WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
February 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, February 23, 2026, in their second meeting of the month with an Exec. Session immediately following this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at NorthWood High School 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
John Payne	Brian Topping	

Don Lehman virtually by Microsoft Teams

Superintendent Scot Croner, Director of Curriculum Gretchen Thomas were also present.

II. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION

There was none.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

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: 6-0

V. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Consideration of the regular board meeting minutes for February 9, 2025
B. Consideration of the claims dated February 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. Leah Lynch, Temp. Specialized Instructor – SOAR @ NES effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing, February 23 thru May 4, 2026
ii. Olivia Seaver, Color Guard @ NWHS effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
iii. Savannah Cooper, Elementary Teacher @ WES, effective August 19, 2026
iv. Ali Dutkowski, 4th Grade Teacher @ WV, effective August 19, 2026
v. Joy Hurst, Temp. Ag Teacher @ NWHS, effective March 16 thru May 28, 2026
vi. Natalia Vega, Special Ed Ass't @ WES, effective upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing
vii. Lisa Avedician, Varsity Cheer Coach @ NWHS, effective March 20, 2026

2. Resignation/Retirement/End of Employment
   i. Lisa Burris, Desktop Support Technician @ NWMS, effective June 30, 2026
   ii. Shaylee Hoover, Special Ed Ass't @ WES, effective May 26, 2026
   iii. Rachel Easterling, SOAR Ass't @NES, effective March 6, 2026

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
   i. Marcy Porter, Keys to Literacy: Adolescent Literacy, May 1, 2026, NWHS
   ii. Faith Bradley, WES Band Introduction, February 9, 2026, WES
   iii. Mindy Valtierra, KTEA Testing, March 12, 2026, NWMS
   iv. John Dougherty, Trane Training, February 12, 2026, Fishers, IN
   v. Matt Smith, Trane Training, February 12, 2026, Fishers, IN
   vi. Pete Morey, RECN Quad Group Meeting, February 25, 2026
   vii. Heather Bontrager, RECN Quad Group Meeting, February 25, 2026
   viii. Layn Frick, RECN Quad Group Meeting, February 25, 2026
   ix. Hailee Neverman, RECN Quad Group Meeting, February 25, 2026
   x. Brandi Henderson, Northeast Region Livestock Judging Invitational, March 10, 2026, Cass Co Fairgrounds
   xi. Brandi Henderson, Lewis Cass Livestock Judging Contest, April 17, 2026, Whitley Co Fairground
   xii. Brandi Henderrson, IN State Proficiency grading, March 18, 2026, Tippy Valley
   xiii. Kelly Vorhis, AP Research Presentation, April 20-22, 2026, NWHS
   xiv. Jamie Mast, AP Research Presentation, April 20-24, 2026, NWHS
   xv. AJ Risedorph, IIAAA State Conference, March 21-24, 2026, Indianapolis
   xvi. Kyle Dijkstra, IIAAA State Conference, March 21-24, 2026, Indianapolis
   xvii. Aaron Wolfe, ISHAA Boys Basketball Sectional Mtg, February 23, 2026, Syracuse, IN

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations
   i. $40 donation from Holly Holden to be used for NWHS Teacher Appreciation Week
   ii. $500 donation from Rick & Donna Persing to be use for NWMS Swim Team
   iii. $800 donation from McCormick Motors to be used for NWMS Swim Team
   iv. $800 donation from Patrick Industries, Indiana Transport to be used for NWMS Swim Team
   v. $750 donation from Trine University to be used for student/teacher needs.
   vi. $40 donation from Gavin & Amy Miller to be used for NWHS Teacher Appreciation
   vii. $2,575.93 donation from Geyer Family Foundation to be used for Ski Club Caberfae Trip

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

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR STAFF RAFFLE PERSONAL DAY TO SUPPORT WEA SCHOLARSHIP

School board member Don Lehman made, and John Payne seconded the motion to approve the proposal for Staff Raffle Personal Day to support WEA Scholarship as presented by Dr. Croner and Mr. Michael Rand, WEA President. Vote: 6-0

B. APPROVAL OF THE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST FOR:
- Nappanee Elementary Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- Wakarusa Elementary Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- NorthWood Middle School Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis

- NorthWood High School Robotics Team, March 13 – 14, 2026, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- NWHS FFA Livestock Judging Team, March 6-7, 2026, Blackhawk College Livestock Judging Contest, Galva, IL
- NWHS Track, March 27-28, 2026, Fall Creek Pavillion, Indiana State Fairgrounds
- NWHS FFA Livestock Judging Team, March 20-21, 2026, Lakeland College Livestock Judging Contest, Mattoon, IL
- NWHS Boys Golf, June 16-17 2026, Prairie View Golf Club, Carmel, IN
- NWHS Boys Dive Team, February 27-28, 2026, State Diving, IUPUI Natatorium, Indianapolis

John Payne made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the overnight travel request as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 6-0

VIII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

A. ILEARN Assessment Quiz/Are You Smarter Than a 4th Grader?—Dr. Gretchen Thomas

- https://login7.cambiumtds.com/student_core/V286/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Indiana_PT&a=Student

There being no further business to come to the attention of the board school board member Christina Eshelman made, and John Payne seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: 6-0

SIGNED: _____
Curt Flickinger, President

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Trevor Hershberger, Secretary