

**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 27, 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: Haskins

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: Thun

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 12/09/2025

Meeting Minutes: 01/13/2025

B. General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:

1. General Fund: \$321,515.90

2. Payroll: \$885,904.37

3. Food Service: \$23,919.06

4. Scholarship Fund: \$54,615.46

5. Public Improvement: \$157,755.60

C. Financials

Motion: Summers

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

7. Communications

A. Class President: Riley Tertel 12th Grade

Reported on the boys basketball and wrestling team. Winterfest was a success, students enjoyed dress-up days, games and activities, Winterfest dance, and a win for the basketball team. Some students and staff are participating in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Michigan. National Honor Society Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th in the blue gym. Seniors are focusing on scholarships. Thank you to the Board for your continued support of school initiatives.

8. Committee Report(s)

A. Finance Committee Meeting: 1/22/2025

9. Review of 2024-2025 Budget Amendments

Business Manager, Pano Arvanitis presented the 2024-2025 budget amendment stating that the proposed budget is for the 18 mill levy, which will be levied on all non-principal residences, non-qualified agricultural properties, non-qualified forest property, non-supportive housing property, non-PSA-occupied property and non-industrial property in the district to fund most of the general operations. An estimated revenue generated by the levy will be \$16,529,871/approximately 80% of the district's revenues. (Full report attached)

10. The Superintendent and Business Manager recommend the Board amend the 2024-2025 Budget, as presented per resolution (General Fund)

Motion: Churchill

Second: Vosberg

All ayes, motion carried.

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve hiring Mark German in the position of Operations Director, effective immediately.

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent and Director of Technology recommend the Board approve the bid from Moss for Fiber Optic Cable upgrade for the Middle/High School, per attached.

Motion: Thun

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

13. The Superintendent and Athletic Director recommend the Board approve the girls volleyball sports merger with River Valley Schools.

Motion: Thun

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

14. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Cannabis Education - there is a committee meeting tomorrow morning to discuss Cannabis Education opportunities for our students. We would like to bring in a professional speaker to speak with both our students and parents on the topic of marijuana use and its effect on children. Bringing in speakers is expensive and something that was not in our fiscal budget for this school year. With the number of dispensaries established in New Buffalo it is important that we educate our students and parents on this topic. I have been in conversations with Bloomery Cannabis to see how they can help financially bring in speakers, as well as vape detectors, to educate our students and parents. Bloomery will be in touch with the rest of the dispensaries in New Buffalo to see how they can contribute to this as well. I hope that after tomorrow's meeting, we will be able to move forward with speakers and set up dates in which these events will happen for our students and parents.

- Mid-Year Data - over the past few weeks ES and MS have been taking assessments in the areas of NWEA, Delta Math and Dibels. This information is used to help drive our interventions and enrichment groups for the ES and MS. At the next principal presentation, they will share this information with the board.
- NBARA - I have been selected as the NBARA President. The reason being is that there was a State DNR Passport Grant of \$150K accepted that will directly be put into the city owned softball field which will positively impact our girls. This is a matching grant, and we are currently figuring out how this grant will be matched. There are many meetings scheduled with three different architect firms on the project. Once we receive proposals the city and NBARA will have to approve. As this project is happening, we will look at our baseball field to see how much it will take to move the field towards the school to get it off the track. Currently, this is a safety issue with baseball and track happening at the same time and the hope would be to have some type of netting to prevent balls from going to the track. Also, there is not a pony league regulated field in NB, so we are looking at that as well to help our youth sports. Questions arise with the field improvements and the sports merger. It is with hope that as we combine, we will have freshman, JV, and varsity teams. If that is the case, there will be a need to have multiple fields to host practices and games.
- We will not have another board meeting until Feb. 24. Our next meeting will be a board retreat that will replace the Feb. 10 scheduled meeting.

15. Remarks from the Board President and Members: None

16. Discussion Item(s)

- A. The Superintendent has approved the following hire pending background check:
Jazmyne Grider - Daycare Aide

17. Other Business: None

18. Adjournment

Motion: Summers

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourend at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
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