WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
March 23, 2026

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

This meeting is a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation as indicated by agenda item III.

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday evening, March 26, 2026, in their second meeting of the month.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by School Board President Curt Flickinger
B. Pledge of Allegiance
C. Roll Call

On roll call by Secretary Trevor Hershberger the following members responded as present:

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

Superintendent Scot Croner, Director of Curriculum Gretchen Thomas, Business Manager Jessica McFarland and Clerk Lisa Hall were also present.

II. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION

A. WEA Personal Day Raffle – Michael Rand

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

Shawn Johnson addressed the board sharing concerns with the elementary curriculum materials being considered for adoption.

Valarie Mathews addressed the board regarding staffing changes for the 2026-27 school year and the alignment to goals.

NWHS FFA members Gretchen Fervida, Kaitlin Lamb, Presley Zehring, Olivia Lentz, Henry Pfeiffer and Karlie Umbaugh addressed the board sharing recent Chapter accomplishments and awards.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and John Payne seconded the motion to approve the additional items to the agenda as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 7-0

V. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Consideration of the regular board minutes and executive session for February 23, 2026
B. Consideration of the claims dated March 23, 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. Sydney Hanna, 3rd Grade Teacher @ WES, effective August 2026
        ii. Georgi Parker, 7th Grade Girls Track @ NWMS, effective March 23, 2026
        iii. Kenlie Salinas, Instructional Ass't @ WV, effective TBD
        iv. Nick Plank, Summer Ground, effective March 23, 2026
        v. Aayliah Lynch, SOAR Ass't @ NES, effective TBD
        vi. Jacki Geese, Homebound Instructor @ NES, effective March 16, 2026

vii. Jennifer Mast, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
viii. Becky Tice, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
ix. Steve Taylor, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
x. Taylor Gibson, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
xi. Celeste Miller, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
xii. Alex Barna, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
xiii. Kim Jenkins, Summer School Route Driver, effective TBD
xiv. Kim Goorhouse, Summer School Bus Monitor, effective TBD
xv. Madison Jackson, Summer Bus Cleaner, effective April 6, 2026
xvi. Sierra Huber, Summer Bus Cleaner, effective June 1, 2026
xvii. Courtney Grubs, Summer Bus Cleaner, effective June 1, 2026
xviii. Steve Eggers, Summer Bus Cleaner, effective June 1, 2026
xix. Alicia Kemp, Summer Bus Cleaner, effective June 1, 2026
xx. Donald Woods, Substitute Bus Driver, effective March 23, 2026

2. Transfers
   i. Cole Miller, from 3rd Grade Teacher @ WES to Dean of Students @ WV, effective August 2026
   ii. Lisa Avedician, from Specialized Instr-APEX to Lifeskills Teacher @ NWHS, effective August 2026
   iii. Wes Bogan, from Volunteer Coach to JV Ass't Coach @ NWHS, effective TBD

3. Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment
   i. Marie Wengerd, Cafeteria Manager @ NES, effective May 28, 2026
   ii. Lisa Avedician, 8th Grade Cheer Sponsor @ NWMS, effective May 20, 202ii.
   iii. Abigail Slabaugh, 4th Grade Teacher @ NES, effective March 13, 2026
   iv. Andrew Weddle, JV Assistant Coach @ NWHS, effective March 12, 2026
   v. Lyn Ufkin, Specialized Instr. – Media @ WV, effective May 28, 2026
   vi. John Rider, Maintenance Technician, effective June 12, 2026
   vii. Kim Griggs, Instructional Ass't @ WES, effective May 28, 2026
   viii. Deb Flickinger, Instructional Ass't @ WV, effective March 6, 2026
   ix. Kenlie Salinas, 7th Grade Cheer Sponsor @ NWMS, effective March 18, 2026
   x. Susanna Miller, Life Skills Ass't @ NWHS, effective March 27, 2026
   xi. Bill Moyer, Shift Custodian @ NES, effective March 18, 2026
   xii. James Cook, Shift Custodian @ NWMS, effective March 19, 2026
   xiii. Demeteria Klaer, P/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective March 20, 2026

