussion Item(s)

A. Appointment of Board Committees:

1. Executive/Finance
2. Curriculum/Bullying Task Force
3. Personnel
4. Building/Grounds
5. Bison Preserve
6. NBAS Foundation Committee
7. Berrien RESA
8. Berrien-Cass School Boards' Association
9. LRSB

B. The Superintendent approved the following hires:  
Trevor LaBerge - Transportation Administrative Assistant

Soccer: Head Coach: Natalie Walter  
Assistant Coach: Jose Martinez

Track: Associate Head Coach: Ashley Floriday  
Assistant Coach: Matt Johnson

Tennis: Head Coach: Kurt Raducha

Golf: Coach: Ed Fidler

Baseball: Assistant Coach: Adam Lijewski (head coach supplement)  
Assistant Coach: Chris Thun  
JV Baseball Coach: Paul Ciccarelli

C. Bison Preserve

D. Lisa Werner – Extended Absence

20. Other Business

Motion by Werner to authorize the Board to enter into contract negotiations with Leeward Ventures regarding the Bison Preserve Planned Unit Development, seconded by Donnelly.  
All ayes, motion carried.

21. Adjournment

Motion: Donnelly  
Second: Thun  
All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS