**WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
**Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana**
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE**
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**
**August 25, 2025**

*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, August 25, 2025, in their second 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 |
| Don Lehman | John Payne | Brian Topping | |

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

II. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

President Eshelman announced that the board would be holding the First Preliminary Determination Public Hearing for the proposed renovation and improvement to school facilities throughout the School Corporation, including roofing, paving, HVAC improvements, site and athletic improvements, and the purchase of buses, equipment, and technology (collectively, the "Project"). She then shared the instructions to those interested in speaking at the hearing, to please sign—in and include your name and address. After a presentation by our administrators, there was an opportunity for the public to make comments about the projects.

The purpose of the First Preliminary Determination Public Hearing for the proposed projects is to give notice to the public and allow for all interested parties to have input that Wa-Nee Community Schools is considering entering into the proposed projects and an additional appropriation bond. The Board considers the lease agreement and additional appropriations necessary to meet the need for the renovations and improvements to the School Corporation. Notice was given by publication in the Warsaw Times Union and Goshen News on August 15, 2025, along with posting on the school district webpage as legally required. The description of the additional appropriations is for appropriations in the amount of $3,500,000 for the renovation of and improvements to the School Corporation, and incidental expenses to be incurred in connection with the building project and the issuance of bonds.

President Eshelman then asked if anyone in the public wished to speak on the proposed projects and additional appropriations for the proposed renovation and improvements. No one from the public offered a comment. After the public was given a chance to speak, President Eshelman announced the Public Hearing for the proposed projects and additional appropriation bonds to be closed.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

There were none.

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IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A. Amendments to the Agenda

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman 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 regular board meeting minutes for August 11, 2025 and Executive Session minutes for July 14, 2025
B. Consideration of the claims dated August 25, 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. LeAnn Ailes, Title 1 Ass't @ WV, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
ii. Katherine Bush, Life Skills Ass't @ NES, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
iii. Timra Looney, P/T Custodian @ NWMS, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
iv. Kandi Ecklebarger, Special Ed Ass't, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
v. Rikki Tobolski, .5 Robotics Sponsor 2 WV, effective TBD
vi. Chelsie Weldy, ECA Secretary @ NWMS, effective August 18, 2025
vii. Kristin Harris, Substitute Custodian @ NWMS, effective TBD
viii. Christina Everett, Secretary @ WES, effective TBD
ix. Kelly Anglemyer, .5 Elementary Robotics Sponsor, effective TBD

**2. End of Employment/Resignation/ Retirement/Termination**

i. Drew Minnich, Varsity Ass't Baseball Coach @ NWHS, effective August 7, 2025
ii. Richard Kauffman, F/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective September 30, 2025
iii. Kenton Chapman, .5 Robotics Sponsor @ NWMS, effective August 18, 2025
iv. Ashley Miller, Instructional Ass't @ NES, effective June 27, 2025
v. John Westbrook, SOAR Ass't @ NWHS, effective August 20, 2025
vi. Katia Charavaka, EL Assistant @ NWHS, effective August 29, 2025

**3. Transfer**

i. Drew Minnich, from Ass't Varsity Baseball Coach to JV Head Baseball Coach @ NWHS, effective August 11, 2025
ii. Karl Leroux, from .5 Robotics Sponsor @ NES to .5 Robotics Coach @ NWMS, effective August 14, 2025
iii. Jo Ann Cook from Bus Driver to Substitute Bus Driver, effective July 14, 2025

**4. Leave of Absence**

i. Rachel Rowe, Spanish Teacher @ NWHS, effective October 10 – December 19, 2025

**D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests**

i. Amy Rosa, CPI Recertification, September 5, 2025, Ft. Wayne, IN
ii. Jacob Everett, CPI Recertification, September 5, 2025, Ft. Wayne, IN
iii. Jacob Everett, ICASE Fall Conference, September 24-26, 2025, Muncie, IN
iv. Kris Fielstra, Elkhart County Collaborative Counseling Meeting, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN
v. Mindy Myers, Community Foundation Counselor Breakfast, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN
vi. Bradi Henderson, National FFA Convention, October 29-31, 2025, Indianapolis
vii. Brooklyn Freeland, FCCLA State Leadership Conference, February 26-27, 2026, Muncie, IN
viii. Lori Persing, School Picture Day, September 4, 2025, NWMS
ix. Larry Fielstra, Community Foundation Counselor Breakfast, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wa-Nee School Board will be Monday, September 8, 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.

x. Abigail Zahner, Community Foundation Counselor Breakfast, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN
xi. Taylor Burkhart, Basketball Coaching Clinic, September 13, 2025, Warsaw High School
xii. Mindi Mattern, Elkhart County Collaborative Counseling Meeting, September 5, 2025, Elkhart
xiii. Jade Sipic, ISFAA Fall Conference, October 3, 2025, St Mary's South Bend
xiv. Pete Morey, RECN Network Meeting, September 18, 2025, Ivy Tech Indianapolis, IN
xv. Pete Morey, RECN Network November 20, 2025, Ivy Tech Indianapolis, IN
xvi. Heather Bontrager, RECN Network Meeting, September 18, 2025, Ivy Tech Indianapolis, IN
xvii. Heather Bontrager, RECN Network November 20, 2025, Ivy Tech Indianapolis, IN

**E. Consideration of Grants and Donations**

i. $1,000 donation from InTech Trailers to be used for NWHS Choir – 2026 NYC Trip
ii. $100 donation from Jason & Megan Evers to be used for NWHS Unified Football
iii. $2,000 Anonymous donation to be used for NWHS Choir
iv. $300 donation from Shortstop Inn and Schrock Homes to be used for NWMS student & teacher needs
v. $15,611.38 grant from the NorthWood Football Club fund to be used for Football sideline technical equipment – restricted to NorthWood Football
vi. $800 donation from Prairie Camp to be used for NES Care Closet personal hygiene products
vii. $1,000 donation from Contant Transport to be used for NWHS Unified Football
viii. $100 donation from Adam & Reana Bujalski to be used for NWHS Unified Football
ix. $100 Anonymous donation to be used for WES school supplies
x. $300 donation from Short Stop Inn to be used for WES school supplies
xi. $35,676.77 grant from Indiana Dept of Ed to be used for Wa-Nee Robotics program
xii. $200 donation from Tim Graber to be used for NWHS Unified Football program

School board member Don Lehman made, and John Payne 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.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of the of School Board Policies

- Policy 0140 – Membership
- Policy 0150 - Organization

School board member David Kauffman made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to adopt School Board Polices 0140 and 0150 as presented by Dr. Thomas. Vote: 7-0

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

- NWHS Marching Band Competition, November 7-8, 2025, Indianapolis, IN
- NWHS FFA, National FFA Convention, October 29-31, 2025, Indianapolis, IN

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the out of state and/or overnight travel request as presented by Dr. Thomas. Vote: 7-0

## VIII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

i. Annual Transportation Audit Report – Amy Rosa
ii. IREAD 3 Update – Gretchen Thomas

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

SIGNED: _____
Christina Eshelman, President

_____
Trevor Hershberger, Secretary