

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM, ROOM C120
38705 GRAND AVENUE
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2025
5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Superintendent's Update 2
- V. Work Session Topics 7
 - A. Capital Projects Levy
- VI. Adjournment

Superintendent Update

November 6, 2025



Viking Spotlight: Meet SRO Rock



- We welcome Officer Kendra Rock as a critical link in our partnership with North Branch Police Department to ensure student safety and connection
- She has 17 years of experience in law enforcement and youth engagement
- SRO Rock is committed to being a trusted resource, mentor, and positive role model for students
- As our SRO, she will Collaborate daily with staff and families to promote a safe, respectful learning environment
- She is passionate about building relationships and supporting student success
- “I’m excited to serve our Viking community and help every student feel safe and supported.” – *Officer Rock*

NBAPS Growth and Facilities Update



- North Branch is growing -over 1,200 new housing units in development.
- NBAPS conducted a year-long facilities study with ATS&R (same architects from 2017 bond) to plan for future needs.
- We have room to accommodate growth within our existing facilities; Voter support for 2017 questions 1 and 2 continue to have sustained impact NBAPS does not need bonding support from our communities.
- Grade 1 will move to the Education Center in 2026–27 to expand early learning alignment.
- District offices relocating to the middle school to maximize use of existing space.
- Impacted staff participated in walkthroughs of to provide input on new spaces.
- District leaders met with ATS&R to review spaces, discuss staff input and itemize expenditures.
- Additional cost saving were identified.
- Our process continues to reflect NBAPS' commitment to stewardship, and serving our Viking community effectively and efficiently.



Upcoming Strategic Planning Advisory Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Location: North Branch Area High School - Media Center
(main entrance with doors opening at 5:15 pm)





**Building on Community
Investment: Safe, Connected, and
Well Maintained Schools**

November 6, 2025

The 2017 Community Investment

- Question 1 and 2 funded major building projects- those needs were met, and we are not asking for new building funds 8
- Question 3- The Capital Projects Levy, represented the smallest of those community investments. It focused on technology, cyber infrastructure and safety, and maintaining systems that keep our schools running
 - Tonight we will reflect on how our community's 2017 support of the Capital Projects Levy strengthened safety, technology, and learning and how continued partnership will sustain that momentum.



Mission- Purpose of our work

Partner with students, families and communities to challenge all students to achieve their greatest potential and become informed and engaged citizens.

Elevating Trust

We value clarity

We correct ambiguity



Trust



We value partnership

We don't work in siloes



Contributions



We value Interdependency

We avoid fragmented decisions



Results





Setting the Stage: Forward Together

Objectives:

- Reflect on how our community's 2017 support of the Capital Projects Levy strengthened safety, technology, and learning
- Explain the purpose of renewing this existing Capital Projects Levy at the same tax rate, no increase in the tax rate and what it makes possible
- Gather board direction before bringing the formal resolution for approval at our next meeting.

The 2017 Community Investment

- The Capital Projects Levy was approved by voters in 2017 (Question 3)
- Fixed tax rate has not changed since 2017
- Renewal of the existing Capital Projects Levy
- Renewal = same tax rate for future years

2017 Capital Projects Levy funds have been managed with fiscal responsibility

- Budgeted, allocated, and tracked annually since 2017
- Consistent investments in technology, safety, and infrastructure
- Funds have been reviewed, audited, and publicly reported each year to demonstrate clarity and trust

Putting safe systems in place and expanding student access



Funds from the 2017 Capital Projects Levy have been used to:

- Provide reliable systems to support learning through COVID-19.
- Shifted from reactive to proactive systems to track and respond efficiently to technology needs
 - Classroom support, software updates, device repairs and troubleshooting
- Proactive management to ensure safe, reliable infrastructure:
 - Network security and reliability
 - Cost efficiencies from shift to cloud access for printing
 - Lower cost per print, less waste
- Purchase modern devices and provide students and staff with digital access
 - device lifecycle management

Infrastructure improvements reflect fiscal responsibility since 2017

Funds from the 2017 Capital Projects Levy have been used to:

