

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION
Performing Arts Center
1112 E. Clay Street
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117
April 13, 2026
6:00 PM**

New Buffalo Area Schools will be a beacon of academic excellence and individualized learning, where every student thrives in a supportive and inclusive environment. We will lead in preparing students for future success, driven by strong community partnerships and a commitment to growth and sustainability.

1. Call to Order by President Denise Churchill - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Roll Call: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, Lisa Werner
Absent: Donnelly
Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Bowen, Superintendent of Schools
Devinnie Wysocki, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
3. Expressions from the Public: None
4. Items too Late for Printed Agenda: None
5. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Thun
Second: Summers
All ayes, motion carried.
6. Communications
A. Class President: Nick Haskins - 12th Grade
Juniors completed State Testing, Spring sports are strong 5-0 Baseball. Prom is May 2nd and this year will be in Chicago (boat cruise). Students are very excited about this venue. There are no reported concerns from students at this time.
7. Presentation: Bison Preserve - Leeward Ventures, Brian Papke
Leeward Ventures presented the Bison Preserve development proposal, outlining plans to create a mixed residential community that includes a variety of housing types such as single-family homes, townhomes, and apartments, with a focus on attainable housing for the local workforce and designated units for public-sector employees. The project also includes to allocate buildable lots for the Building Trades Program. Updates were provided on grant funding efforts, including a submitted Congressionally Directed Spending application and anticipated use of a Housing TIF, as well as progress on site data collection, engineering considerations, and development agreement revisions. The design emphasizes community-centered features such as preserved green space, central gathering areas, and flexible housing options, while next steps include refining the site plan, finalizing agreements, pursuing additional funding, and initiating township planning discussions.

8. Presentation: Middle School Principal, Dan Caudle

Middle School Principal Dan Caudle shared annual goals aligned with the district's Strategic Plan. In Academics, the focus is on improving student achievement, strengthening curriculum, and using data and regular check-ins to guide instruction and provide targeted support. Growth and Sustainability goals include developing a curriculum review cycle and assessing district facilities for future planning. Culture and Community efforts highlight anti-bullying initiatives, student wellness, increased staff collaboration, improved family communication through Bloomz, staff recognition, professional development, and strengthening community partnerships.

9. Committee Report(s)

10. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend the Board approve the bond resolution, per the attached.

Motion: Haskins

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

11. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following openings for School of Choice enrollment for the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Kindergarten	6th Grade	9th Grade
1st Grade	7th Grade	10th Grade
2nd Grade	8th Grade	
3rd Grade		
4th Grade		
5th Grade		

Motion: Thun

Second: Summers

All ayes, motion carried.

12. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Short Messaging Service Policy and Terms of Service, per the attached.

Motion: Werner

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried.

13. Remarks from the Superintendent

- Spring testing for all our students has started. The high school students all did the PSA, SAT and MSTEP last week. The 8th graders did a practice PSAT test today in the STEAM Building with the official PSAT test next week. MSTEP at the elementary school starts this week.
- Studer Coach Brent Brummett was onsite today. All directors and principals learned how to roll out their survey results within their department or school. Based on results and these meetings, each department or school will develop an action plan for the following school year on how to improve on their three lowest areas of the survey. Those plans will be shared with the board in the month of June once the students let out for the summer.
- The fuel system at the bus garage was finally updated today. Tomorrow, the company is double checking that the cards will work and log to the appropriate entity. As you know NBAS is the host fuel system for many city and township vehicles.

14. Remarks from the Board President and Members

President Churchill commented on the Field Dedication Ceremony and thanked Board member Vanessa Thun for all her work in putting the ceremony together. Happy Birthday to Board member Lisa Werner and Welcome Back.

15. Discussion Item(s)

A. May 25, 2026, Board Meeting

B. The Superintendent approved the following hire:

BASE Lead: Amelia Sheldon

16. Other Business

Thun made a motion to cancel the upcoming May 25, 2026, Board Meeting, seconded by Haskins. All ayes, motion carried.

17. Ajournment

Motion: Haskins

Second: Thun

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vanessa Thun, Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS