

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION  
Performing Arts Center  
1112 E. Clay Street  
P.O. Box 280  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
November 10, 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: Vosberg  
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 #12 FSA and MESSA Recommendation
5. Adoption of the Agenda  
Motion: Churchill  
Second: Summers  
All ayes, motion carried.
6. Communications  
A. Class President: Bianca Ilescas-Villa - 12th Grade - Absent
7. Committee Report(s): None
8. Presentation: Sam Stine - Curriculum Director  
Third through seventh grade M-STEP ELA scores showed strong performance, with rankings ranging from first to fifth in the state and proficiency rates between 66.1% and 93.8%. PSAT results were similarly impressive: eighth grade ranked first statewide in Reading and Writing with 97.9% proficiency, while high school grades ranged from 65.7% to 77.6%. NBAS is the highest-rated district in Berrien County for overall ELA proficiency at 79.9%, far above the state's 40.7%. Math scores followed the same trend, with multiple grades ranking first in the state and NBAS leading the county with a 70.6% overall proficiency compared to the 36% state average. These results show that the district's curriculum, materials, and Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports are effectively meeting student needs. Teachers also meet regularly for short Data Digs to review

student progress, plan interventions, and strengthen instruction, and all students align their coursework with a career pathway through an Educational Development Plan. (Full report attached)

9. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation to fundraise for the baseball field bleachers.

Motion: Churchill

Second: Donnelly

All ayes, motion carried.

Tom Rowland: NBCEF Foundation to fundraise for the baseball field bleachers:

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Public Spaces Community Places (PSCP) Program offers matching grants for community projects funded through Patronicity, providing up to \$50,000, or up to \$75,000 for universally designed projects. NBCEF Vice President Tom Rowland confirmed that NBCEF applied for the program and was approved at the higher matching level due to the project's universal design.

10. The Superintendent and Business Manager recommend the Board adopt the Annual Summer Tax Resolution, 2026.

Motion: Thun

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the "Letter of Agreement" with the New Buffalo 5-C Education Association to clarify compensation for additional or newly created middle school courses offered under the revised instructional schedule.

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Churchill

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the New Buffalo Area Schools FSA and MESSA as the FSA Administrator.

Motion: Donnelly

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

13. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Phoebe Zalewski is a member of the co-op team hosted by Bridgman that involves five area schools. This means that the enrollment of the team puts them in Division 1 in the state. When Phoebe swims she competes against schools that are the biggest in the state. This past weekend Phoebe won the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle events. The 200 freestyle relay took first place with a pool record and team record of 1:39.72. The state meet in Detroit is on 11/21 and 11/22.
- RFQ for the Bison Preserve are due this Friday at noon. These applications will be reviewed and discussed at the November 24 board meeting with an official award announcement at the December 8th board meeting.
- Today we had Studer Education coach Brent Brummett provide professional development to our directors and principals. Topics reviewed were rounding w/ 3-2-1 reporting, new employee rounding, strategic scorecard review, and employee performance conversations.
- Tomorrow is our Veteran's Day assembly at the MS/HS at 10:45 AM.

- NBARA will have open bids tomorrow at City Hall at 2:00 PM. This is for the softball field dugout, bleachers, and pathway improvements. We had to go out to rebid this project due to inconsistent bids from the first round and this is a result of that.
- STEAM Night at the elementary school is this Thursday at 6:00 PM
- Next week Lisa and I have our Teacher/Support Staff Union President meeting.
- Next week on Thursday and Friday we have half days for trimester exams and teacher records. The 2nd trimester starts the following week.
- Fall Play “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf,” November 14, 7pm, November 15, 7pm and November 16, 2pm.

14. Remarks from the Board President and Members: None

15. Discussion Item(s)

- A. Pam Collins – Daycare Resignation
- Amber Lowry – Parapro Resignation

16. The Superintendent recommends the Board convene into Closed Session per Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act to conduct a superintendent's periodic evaluation.

Motion: Donnelly  
 Second: Churchill  
 All ayes, motion carried.  
 (6:53 p.m.)

17. The Superintendent recommends the Board reconvene into Open Session per the Open Meetings Act.

Motion: Donnelly  
 Second: Thun  
 All ayes, motion carried.  
 (7:36 p.m.)

18. Other Business

19. Adjournment

Motion: Donnelly  
 Second: Churchill  
 All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Thun, Secretary  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS