

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL, GLASS CLASSROOM,
38175 GRAND AVENUE, NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, January 22, 2026
5:30 PM**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center, Glass Classroom at the North Branch Area High School.

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: Amanda Daeger, Pakou Lee, Clint Link, Todd Tetzlaff, Pat Tepoorten, David Treichel, Jacob Truby

Approval of Agenda:

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paul shared updates from recent MSBA panel presentations focused on clear expectations that protect learning and innovative teacher apprenticeship models. Visitor entry protocols were reviewed to reinforce consistent safety practices across all buildings. Community engagement efforts continue through "Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent," with discussions centered on school safety, infrastructure needs, and the February 10 capital projects levy renewal, which is a continuation of the levy approved in 2017.

Old Business

A. **Resolution Personal Finance Graduation Requirement**

Administration recommended providing personal finance learning exposure for the Class of 2027, one year ahead of the state mandate. The exposure would occur during the 2026–27 school year, would not count toward graduation requirements, and would include a parent/guardian excusal option. The goal is to equip students with practical financial skills as they prepare for postsecondary pathways. Approval of this resolution wasn't needed as there are no changes to graduation requirement.

New Business

A. Spotlight: NBAHS & Norse ALC

Staff shared highlights from the High School and Norse Area Learning Center, focusing on student engagement, academic support, and alternative learning pathways. The presentation emphasized meeting diverse student needs through flexible programming and targeted supports.

An update was also provided on the Norse Area Learning Center, highlighting its role in supporting students through personalized learning, credit recovery, and pathways to graduation.

B. Budget Forecast

Todd Tetzlaff, Director of Finance and Human Service presented the 2026–27 budget forecast, noting the district remains within the board-approved fund balance target and does not anticipate the need for cash flow borrowing. Enrollment projections indicate the district is positioned for growth, though projections will continue to be monitored. State aid assumptions and legislative outcomes remain a key area of uncertainty. A revised FY26 budget and proposed FY27 budget will be presented for board consideration in May, with approval scheduled for June.

Addendum

A. Approval of the Agreement Between Independent School District No. 138 and North Branch Education Association (Teacher) 2025 - 2027

Moved by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the Agreement Between Independent School District No. 138 and North Branch Education Association (Teacher) 2025 – 2027.

Adjournment

Moved by MacMillan, seconded by Grovender and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:35 PM.

Heather Naegele, Clerk