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
   i. Weston Lambert, FCCLA State Leadership Conference, February 26-27, 2026, Muncie, IN
   ii. Heather Mishler, 10B & Tech Communications grading day, March 27, 2026, NWHS
   iii. Jake Simons, Kiwanis KID Award Luncheon, March 31, 2026, Lerner Theater, Elkhart
   iv. Brooklyn Freeland, Annual FCS Conference, April 21-22, 2026, Westfield Community Schools
   v. Jaci Hochstetler, Seussical Jr. Musical, March 5, 2026, NWMS
   vi. Madeline Kuhn, Seussical Jr. Musical, March 5, 2026, NWMS
   vii. Jamie Eggers, IASBO Transportation Seminar, April 16, 2026, Embassy Suites Plainfield
   viii. Matt Hostetter, IASBO Transportation Seminar, April 16, 2026, Embassy Suites Plainfield
   ix. Jeff Cramer, ISSMA Jazz State Finals March 20, 2026, Franklin Central High School
   x. Brooklyn Freeland, National Leadership Conference, July 5-11, 2026, Washington DC
   xi. Chris Berg, TBRI Summit, April 17, 2026, Granger Community Church
   xii. Heather Mishler, TBRI Summit, April 17, 2026, Granger Community Church
   xiii. Taylor Burkhart, TBRI Summit, April 17, 2026, Granger Community Church
   xiv. Pete Morey, BPA National Conference, May 6-10, 2026, Nashville, TN

xv. Erica Gunn, Kiwanis KIDD Luncheon, March 31, 2026, Lerner Elkhart, IN
xvi. Susan Roberts, Kiwanis KIDD Luncheon March 31, 2026, Lerner Elkhart IN
xvii. Lindsay London, TBRI Simmit, April 17, 2026, Granger, IN

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations
i. $659.98 donation from Charlie & Kristin Roeder to be used for NWHS Staff Pretzel Day
ii. $759 donation from Anthony & Karen Gilley to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
iii. $50 donation from Nicole Wiggins to be used for NWHS BPA
iv. $200 donation from Jerry & Beth Huff to be used for NWHS BPA
v. $200 donation from Troy & Briana Wuthrich to be used for NWHS BPA
vi. $100 donation from L L Low Associates, Inc to be used for the Wa-Nee Educator Appreciation Breakfast
vii. $500 donation from R. Yoder Construction, Inc to be used for the Wa-Nee Educator Appreciation Breakfast
viii. $100 donation from Nappanee United Methodist to be used for NES Care Closet
ix. $200 donation from Nappanee Chamber of Commerce to be used for FCCLA National Leadership Conf.
x. $100 donation from Craig & Missy Foor to be used for 5th Grade Olympics
xi. $100 donation from Phil Hahn & Associates to be used for 5th Grade Olympics
xii. $500 donation from Interra Credit Union, to be used for Hometown Giving Campaign
xiii. $700 donation of food from various donors to be used for Cultivate Food Backpacks
xiv. $225 donation of clothing from various donors to be used for WES student needs
xv. $410 donation of gift cards from various donors to be used for Cultivate Food Backpacks
xvi. $300 donation from John & Brandie Yoder to be used for 5th Grade Olympics
xvii. $1,000 anonymous donation to be used for FCCLA National Leadership Conference
xviii. $500 donation from Kayla Christofeno to be used for NWHS BPA
xix. $200 donation from Justin Sorensen Allstate Agency to be used for FCCLA National Leadership Conference

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items and additional items as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 7-0

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the bids for WCS Facility Upgrades

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the WCS Facility Upgrades as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

B. Approval of the school bus bids

School board member David Kauffman made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the school bus bids as presented by Mrs. Rosa. Vote: 7-0

C. Approval of the approval for overnight and/or out of state travel requests for:
- Woodview Elementary Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- NWMS Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- NWHS State Tennis, June 5-6, 2026, North Central High School
- NWHS FCCLA, National Leadership Contest, July 5-11, 2026, Washington DC
- NWHS BPA, BPA Nationals, May 6-10, 2026, Nashville, TN
- NWHS Robotics, World Championship, April 20-25, 2026, St. Louis, MO

School board member John Payne made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the overnight and/or out of state travel requests as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

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VII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

i. Textbook Adoption – Gretchen Thomas
   - Reading K-5
   - ELA 6-8
   - NWMS & NWHS Band

ii. NWHS Student Athlete Handbook – Scot Croner

iii. Financial Update – Jessica McFarland

There being no further business to come to the attention of the board school board member Don Lehman made and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: 7-0

SIGNED: _____
Curt Flickinger, President

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Trevor Hershberger, Secretary