

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION  
Performing Arts Center  
1112 E. Clay Street  
P.O. Box 280  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
December 8, 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. Appointment of Secretary Pro Tempore for this meeting  
Mrs. Summers accepted the appointment.
3. Roll Call: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, Lisa Werner  
Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools  
Devinnie Wysocki, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
4. Expressions from the Public: None
5. Items too Late for Printed Agenda
6. Adoption of the Agenda  
Motion: Churchill  
Second: Donnelly  
All ayes, motion carried.
7. 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 - 11-24-2025 Regular and Closed Session
  - B. General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:
    1. General Fund: \$264,432.01
    2. Payroll: \$918,682.58
    3. Food Service: \$26,594.97
    4. Scholarship Fund: \$25,833.53
    5. Public Improvement: \$88,169.63
  - C. Financials  
Motion: Summers  
Second: Churchill  
All ayes, motion carried.

8. Communications

A. Class President: Bianca Ilescas-Villa - 12th Grade

9. Committee Report(s)

Bison Preserve Committee Meeting - 12/03/25

Foundation Committee Meeting - 12/03/25

Executive Committee Meeting (DECA) - 12/08/25

10. Presentation: Megan Smith/Nicole Bowen - Junior Class Prom Fundraiser

The Junior Class advisors reported that prom will be held on May 2 aboard a cruise in Chicago. Planned fundraising activities include a giveback dinner at a local restaurant and bake sales.

11. Presentation: Cabinet Members - District Scorecard

Cabinet members presented annual goals aligned with the district's Strategic Plan. Under the Academics pillar, principals from elementary, middle, and high school reported efforts focused on maintaining or increasing student proficiency, strengthening guaranteed viable curriculum, utilizing formative assessments, and using data to guide instruction and interventions, including targeted Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports. The Growth and Sustainability pillar included goals such as developing a master curriculum cycle and completing a district-wide facilities inventory to inform a long-term facilities plan. Updates related to the Culture and Community pillar highlighted initiatives including the implementation of an anti-bullying program, student wellness and prevention programming, increased staff inclusivity through routine meetings, the introduction of a Best Buddies program, family-focused food service events, the BASE "Unplugged" initiative, centralized communication through the Bloomz platform, staff recognition and professional development, expanded community partnerships, and plans to recognize community partners for their support of the school district.

12. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the use of categorical funds provided under Section 271(2) of the State School Aid Act for educator compensation.

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Haskins

All ayes, motion carried,

13. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the use of categorical funds provided under Section 271(2) of the State School Aid Act for support staff compensation.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried

14. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the Off-Schedule Compensation for Support Staff, memo attached.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

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

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

16. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the cancellation of the scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 22, 2025.

Motion: Summers

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

17. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2026 Daycare Handbook and Childcare Financial Contract, per attached.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

18. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2026-2027 Daycare calendar, per attached.

Motion: Summers

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

19. The Superintendent and Food Service Director recommend the Board approve the Adult Lunch Price for the Elementary at \$5.50, in accordance with state guidelines.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

20. Remarks from the Superintendent

- I want to recognize and thank Rich Eberly for completing and submitting the Green Schools application for New Buffalo Middle and High School. His environmental science class and the school's environmental club have been instrumental in advancing many of the "green" initiatives that set New Buffalo apart. Students are actively engaged in meaningful, hands-on environmental work, including water purification for our retention area, planting walnut riparian buffers and orchards, removing invasive species, maintaining bee and butterfly beds, building habitats for birds and wildlife, and supporting our school apiary with new bee boxes. They also engineer, build, and maintain solar heat collectors and solar arrays, showcasing impressive problem-solving and innovation. Beyond student-led efforts, the district continues to improve energy efficiency and sustainability through LED lighting upgrades, HVAC improvements, bus route mapping for reduced emissions, and water bottle filling stations. We appreciate the commitment of our staff and students to making New Buffalo a leader in environmental stewardship.
- 6-12 band concert is on Wednesday, December 10th at 7 PM
- Empty Bowls is Friday, December 12th from 4:30pm-6:30pm in the MS/HS cafeteria. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the Blessings in a Backpack program, which benefits New Buffalo students in need.
- The Berrien County Superintendent meeting this Friday will be about student voice and the 3 county wide goals of ELA, Math, and Student Belonging. There will be 2 students from New Buffalo attending the event to participate in round table discussions with Berrien County Superintendents.
- Winter break is December 22 - January 2.

21. Remarks from the Board President and Members

Board member Summers expressed gratitude to Postboy for hosting the Teacher Benefit Night, where they provided complimentary meals for teachers and their families as a thoughtful gesture of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

22. Discussion Item(s)

- A. Bison Preserve: Obtain additional information from each developer for Board review.
- B. Last Day of Employment: Rebecca O'Donnell — Friday, December 5, 2025
- C. The Superintendent approved the following hire:  
John Dwyer - 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

23. Other Business

Motion by Haskins to approve the Junior Class Prom Fundraiser, seconded by Churchill.  
All ayes, motion carried.

24. Adjournment

Motion: Summers  
Second: Haskins  
All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Summers, Secretary Pro Tempore  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS