

**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, January 8, 2026
5:45 PM**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5:45 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: Blake Defeck, Gina Dufeck, Rachel Kytonen, Pakou Lee, Max Malmquist, Denise Martin, Todd Tetzlaff, Pat Tepoorten, David Treichel

Approval of Agenda:

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paul highlighted district vision and mission focused on student success, integrity, and community partnership. Recognition was given to NBAPS graduates Tyler Schneidewind and Adam Johnstone as members of the UW–River Falls Division III national championship football team.

Upcoming MSBA panel presentations were shared, including Clear Expectations that Protect Learning and Viking Innovation: Teacher Apprenticeships, which addresses teacher shortages through a state-aligned, earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship model.

Superintendent Paul announced Child Care Champions Training Day to be held January 31st at the high school, supporting and celebrating childcare providers.

NBAPS also highlighted the Max Impact partnership, including a \$100,000 donation from alumnus Max Malmquist to support long-term scholarships, additional \$2,500 scholarships, and the launch of the Max Advantage Finance Challenge to promote real-world financial learning for students.

Removal of Consent Items for Discussion:

None

Consent Items:

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

- A. Minutes of December 11, 2025 Policy Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of December 11, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting
- C. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity
 - Accounts Payable, Bank 07 – \$656,656.68
 - Auxiliary, Bank 12 - \$ 9,871.06
 - Payroll, Bank 13 - \$2,478,110.59
 - Scholarship, Bank 18 - \$27,000.00
 - High School Student Activities, Bank 31 - \$34,385.55
 - Middle School Student Activities, Bank 32 - \$198.23
- D. Personnel
 1. Catherine Aebly, resignation effective December 16, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
 2. Katrina Rossman, termination effective January 2, 2026, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools
 3. Joel Larson, leave request effective December 18, 2025 through February 12, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
 4. Samantha Stoesz, leave request effective January 5, 2026 through March 23, 2026, as English Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School
 5. Lori Tiegen, leave extension request through January 25, 2026, as Grade 3 Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School
 6. Catherine Aebly, employment effective December 15, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
 7. Jena Benson, employment effective December 1, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
 8. Crystal Hoffbeck, employment effective December 1, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
 9. Steven Schoener, employment effective December 11, 2025, as Special

Education Assistant at North Branch Area High School

10. Sarah Servaty, employment effective December 8, 2025, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools

11. Sarah Krosschell, BS, Step 5, as long-term Substitute Teacher for Samantha Stoesz, effective January 6, 2026 through March 6, 2026, as English Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School

12. 2025-26 Activity Advisor Positions

- a. Brittany Ahner, Class 4, Step 3, as the Speech Head Coach
- b. Lucas Edson, Class 6, Step 5, as the FRC Robotics Coach (0.5 FTE)
- c. Nathan Korkowski, Class 6, Step 5, as the 10-12 FRC Robotics Coach (0.5 FTE)
- d. Angela Tveit, Class 6, Step 5, as the 10-12 FRC Robotics Coordinator (0.5 FTE) Policies

E. Policy

- a. Policy 609 - Religion and Religious and Cultural Observances
- b. Policy 615 - Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students
- c. Policy 618 - Assessment of Student Achievement
- d. Policy 619 - Staff Development for Standards
- e. Policy 710 - Extracurricular Transportation

F. Acceptance of Donations

DECEMBER 2025

DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT	USE
12/2/2025	Alex Streater, PO Box 566, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
12/3/2025	NB Area Hockey Association, PO Box 541, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	\$5,000.00	HS Boys Hockey Bussing Donation
12/4/2025	Cyber Grants/US Bank (Matching Gift-D. Cash)	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
12/9/2025	Anonymous (Arts Fest Tips)	NBHS Athletics	\$497.35	FTC Program Donation
12/9/2025	Margaret Kuusisto, 1631 State Rd 48, Frederic, WI 54837	NBHS Athletics	\$100.00	Girls Basketball Program Donation
12/10/2025	Max Malmquist, 4552 392nd St, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$106,000.00	Scholarship Donation
12/19/2025	Cyber Grants/US Bank (Matching Gift-D. Cash)	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
12/19/2025	Revive Chiropractic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00	Boys Basketball-Sports Physical Donation
12/23/2025	Anonymous	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
12/23/2025	Stacy Lent Fire Dept Relief Assn, PO Box 123, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$10,000.00	Scholarship Donation
12/26/2025	Anonymous	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
12/30/2025	Vikings Girls Basketball Club Association, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$1,000.00	Girls Basketball Program Donation
12/31/2025	John Riehle, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBMS	\$250.00	Middle School Band Donation
12/31/2025	John Riehle, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBHS Athletics	\$250.00	High School Band Program Donation
12/31/2025	John Riehle, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBHS Athletics	\$500.00	FRC Robotics Program Donation
12/31/2025	John Riehle, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBHS Athletics	\$500.00	Girls Tennis Program Donation
			\$125,403.35	

Open Mic

None

New Business

- A. Approval of the Resolution Personal Finance Graduation Requirement
School board members requested that the Resolution Personal Finance Graduation Requirement be pulled off tonight's agenda after discussion. Board members are requesting more information and clarity on the resolution before voting for or against. A Special School Board meeting will be held on January 22, 2026 for this resolution.
- B. Approval of the Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the February 10, 2026 School District Special Election
Moved by Grovender, seconded by Naegele and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the February 10, 2026 School District Special Election.
- C. Approval of First Reading for the Following Policies
Moved by Trampe, seconded by Naegele and carried unanimously to approve First Reading for the Following Policies.
 1. Policy 598 NB - Early Entrance to Kindergarten
 2. Policy 608 - Instructional Services - Special Education

Addendum

None

Information

Chair MacMillian gave an update on Policy 506 NB – Student Discipline. Policy was removed at the December 11, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting for a first reading because Member Johnson had some questions and/or concerns about the policy. Policy is currently under review with the Policy Committee and Member Johnson. Policy will be brought back to the school board for a first reading once all questions and/or concerns have been resolved.

Board Requests

Superintendent Paul requested for the board's approval to change the January 22, 2026 School Board Work Session to a Special School Board Meeting to address the Resolution Personal Finance Graduation Requirement. Board Approved.

Committee Reports

Member Johnson Reported on East Central Regional Development Commission

Dates to Remember

- A. January 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM – Special School Board Meeting, North Branch Area

High School, Media Center Glass Classroom

Adjournment

Moved by Naegele, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:04 PM.

Heather Naegele, Clerk