

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Performing Arts Center
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
April 28, 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
Absent: Thun
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: Churchill
Second: Donnelly
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: 03/24/2025
Meeting Minutes: 04/14/2025
 - B. General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:
 1. General Fund: \$580,102.02
 2. Payroll: \$982,535.77
 3. Food Service: \$23,442.55
 4. Scholarship Fund: \$57,192.08
 5. Public Improvement: \$45,213.39
 - C. Financials
Motion: Donnelly
Second: Summers
All ayes, motion carried.

7. Berrien RESA Budget – Scott Knoll, Director of Business and Finance
Mr. Knoll reported on Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's General Fund Operating Budget.
8. Presentation: PTO Fundraiser – Kristine Daley
Mrs. Daley presented on an upcoming fundraiser for the elementary school. The school can earn commission on every sale. Several different style of labels to identify items, all of the peel-and-stick labels are waterproof and guaranteed to stay stuck and dishwasher and bottle sterilizer-safe.
9. Communications
A. Class President: Nick Haskins - 11th Grade
Reported that the SAT/PSAT testing is winding down. AP Testing is to begin. Robotics had a great outcome at Worlds in Texas, Congratulations! Baseball team is starting off with an impressive season. Prom is Saturday, May 10th. The Annual 5K event is Monday, May 19th. Students are feeling good and excited for summer break.
10. Committee Report(s)
April 16 - Building and Grounds Committee
April 23 - Finance Committee
11. Presentation: School Resource Officers - Brianna Schmitz/Rick Edgerle
Introduction and experience of each officer has to date. Services and education opportunities provided to the district for the 24-25 school year. Accomplishments for the school year and goals for the upcoming school year. Discussed the Cannabis Task Force, I Love You Guys program and the Raptor Emergency Program.
(Full Report Attached)
12. The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt the resolution of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's General Fund Operating Budget, per attached.
Motion: Churchill
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried.
13. The Superintendent and Technology Director recommend the Board approve the attached quote from MOSS for the installation of additional cameras at the elementary school.
Motion: Churchill
Second: Haskins
All ayes, motion carried.
14. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Marketing Agreement with DNA Creative, per attached.
Motion: Haskins
Second: Churchill
All ayes, motion carried.
15. The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize Michael Lindley to submit a Pokagon Fund Grant request in the amount of \$13,500 for the Environmental Study for Vegetation (trees, plants, etc.) at the site of the Bison Preserve and Trails.
Motion: Summers
Second: Donnelly
All ayes, motion carried.
16. Remarks from the Superintendent
 - Parent-teacher conferences will be this Thursday from 1-4 and 6-8

- State testing continues as we wrap up the month of April. We are eager to see how our students perform in these assessments and proud of their efforts throughout the testing process.
- We are continuing to break down the strategic plan into clear annual goals. This week, our focus will be on the Climate and Culture pillar, as well as Growth and Sustainability. Directors and principals have been invited to participate in this process, working together to develop annual goals that include actionable steps and measurable growth indicators.
- Staff members are invited to "Coffee with the Superintendent," an opportunity to discuss topics where they feel more information or clarification is needed to strengthen communication efforts. Last Thursday, we met with the elementary staff, and this Tuesday we will meet with the middle and high school staff. Topics discussed at the elementary session included next year's strategic plan goals, PBIS initiatives, restorative practices, and marketing efforts.
- Art Attack took place this past weekend, and we were thrilled to participate for the first time! There was so much more than just art on display — it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the STEAM building, feature projects from Mr. Eberly's class, present prop designs from the high school musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, and highlight district-wide opportunities available to students and community members.
- Additionally, Ashley and Erin organized student performances at the Open Mic Night on Thursday at the Acorn Theatre, where some of our students were even interviewed. Throughout Saturday and Sunday, student artwork from grades K-12 was proudly exhibited. We also held a special ceremony on Saturday to recognize the robotics team. Coach Darrick Fairchild, Todd Tanksley, and several students shared their inspiring journey to the World Tournament in Houston, Texas.
- Ashley reported that they welcomed approximately 10–20 visitors per hour. We're already discussing ideas for next year and how we can continue to support and grow this incredible event. Art Attack truly brought the community together and involved many different departments, aligning closely with several goals of our strategic plan.
- Our final Bullying Task Force meeting of the year will take place this Thursday. During the meeting, we will review the data collected throughout the year, reflect on the actions taken to align with our anti-bullying initiatives, and determine the next steps for the upcoming school year. We will continue to teach anti-bullying strategies to all students in grades K-12 through the No Bullying Schools and Character Strong curricula. Moving forward, we recognize the need to better showcase the efforts we are making to prevent bullying and to more clearly teach and communicate bullying definitions to staff, students, and parents.
- Cannabis education efforts will continue this week. On Friday, students in grades 5-12 will attend a Vive 18 presentation at the PAC. Thanks to financial support from Bloomery Cannabis and other local cannabis vendors, we were able to bring in a Vive 18 speaker to help educate our students on this important topic. The Cannabis Committee selected this presentation, and we are looking forward to sharing it with students this Friday.
- Following the presentation, the Cannabis Committee will meet in a few weeks to review the event and determine next steps for cannabis education in the upcoming school year.

17. Remarks from the Board President and Members

Werner: Reminder about Graduation May 30th

18. Discussion Item(s)

19. Other Business

20. Adjournment

Motion: Haskins

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS