WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
January 12, 2026

A Standard of Excellence: Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday evening, January 12, 2026, in their first meeting of the month.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Administration Building at 6:00 PM by Superintendent Scot Croner.

ROLL CALL

On roll call by Superintendent, Scot Croner the following members responded as present:

Christina Eshelman	Curt Flickinger	Trevor Hershberger
David Kauffman	Don Lehman	Brian Topping

Superintendent Scot Croner, Business Manager Jessica McFarland and Clerk Lisa Hall were also present.

2. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION

There was none.

3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

There were none.

4. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND BOARD OF FINANCE OFFICERS, APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER, DEPUTY TREASURER, APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL FIRMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETINGS

A. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Curt Flickinger as President of the school board to serve from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Brian Topping seconded the nomination and the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 6-0

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CURT FLICKINGER PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

B. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Don Lehman as Vice-President of the school board to serve from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. David Kauffman seconded the nomination and the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 6-0

C. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Trevor Hershberger as Secretary of the school board to serve from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Don Lehman seconded the nomination and the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 6-0

D. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Curt Flickinger as President of the Board of Finance to serve from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the nomination and the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 6-0

E. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Trevor Hershberger as Secretary of the Board of Finance to serve from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, and David Kauffman seconded the nomination and the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 6-0

F. Board of Finance Report – Jessica McFarland
- Investment Report
- Fiscal Indicators Report
- Outstanding Checks Report

OTHER ITEMS OF SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Christina Eshelman moved that the board keep the same meeting dates of the 2nd and the 4th Mondays of the month with a start time of 6:00 PM. Don Lehman seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0

B. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Don Lehman moved that the board appoint the legal firms of Warrick & Boyn, LLC of Elkhart to serve Wa-Nee Community Schools from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0

C. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Trevor Hershberger moved that the board appoint Business Manager, Jessica McFarland as the School Board Treasurer and Crystal Manring, Wa-Nee Bookkeeper as Deputy Treasurer from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Don Lehman seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 6-0

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Consideration of the regular board minutes for December 15, 2025
B. Consideration of the claims dated January 12, 2026
C. Consideration of the Personnel items
1. Employment (the following shall be employed upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)
   i. Kennedy Eshelman, Instructional Ass't @ WES, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
   ii. Dan Slabaugh, Boys Head Track Coach @ NWHS, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
   iii. Jan Snider, Temp. P/T Special Ed Teacher @ WV, effective January 5, 2026 to TBD
   iv. Deb Fisher, Temp. P/T Special Ed Teacher @ WV, effective January 5, 2026 to TBD
   v. Alex Barna, Temp. P/T Special Ed Ass't @ NWMS, effective January 5, 2026 to TBD
   vi. Teresa Wells, Head Start Bus Monitor, effective January 7, 2026
   vii. Carla Wisler, Drama Assistant Director @ NWMS, effective January 4, 2026
   viii. Jaci Hochstetler, .5 Stage Manager @ NWMS, effective January 4, 2026
   ix. Madeline Kuhn, .5 Stage Manager @ NWMS, effective January 4, 2026

2. Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment
   i. Stephanie Mayorquin, Head Start Monitor, effective December 16, 2025
   ii. Jenni Heeter, Bus Driver, effective December 22, 2025
   iii. Kham Piercy, Specialized Instructor-STEM @ WV, effective May 28, 2026
   i. Sue Ann Richmond, Instructional Ass't @ WV, effective January 22, 2026

3. Transfer
   i. Paige Hersberger, JV Assistant Softball Coach to Volunteer Coach @ NWHS, effective December 16, 2025
   ii. LeAnn Ailes, from Title I Ass't @ WV to Substitute Teacher, effective January 20, 2026

4. Leave of Absence
    i. Kierston Irvin, Specialized Instructor – STEM @ WES, effective January 5 – March 9, 2026

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
- i. Mandy DeMien, Co-Teaching/Student Teaching Workshop, January 16, 2026, Grace College
- ii. Brandi Henderson, Indiana Farm Bureau Advocacy Day, January 21, 2026, Indiana State House
- iii. Zach Peycha, Elementary Band & Choir Presentation, February 6, 2026
- iv. Jeff Cramer, Wa-Nee School Music Tour, January 30, 2026
- v. Zach Peycha, Wa-Nee School Music Tour, January 30, 2026
- vi. Erik Wolfe, State Clinic for Football, March 12-14, 2026, Indianapolis
- vii. Jim Hess, State Clinic for Football, March 12-13, 2026, Indianapolis
- viii. Rod Lone, Girls State Wrestling, January 16, 20216, Indianapolis
- ix. Servando Duran, NHSSCA State Clinic, February 21, 2026, Indianapolis
- x. Jade Sipic, GCU Counselor Fly-In Event, February 9-10, 2026, Phoenix, AZ
- xi. Heather Mishler, Curriculum Planning Day, February 4, 2026, NWHS
- xii. Layni Frick, Curriculum Planning Day, February 4, 2026, NWHS
- xiii. Kelly Vorhis, Curriculum Planning Day, February 4, 2026, NWHS
- xiv. Mark Mikel, IATCCC Clinic, February 5-7, 2026, Indianapolis

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations
- i. $1,000 donation from Drive Diagnostics to be used for the NW Winter Guard
- ii. $150 donation from Kent & Kelly McDonald to be used for NES student needs
- iii. $590 donation from Lifeskills Fundraiser to be used for NES Lifeskills Class
- iv. $100 donation from Animal Aid Clinic South to be used for the NWHS Academic Teams
- v. $100 donation from Zimmer Metal Sales to be used for the NWHS Academic Teams
- vi. $250 donation from Indiana Transport to be used for the NWHS Academic Teams
- vii. $100 donation from Stickley Ace Hardware to be used for the NWHS Academic Teams
- viii. $300 donation from Quality Window & Door Inc to be used for the NWHS Choir
- ix. $100 donation from John Leavitt to be used for the Bob Riley Memorial – NWHS Baseball
- x. $100 donation from Wakarusa Family Dentistry to be used for the NWHS Academic Teams
- xi. $1,000 anonymous donation to be used NW Track
- xii. $1,000 anonymous donation to be used NW Football
- xiii. $1,000 anonymous donation to be used NW Girls Volleyball
- xiv. $100 donation from Edward Strohben to be used for the Bob Riley Memorial – NWHS Baseball
- xv. $100 donation from John & Rebecca Guttman to be used for the Bob Riley Memorial – NWHS Baseball
- xvi. $150 donation from Schwartz Electric Inc to be used for the NWHS Academic Team
- xvii. $3,000 donation from K. Graber Construction to be used for NWHS Athletics Corporate Sponsorship
- xviii. $100 donation from the City of Nappanee to be used for NWHS Bring Change to Mind

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and Christina Eshelman seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items with the inclusion of the additional items as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 6-0

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No action required

B. APPROVAL OF CURT FLICKINGER TO SERVE AS THE WCS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE WAKARUSA REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

School board member made, Trevor Hershberger and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Curt Flickinger to serve as the WCS representative for the Wakarusa Redevelopment Commission as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

C. **APPROVAL OF THE WAKARUSA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the Wakarusa Public Library Board appointment as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

D. **APPROVAL OF THE HEALTH SCREENING & BIOMETRICS SCREENING INCENTIVE**

School board member Don Lehman made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the Health Screening & Biometrics Screening incentive as presented by Mrs. McFarland. Vote: 6-0

E. **APPROVAL OF THE OUT-OF-STATE AND/OR OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUESTS FOR:**

- NWHS FFA Small Engines Team to State Small Engines Contest, April 23-24, 2026, Crawfordsville, IN
- NWHS FFA Livestock Judging Team to State Livestock Contest, May 1-2, 2026, Lebanon, IN
- NWHS FFA to Indiana State Convention, June 14-18, 2026, Noblesville, IN
- NWHS Girls Wrestling Team to State Wrestling Contest, January 15-16, 2026, Indianapolis, IN

School board member David Kauffman made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the out of state and/or overnight travel request as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

8. DISCUSSION & INFORMATION

A. 2026-2027 NWMS Course Description Guide
B. 2026-2027 NWHS Course Description Guide and Credit Recovery/Alternate Path Courses
C. Policy 1220 Employment of the Superintendent (Policy Edit)
D. Elkhart County Work-Based Learning Hub

There being no more items to come to the attention of the board, school board member Brian Topping made, and Trevor Hershberger supported the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Vote: 6-0

SIGNED: _____
CURT FLICKINGER, President

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TREVOR HERSHBERGER, Secretary