WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
August 11, 2025

A Tradition 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.

LINK TO LIVE FEED

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday, August 11, 2025, in their first meeting of the month.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Administration Office at 6:00 PM by School Board President Christina Eshelman.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

On roll call by Vice-President Curt Flickinger the following members responded as present:

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

Don Lehman attended virtually using Microsoft Teams

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

II. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION

There were none.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

There were none.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A. Amendments to the Agenda

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and John Payne seconded the motion to approve the Amendments to the Agenda as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Consideration of the additional board and executive session minutes for July 14, 2025
B. Consideration of the claims dated August 11, 2025
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. Jennifer Eskridge, Special Ed Ass't @ NWHS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing, August 14, 2025
   ii. Rebekah Neff, Life Skills Ass't @ NWHS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing, August 14, 2025

iii. Susanna Miller, Special Ed Ass't @ NWHS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing, August 14, 2025
iv. Erik Wolfe, 8th Grade Science @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing, August 14, 2025
v. Jessica Eubank, Yearbook Advisor @ NWHS, effective July 1, 2025
vi. Jessica Eubank, Yearbook Contest/Conv @ NWHS, effective July 1, 2025
vii. Jessica Eubank, Yearbook Summer Conv @ NWHS, effective July 1, 2025
viii. Adam Slone, Ass't Girls Golf Coach @ NWHS, effective August 1, 2025
ix. Erik Wolfe, JV Ass't Football Coach @ NWHS, effective July 18, 2025
x. Patrick Thompson,.5 Freshman Football Coach @ NWHS, effective July 18, 2025
xi. Lisa Avedician, 8th Grade Cheer @ NWMS, effective August 1, 2025
xii. Leah Miller, Food Service Apprentice @ WV, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing, August 11, 2025
xiii. Abigail Uzorh, 8th Grade Volleyball Coach @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xiv. Landon Zimmerman, Ass't Football Coach @, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xv. Kimberly Goorhouse, Bus Monitor #8, effective August 14, 2025ng
xvi. Luke Miller, Ass't Football Coach @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xvii. Kyle Nichols, Ass't Football Coach @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xviii. Wayne Mullet, Bus Driver, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xix. Keith Yoder, Bus Monitor, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xx. Bobbi Croner, .3 PE Specialized Instructor @ WV, effective August 14, 2025
xxi. Emili Zahner, Special Ed Ass't @ WV, effective August 14, 2025
xxii. Georgi Parker, Cross Country Ass't Coach @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxiii. Barbara Vallejo Gonzalez, Life Skills Ass't @ NWHS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxiv. Ethan Hampel, P/T Custodian @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxv. Susan Walker, Band Camp/Color Guard, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxvi. Austin Falk, Band Camp/Color Guard, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxvii. Cindy Coble, Instructional Ass't @ WV, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxviii. Kenlie Salinas, 7th Grad Cheer Coach @ NWMS, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxix. David Morgan, Robotics Coach @ WES, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing
xxx. Tate Grossman, P/T Custodian @ WES, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing

xxxi. Cindy Hill, P/T Custodian @ WES, effective upon the successful completion of all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background and Drug Testing

2. **Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment**
   i. Lisa Norville, 7th Grade Cheer Coach @ NWMS, effective July 1, 2025
   ii. Lisa Norville, 8th Grade Cheer Coach @ NWMS, effective July 1, 2025
   iii. Pat Gross, Robotics Coach @ NWMS, effective July 24, 2025
   iv. MaKellee Doty, P/T Custodian NWMS, effective July 29, 2025
   v. Stephen Sherk, 7th Grade Ass't Football Coach @ NWMS, effective July 29, 2025
   vi. Kayla Kemp, Special Ed Ass't @ WV, effective July 24, 2025
   vii. Ashley Acton, F/T Food Service @ NWHS, effective July 30, 2025
   viii. Tiara Zahner, Instructional Ass't @ WV, effective July 31, 2025
   ix. Brooklynn Rethlake, Life Skills Ass't @ NES, effective August 1, 2025

3. Transfer
   i. Boonie Boocher, 1.0 Football Ass't A Coach to .5 Football Ass't B Coach @ NWHS, effective July 18, 2025
   ii. Drew Minnich, Freshman Ass't Football Coach to Football Ass't A Coach @ NWHS, effective July 18, 2025
   iii. Kyle Stickley, from Volunteer Coach to .5 Football Ass't B Coach @ NWHS, effective July 18, 2025
   iv. David Link, from .5 Freshman Football Coach to Freshman Ass't Football Coach, effective July 18, 2025
   v. Mark Heeter, from Varsity Ass't Volleyball Coach @ NWHS to Volunteer Coach, effective July 28, 2025
   vi. Shelley Yoder, from Secretary @ WES to F/T Food Service @ NWHS, effective August 11, 2025
   vii. Doug Odiorne, from .5 Football Ass't B Coach @ NWHS to 7th Grade Head Coach @ NWMS, effective July 18, 2025
   viii. Rob Nickerson, from P/T Custodian to Shift Custodian Leader @ NWHS, effective Sept. 15, 2025
   ix. Michelle Hershberger, from Special Ed Asst @ WES to EL Ass't @ NWHS, effective Aug. 14, 2025

4. Leave of Absence
   i. Christina Miller, Cafeteria Manager @ WV, August 14, 2025 - TBD

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
   i. Lani Frick, RECN Leadership Training, 9/29/25, 2/2/26, 3/2/36, 6/8/26, University of Indianapolis
   ii. Hailee Neverman, RECN Leadership Training, 9/29/25, 2/2/26, 3/2/36, 6/8/26, University of Indianapolis
   iii. Val Mathews, RECN Leadership Training, 9/29/25, 2/2/26, 3/2/36, 6/8/26, University of Indianapolis
   iv. Tina Davidhizar, ACP Math Seminar, October 13, 2025, IU South Bend
   v. Weston Lambert, RECN Quad Group, November 20, 2025, Sheridan High School
   vi. Weston Lambert, RECN Quad Group, February 25, 2026, NorthWood High School
   vii. Dina Koble, RECN Quad Group, November 20, 2025, Sheridan High School
   viii. Dina Koble, RECN Quad Group, February 25, 2026, NorthWood High School
   ix. Stephi Neff, RECN Quad Group, November 20, 2025, Sheridan High School
   x. Stephi Neff, RECN Quad Group, February 25, 2026, NorthWood High School

xi. Jade Sipic, RECN Quad Group, November 20, 2025, Sheridan High School
xii. Jade Sipic, RECN Quad Group, February 25, 2026, NorthWood High School
xiii. Jade Sipic, RECN Cart Training, 9/23/25, 11/10/25, 2/24/26, 6/9/26, University of Indianapolis
xiv. Weston Lambert, RECN Network Meetings, 9/18/25 & 4/16/26, Ivy Tech Indianapolis
xv. Dina Koble, RECN Network Meetings, 9/18/25 & 4/16/26, Ivy Tech Indianapolis
xvi. Stephi Neff, RECN Network Meetings, 9/18/25 & 4/16/26, Ivy Tech Indianapolis
xvii. Jade Sipic, RECN Network Meetings, 9/18/25 & 4/16/26, Ivy Tech Indianapolis
xviii. Heather Bontrager, SIOP Training, August 2025, Remote
xix. Mike Furfaro, IU ACP Meeting, October 3, 2025, IUSB
xx. Brooklyn Freeland, FCCLA Fall Rally, September 24, 2025, Hendricks County Fairgrounds
xxi. Grace Allen, National FFA Convention, October 29-31, 2025, Indiana Convention Center
xxii. Grace Allen, Polk Auction, August 29, 2025, New Pairs, IN
xxiii. Stephi Neff, IPLI Training, 9/23/25, 1/20/26, 4/7/26, Lawrence Twp Education Center
xxiv. Mindi Slone, IPLI Training, 9/23/25, 1/20/26, 4/7/26, Lawrence Twp Education Center
xxv. Justin Bell, IPLI Training, 1/20/26, 4/7/26, Lawrence Twp Education Center
xxvi. Weston Lambert, IPLI Training, 9/23/25, 1/20/26, 4/7/26, Lawrence Twp Education Center

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations
i. $250 donation from Schwartz Electric Inc to be used for NWMS Learning Trips
ii. $250 donation from Dr. Weldy's Associates, Inc to be used for NWMS Learning Trips
iii. $200 donation from Jennifer Rice to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
iv. $100 donation from Nappanee Auto Sales to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
v. $100 donation from Randy & Andrea Whiteman to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
vi. $100 donation from Josephine Sajda to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
vii. $100 donation from Quality Green Experts LLC to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
viii. $100 donation from All Seasons Handyman Services LLC to be used for NWHS Girls Wrestling
ix. $2,500 donation from Craig & Missy Foor to be used by the NWHS Athletic Training program
x. $350 donation from Kiwanis Club of Nappanee to be used by the NWHS Boys Golf team
xi. $500 donation from Kiwanis Club of Nappanee to be used by the NWHS Honor Society
xii. Donation of food items from Martin Supermarket to be used for the Wa-Nee Admin Retreat valued at $15
xiii. $2,300 donation from Nappanee First Brethren Church to be used for WES student and teacher classroom needs
xiv. $200 donation from Michiana Neurologic Medicine to be used for NWHS Girls Golf fundraiser
xv. $500 donation from Wakarusa Chamber & Businesses to be used for NWMS student and teacher classroom needs

School board member John Payne made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items including the additional consent items as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the permission to advertise for the 2026 Budget

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the permission to advertise for the 2026 Budget as presented by Mrs. McFarland. Vote: 7-0

B. Approval of the Publication of Notice of Project Hearing and Preliminary Determination Hearings

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the Publication of Notice of Project Hearing and Preliminary Determination Hearings as presented by Mrs. McFarland. Vote: 7-0

C. Approval of the 2025-2026 Elkhart Area Career Center Agreement

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and John Payne seconded the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Elkhart Area Career Center Agreement as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

D. Approval of the out of state and/or overnight travel requests for:

- NWHS Boys Tennis, October 11-12, 2025, Semi-State Competition TBD
- NWHS Boys Tennis, October 17-19, 2025, State Competition TBD
- NWHS Boys Tennis Singles/Doubles, October 24-25, 2025, Semi-State TBD
- NWHS Girls Cross Country State Finals, November 1-2, 2025, Terre Haute, IN
- NWHS Boys Cross Country State Finals, November 1-2, 2025, Terre Haute, IN
- NWHS Girls Varsity Volleyball State Finals, November 8-9, 2025, Ball State University
- NWHS Cheer State Championship, November 8-9, 2025, New Castle High School
- NWHS Varsity Football State Finals, November 28-29, 2025, Luca Oil Stadium
- NWHS Athletic Trainers Football State Finals, November 28-29, 2025, Lucas Oil Stadium
- NWHS Cheer UCA National Cheer Competition, January 29- February 3, 2026, Orlando, FL
- FCCLA State Leadership Conference, February 25-27, 2026, Horizon Convention Center, Muncie, IN

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

VIII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

i Plan on a Page Update
ii Policies 0140 - Membership and 0150 - Organization
iii Curriculum and Instruction Data Update
iv Opening of schools – Scot Croner

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business to come to the attention of the board, board member Curt Flickinger made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: 7-0

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wa-Nee School Board will be Monday, August 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM
This meeting will be held at the Wa-Nee Administration Office.
The Board's meeting site is fully accessible to all persons.
Any person requiring further accommodations should contact the Superintendent's office at (574) 773-3131.

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SIGNED: _____

Christina Eshelman, President

_____

Trevor Hershberger, Secretary

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