

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 27, 2026
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 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

Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools
Devinnie Wysocki, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent

3. Expressions from the Public:

Nora Howe: A Camp Buffalo resident expressed interest in ensuring that nearby residents are informed about the process for the new baseball field and the summer league schedule. Adam met with her to provide additional clarification; however, she emphasized the importance of including nearby residents of the process. She also requested that the school share more information regarding project intentions. Additionally, a collaboration with the City of New Buffalo for a community pool was suggested.

Kevin Ebbeson: A parent and coach expressed strong support for the Summer League, noting that the proposed agreement would benefit both the school and the community. He highlighted opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and explore potential career pathways. The parent also noted the potential for student fundraising, as well as providing affordable, family-friendly entertainment. Additional benefits mentioned included increased school pride and strengthened community bonding, as well as the potential to generate economic activity for both the school and the surrounding community..

4. Items too Late for Printed Agenda #17 Elementary Lighting Project
#18 First Grade Teacher Hire
#21 (A) Resignation for Retirement Purposes: Jennifer Bauer
#21 (A) Resignation for Retirement Purposes: Gael Rosenbaum

5. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Summers
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: March 23, 2026

Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2026

General/Associated Funds - Bills Payable:

1. General Fund: \$460,835.24
2. Payroll: \$848,866.03
3. Food Service: \$27,693.17
4. Scholarship Fund: \$45,157.97
5. Public Improvement: \$129,544.31

B. Financials

Motion: Thun

Second: Werner

All ayes, motion carried.

7. Communications

A. Class President: August Johnson - 11th Grade

Reported on the completion of state testing for students. Spring sports are underway, with teams performing well; the track team won the invitational on Friday. Prom is scheduled for this weekend, with the Red Carpet event at 4:30 p.m., followed by a cruise in Chicago. No student concerns were reported.

8. Committee Report(s)

A. Bison Preserve Committee Meeting: April 22, 2026

9. Presentation: Elementary Principal, Melissa Lijewski

The Elementary Principal presented an overview of 2025–2026 building goals, student achievement, and school initiatives, highlighting a focus on academic growth, restorative practices, and strengthened PBIS supports with an emphasis on Tier II interventions and bullying prevention. Student data from DIBELS and NWEA assessments showed strong growth and achievement, with many students performing above national averages and approximately 70% meeting grade-level expectations. The report also emphasized ongoing progress monitoring through data meetings and staff collaboration, along with increased staff input in decision-making. Family engagement and community involvement were noted through events such as STEAM Night, Title & Spanish Night, and PTO activities, as well as efforts to celebrate diversity. Anti-bullying initiatives and PBIS practices continue to support a positive school culture. Overall, the presentation reflected strong academic performance and a continued commitment to student success and community connection.

10. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Baseball Field Facility Use and Lease Agreement, attached.

Roll Call Vote:

Vosberg – Y

Haskins – Y

Summers – Y

Thun - Y

Churchill - Y

Werner –Y

Abstention – Donnelly

Motion carried (6 yes – 1 abstention).

11. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the proposal from GeoSurfaces for the Multiplex Field Replacement and Track Resurfacing in the amount of \$1,339,258.00, as attached.

Motion: Thun

Second: Werner

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the Multiplex Retrofit Lighting Proposal from Musco in the amount of \$175,000.00, as attached.

Motion: Werner

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

13. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the bid for the District-Wide IP-Based Mass Notifications Platform from Moss in the amount of \$357,386.60.

Motion: Werner

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

14. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the bid for the Concrete Bleacher Pad from Gambino Concrete for \$75,500.00, as attached.

Motion: Thun

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

15. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Summer League's request to install and pay for lighting at the baseball field. Proposal was provided by Musco in the amount of \$400,000.00.

Motion: Thun

Second: Werner

All ayes, motion carried.

16. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a Pokagon Grant Application by Food Service Director, Susan Martinic, for the Summer Feeding Program.

Motion: Werner

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

17. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the Elementary Lighting Project bid from AES All Electric Sales for \$24,057.85, as attached.

Motion: Werner

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

18. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Natasha Burns as a First Grade Elementary Teacher.

Motion: Summers

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

19. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Prom 2026: This Saturday, our students will head to Chicago for a memorable Prom at Navy Pier. The evening kicks off with our Red Carpet event at the Gold Gym at 4:30 PM. From there, students will be bused to Navy Pier to board a ship for a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan. It promises to be a spectacular night for our students.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: A reminder that conferences are scheduled for this Thursday. We will have two sessions: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing our families there.

- 8th Grade DC Trip: Our 8th graders are also hitting the road this weekend. They depart this Saturday at 6:30 AM for their annual Washington, D.C. trip and will return Wednesday evening. We wish them a safe and educational journey.
- Job & Career Fair: This Friday at 8:30 AM, the High School will host a Job/Career Fair in the STEAM building. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with local professionals, with each class scheduled to visit the various booths throughout the morning.
- Cell Phone Policy: In response to the new state law taking effect next school year, a sub-board committee will be joining the Middle and High School building council meetings. These collaborative discussions with our staff will be instrumental in guiding the official handbook language regarding cell phone usage for the upcoming year.
- Bullying Task Force: Finally, our Bullying Task Force will hold its final meeting of the school year this Thursday morning. I'd like to personally thank Vanessa and Greg for their dedicated service on this team as we wrap up our initiatives for the season.

20. Remarks from the Board President and Members

President Churchill: Congratulations and thank you to Ashley Jager for an outstanding Art Attack event. A variety of artistic mediums were showcased, featuring contributions not only from our school community but from surrounding communities as well..

21. Discussion Item(s)

A. Resignation for Retirement Purposes:

Tracy Ripley, effective June 30, 2026.

Traci Spencer, effective June 9, 2026.

Jennifer Bauer, effective June 10, 2026.

Gael Rosenbaum, effective June 10, 2026.

22. Other Business

23. Adjournment

Motion: Werner

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS