

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Performing Arts Center
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
May 11, 2026
6:30 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 Denise Churchill - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Roll Call: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, Lisa Werner.
Absent: Summers
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 – Baseball Press Box #23 & Discussion #26 D: June 22 Board Meeting
5. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Thun
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried.
6. Communications
A. Class President: Charlie Hart 9th Grade
Reported on the Annual 5K Race scheduled for Monday, May 18. Robotics placed 98 out of 531 teams. Blossomtime parade event and marching band. Prom Boat Cruise in Chicago, students had a wonderful time. MS/HS Received the Green Ribbon Schools Award and envirothon is off to State. (Thun read the 2026 Green Ribbon Schools announcement)
7. Committee Report(s)
A. Finance Committee Meeting: April 29, 2026
Bison Preserve Committee Meeting: April 29, 2026
Bullying Task Force Committee: April 30, 2026
Foundation Meeting: May 6, 2026
8. Presentation: Chris Machiniak - Berrien Regional Education Services Agencies (BRESA) Budget
The Board received a presentation regarding the Berrien County Superintendents (BCS) Retreat initiatives and the continued collaboration among county districts focused on literacy, math, and student well-being. The presentation highlighted the Berrien Thrive Campaign and the Berrien Dare to Achieve initiative, which aim to strengthen instructional practices, establish a common observation model for student learning, and create a countywide collaborative structure for the 2026-27 school year. Budget assumptions and projected revenues and expenditures were also reviewed. (Full report attached)

9. Presentation: Madeline Selby, BASE

The Board received a presentation from BASE Director Madeline Selby regarding the 2025-26 Bison After School Enrichment (BASE) program. The presentation highlighted increased student participation and enrichment opportunities, the implementation of the “BASE Unplugged” initiative focused on reducing electronics during program hours, community partnerships, PBIS incentives, field trips, and continued efforts to expand student engagement and family involvement through programming and outreach activities. (Rull report attached)

10. Presentation: Fine Arts Department

The Board received a presentation regarding the 2025-2026 Fine Arts Adoption for New Buffalo Area Schools. The presentation reviewed elementary, middle, and high school music, visual art, vocal/choir, band, and theatre curriculum programming, instructional goals, community partnerships, curriculum research, and proposed materials and equipment requests to support student learning and fine arts opportunities districtwide. (Full report attached)

11. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board adopt the 2026-2027 fiscal budget (per resolutions).

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

12. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board certify the 2026 tax levy to the City of New Buffalo, New Buffalo Township, and Chikaming Township, as attached.

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

13. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the resolutions complying with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contributions Act (152) for the medical benefit plan coverage beginning 7-1-2026, which includes District employees paying 20% and New Buffalo Area Schools paying 80% of the premium, in lieu of capping the premium.

Motion: Werner
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried

14. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the salary schedules and Appendix L, as attached.

Motion: Werner
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried

15. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the sale of the Building Trades house, located at #50 Diamond Point, New Buffalo, MI 49117, as attached.

Motion: Donnelly
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried

16. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the New Buffalo Education Personnel Association Contract, 2026-2029, as attached.

Motion: Thun
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried

17. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Operation Agreement for Participants Involved in the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Area Vocational District #6, as attached.

Motion: Werner
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried

18. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the hiring of Jonny Reinhardt for the position of Communications Director.

Motion: Thun
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried

19. The Superintendent and Elementary Principal recommend the Board approve the employment of Abigail Anderson for the position of Elementary Social Worker, pending completion of a background check.

Motion: Donnelly
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried

20. The Superintendent and Director of Operations recommend the Board approve the proposal from IBID for the MS/HS Boiler Replacement in the amount of \$378,265.00, as attached.

Motion: Donnelly
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried

21. The Superintendent and Director of Operations recommend the Board approve the proposal from Lyster Exteriors for the MS/HS Roof Replacement in the amount of \$476,650.00, as attached.

Motion: Werner
Second: Thun
All ayes, motion carried

22. The Superintendent and Director of Operations recommend the Board approve the proposal from Chorba Asphalt Paving LLC for the MS/HS West Parking Lot and Transportation Parking Lot asphalt paving project in the amount of \$409,000.00, as attached.

Motion: Werner
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried

23. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Baseball Press Box proposal from Southern Bleacher Company, Inc. in the amount of \$173,000.00.

Motion: Thun
Second: Werner
All ayes, motion carried

24. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Michigan Green Schools Award: On Friday, Denise and I traveled to Lansing to formally accept the Michigan Green Schools award. Notably, we were the only school in the state to receive this specific recognition this year. To celebrate this achievement with the broader community, a state representative will officially present the award to the district during our annual 5K event.
- District 5K & Community Celebration: The District 5K is scheduled for Monday, May 18, at 1:00 PM. In addition to the race, this event will serve as the public venue for our Green Schools award presentation, allowing community members and families to share in this milestone.

- Commencement Exercises: Graduation for the Class of 2026 will take place on Friday, May 29, at 6:00 PM in the high school gymnasium.
- Student Recognition & Awards: Several events this week celebrate student achievement, beginning with the MS/HS Spring Band Concert tomorrow at 7:00 PM. On Wednesday at 6:00 PM, we will host the joint National Junior Honor Society induction and the Service League Senior Award dinner. Additionally, Senior Awards Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 PM in the Performing Arts Center (PAC).
- Internal Communications & Staff Engagement: Our "Coffee with the Superintendent" session is scheduled for the end of the month. This initiative provides a platform for staff to submit specific topics of interest, ensuring they remain well-informed on district operations and fostering a culture of transparent internal dialogue.

25. Remarks from the Board President and Members

26. Discussion Item(s)

A. District Cell Phone Policy

B. Schools of Choice/Tuition Approved

Enrollment Openings for 2026-2027

Kindergarten - 10	6th Grade - 5
1st Grade - 10	7th Grade - 5
2nd Grade - 10	8th Grade - 10
3rd Grade - 10	9th Grade - 5
4th Grade - 5	10th Grade - 10
5th Grade - 10	

C. The Superintendent approved the following hires:

Red Arrow Raiders Boys Basketball

Varsity Head Coach: Nate Tripp

JV Head Coach: Nate Tripp Jr

JV Head Coach #2: Tyler Haske

HS Basketball Flex Position/Program Assistant: Adam Forker

D. June 22, 2026 Board Meeting

27. Other Business

President Churchill made a motion to move the June 22, 2026 board meeting to Monday, June 29, 2026, seconded by Thun. All ayes, motion carried

28. Adjournment

Motion: Werner

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS