WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
September 8, 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, September 8, 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
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 ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Project Hearing and Second Preliminary Determination Public Hearing

President Eshelman announced that the board would be holding the Second 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 Second 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.

B. Consider the adoption of the
   i. Project Resolution
   ii. Preliminary Determination Resolution
   iii. Reimbursement Resolution

School board member John Payne made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the adoption of the Project Resolution, Preliminary Determination Resolution, and Reimbursement Resolution as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0.

C. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Budget

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to give notice to the public that the Wa-Nee Community School Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss the proposed 2026 budget, 2026-2028 Capital Projects, and 2026-2030 Bus Replacement Plan. During this meeting the Board of School Trustees met to discuss and hear from the public objections to and support for the proposed budget. President Eshelman announced the Public Hearing for the 2026 Wa-Nee Community Schools budget was open and asked if anyone in the public wished to speak. 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 2026 budget to be closed.

D. Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Negotiations between WCS and the WEA

President Eshelman announced that the board would be holding a Public Hearing concerning the 2025-2026 Negotiations between Wa-Nee Community Schools (WCS) and the Wa-Nee Education Association (WEA).

She then explained purpose of the Public Hearing would give notice to the public that the Wa-Nee Community School Board of Trustees will be entering into negotiations on the proposed contract between WSC and the WEA which may be effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. During this meeting the Board of School Trustees met to discuss and hear from the public objections to and support for the proposed contract negotiations.

Dr. Scot Croner then recognized that Marcy Porter, WEA Representative, was in attendance for the public hearing. Mrs. Eshelman then asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

After the public was given a chance to speak and hearing no comments President Eshelman asked that the hearing be closed.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

There were none.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A. Amendments to the Agenda

School board member Don Lehman 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 regular board meeting minutes for August 25, 2025
B. Consideration of the claims dated September 8, 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. Rylee Beck, Title I Ass't @ NES, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)
      ii. Ryan Dreibelbis, Athletic Director @ NWMS, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)
      iii. Teresa Wells, Sub Bus Monitor, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)

2. **Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment/Termination**
   i. Shirley Null, P/T Cafeteria @ NWHS, effective September 12, 2025

3. **Transfer**
   i. AJ Newcomer, from JV Softball Head Coach @ NWHS to Volunteer Coach, effective Sep. 2, 2025
   ii. Tim Potucek, from P/T Custodian to F/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective Sep. 15, 2025

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
   i. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, September 15, 2025, Plymouth, IN
   ii. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, October 3, 2025, Syracuse, IN
   iii. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, December 8, 2025, New Carlisle, IN
   iv. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, January 15, 2026, Virtual
   v. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, February 12, 2026, Virtual
   vi. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, March 11, 2026, Kouts, IN
   vii. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, April 17, 2026, Rochester, IN
   viii. Sheila Cripe, NIESC Food Co-op Meeting, Maay 14, 2026, Plymouth, IN
   ix. Laura Grimm, CEP Dual Credit Meeting, October 31, 2025, Westville, IN
   x. Brandi Henderson, Polk Auction, August 28, 2025, New Paris, IN
   xi. Michael Nolt, ACP Chemistry Conference, September 12, 2025, IU Bloomington
   xii. Josh Yoder, Old School Tough Basketball Coaching Clinic, September 13, 2025, Warsaw, IN
   xiii. Amy Rosa, Bluebird Plant Tour, September 30-October 2, 2025, Macon, GA
   xiv. Jade Sipic, IACTE Work Based Learning Fall Conference, September 11, 2025, Indianapolis
   xv. Jordan Anglemyer, NWHS Girls Golf Sectionals, September 18, 2025, Stonehenge Warsaw, IN
   xvi. Jordan Anglemyer, NWHS Girls Golf Regionals, September 26, 2025, Noble Hawk Kendallville, IN
   xvii. Jordan Anglemyer, NWHS Girls Golf State, October 2-3, 2025, Prairie View Carmel, IN
   xviii. Amanda Mehl, IEP Paperwork Day, September 9, 2025, Nappanee Elementary
   xix. Brittney Lechlitner, IEP Paperwork Day, September 9, 2025, Nappanee Elementary
   xx. Angie Clark, Elkhart County Breakfast, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN
   xxi. Teresa King, Elkhart County Breakfast, September 5, 2025, Elkhart, IN

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations
   i. $1,600 donation from Elk Co 4-H & Purdue Extension to be used for NWHS Choir trip to NYC
   ii. $100 donation from Randy & Jill Hughes to be used for NWMS Cheer Supplies
   iii. $250 donation from Bev Fales to be used by NWHS FCCLA for the Fall Leadership Institute
   iv. $500 donation from Hunter's Hideaway to be used for NES Care Closet

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman 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 was none.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the of the following School Improvement Plans:
   a) Nappanee Elementary School
   b) Wakarusa Elementary School
   c) Woodview Elementary School
   d) NorthWood Middle School
   e) NorthWood High School

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

B. Approval of the IU Affiliation Agreement

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and John Payne seconded the motion to approve the IU Affiliation Agreement as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

C. Approval of the out-of-state and/or overnight trip requests for:

- FFA Officers to SOAR Camp, October 3-5, 2025, Trafalgar, IN

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the out of state and/or overnight trip request by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

D. Approval of the purchase of four (4) buses

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the purchase of three (3) conventional buses and one (1) special need lift bus as presented by Mrs. Rosa. Vote: 7-0

VIII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

A. Enrollment Update – Dr. Scot Croner

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

SIGNED: _____
Christina Eshelman, President

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Trevor Hershberger, Secretary