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- Be strategic, and shift from a reactive maintenance to proactive management of school district operations
- Invest in smart technologies that raise efficiencies and lower costs
 - Automation provides energy efficiencies
 - Boilers, Air Handlers
- Enhance building safety
 - Added safety measures at building entrances
 - Upgraded camera systems

Track record of fiscal responsibility

- Annual audits with clean opinions from 2021-2025
- No cash-flow borrowing since 2021 due to disciplined financial planning
- Moody's bond rating upgraded
 - 2019: Baa2
 - 2025: A-1
- 100% of expenditures align with voter-approved purposes

Proposed February 2026 Ballot Question

- Renewal of existing Capital Projects Levy
- No tax rate increase; maintains fixed rate
- Funds continue for technology, safety, and facilities

DRAFT

Special Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 138
(North Branch Area Public Schools)

February 10, 2026

DRAFT



Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

**School District Question 1
Renewal of Expiring Capital Project
Levy Authorization to Fund Technology**

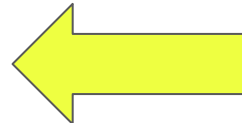
The school board of Independent School District No. 138 (North Branch Area Public Schools) has proposed to renew the school district's existing capital project levy authorization to fund technology in the amount of 3.203% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,159,344 for taxes payable in 2028, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$11,593,440. The money raised by the capital project levy authorization will provide funds to increase technology access for students and staff through the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of classroom technology, software, computers, student devices, improved technology systems, networks, infrastructure, instructional technology, and related training and personnel costs.

Yes

Shall the renewal of the capital project levy authorization proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 138 be approved?

No

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.





Continuing What Works

Funds from the renewal of the Capital Projects Levy will continue to: **Secure and Reliable Technology Systems**

- Strengthen cybersecurity defenses to protect sensitive student and staff information.
- Expand network monitoring and threat detection to identify and address risks.
- Maintain compliance with state and federal data privacy standards, reducing legal and financial risk.

Expanding Reliable Access to Hands-On, Career-Connected Learning

- Ensure Reliable classroom technology and network systems that support instruction and digital access
- Provide access to certifications and college credits while in high school
- Equip classrooms with simulators, 3D printers, and equipment for exploring career pathways

Protecting students, schools and systems



Funds from the renewal of the Capital Projects Levy will continue to:

- Upgrade security cameras to enhance safety for students and staff. 20
- Modernize communication and notification systems to improve coordination and responsiveness across schools
- Continue preventative maintenance for critical facility systems to avoid costly emergency repairs
- Invest in energy-efficient and sustainable infrastructure that lowers long-term costs and supports responsible stewardship

Technology-Based Learning: Purposeful, Safe, Skill-Building

Through both policy and investment, NBAPS models how technology can empower students to think critically, collaborate effectively, and learn responsibly.*



Elementary School

- Students explore creativity and problem-solving through *Code.org*, classroom robotics, and maker spaces.
- Early lessons focus on safe, responsible, and respectful technology use

Middle School

- Middle school is when many students gain access to personal devices and cell phones. NBAPS explicitly teaches safe, responsible, and respectful technology use at this critical stage, helping students make informed choices online while learning digital responsibility and communication skills.
- Students continue to build coding and design abilities through STEM and digital design projects.

High School

- Students apply advanced technology skills through courses such as Computer Science Principles, Introduction to Engineering, and Machining.
- Viking IT I-IV courses provide hands-on learning in network systems, cybersecurity, and industry certifications.
- Emphasis on cybersecurity, data privacy, and ethical technology use ensures readiness for future learning and work.

Proposed February 2026 Ballot Question

- Renewal of existing Capital Projects Levy
- No tax rate increase; maintains fixed rate
- Funds continue for technology, safety, and facilities



Timeline

- November 13, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- November - February
public
- February 10, 2026
Levy

Board vote: Special Election
Documentation submitted ²³
Communications to staff and

Special Election: Renewal of Existing



Discussion

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Capital Projects Levy Discussion
November 6, 2025