



**Northwest Community Schools**  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**NEC Board Room - 6900 Rives Junction Rd.**

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<b>Board Members</b>	Brad Wait, Nick Rush, Dan Griswold, Katie Pitchford, Libby Conant - Lounds, Allison Cooper
<b>Absent</b>	Bob Sayles
<b>Administration</b>	Geoff Bontrager, Emili Jones, Cari Bushinski, Scott Buchler, Amanda Anspaugh, Dan Brooks, Phil Szczykutowicz
<b>Community Members</b>	approx. 15

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Superintendent Bontrager. The audience was recognized and the pledge of allegiance was completed.

**BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**Election of Officers**

The Superintendent received nominations for the Office of President and conducted the election of the President. The new President then conducted the meeting for the election of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Nominations for President: Brad Wait**

Moved by Nick Rush, seconded by Libby Conant- Lounds, to elect Brad Wait as president.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:6**  
**NAYS:0**

**Nominations for Vice-President: Nick Rush**

Moved by Libby Conant- Lounds, seconded by Allison Cooper, to elect Nick Rush as vice-president.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:6**  
**NAYS:0**

**Nominations for Secretary: Dan Griswold**

Moved by Katie Pitchford, seconded by Nick Rush, to elect Dan Griswold as secretary.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:6**  
**NAYS:0**

**Nominations for Treasurer:            Bob Sayles**

Moved by Nick Rush, seconded by Libby Conant - Lounds, to elect Bob Sayles as treasurer.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:6**

**NAYS:0**

### **School Board Recognition Month- Geoff Bontrager**

January is School Board Recognition Month and Northwest Community Schools is joining 544 local and 57 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

In a year full of challenges for public education not seen in recent history, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2021 to provide the best possible education for our students. Our school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students. They also serve as the corporate board of directors for one of our community's largest employers. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to say "Thank You" for all they do.

School board members represent the views and priorities in the complex system of maintaining and running a district's public schools. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan. Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized.

The school board's main goal is to support student achievement. To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs: Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority; Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do; assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning; accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results; aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources; creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach; collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes; and focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining, and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2022, our school board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement and provide exceptional education for all our community's children.

Thank you Brad, Nick, Bob, Dan, Libby, Katie, and Allison for your service as members of the Northwest Board of Education and elected representatives of our community. Your time, effort, and commitment to our students, staff, parents, and our district are very much appreciated.

**JCISD Resolution Honoring Constituent Districts Boards of Education - Geoff Bontrager**

**January 3, 2022**

**To: Local Education Association Boards of Education**

**From: Jackson County Intermediate School District Board Subject: Thanks and Appreciation**

Happy New Year!

The accompanying resolution was passed by the JCISD Board of Education at its December 21, 2021 meeting recognizing January as School Board Appreciation month. Prior to passing this resolution, the JCISD Board emphasized how appreciative they are of the tremendous leadership exhibited by local board members during the past year. Boards of Education faced unprecedented challenges during 2021, and through it all, showed great composure, thoughtful leadership, and a determined focus for doing what is best for the children and communities they serve.

While 2021 brought more challenges than most, it is recognized, as leaders in your community, you were the right people at the right time to face these challenges. By volunteering your time and talents, you helped your districts persevere and move forward.

The JCISD Board, administration, and staff are honored to serve the school districts of Jackson County and appreciate your continued dedication in the face of adversity.

We look forward to 2022 knowing Jackson County schools are in good hands.

**RESOLUTION HONORING CONSTITUENT DISTRICTS' BOARDS OF  
EDUCATION  
JANUARY 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the month of January 2022 has been designated School Board Recognition Month for the State of Michigan; and,

**WHEREAS**, school board members contribute hundreds of hours each year leading their districts by making important decisions about curriculum, adopting policies, listening to student, parent, and staff concerns, and setting expectations for student achievement; and,

**WHEREAS**, school board members in Jackson County are providing strong, local leadership for important tasks of educating our community children; and

**WHEREAS**, School Board Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the dozens of school board members in Jackson County who champion the cause of public education, their schools, and their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Jackson County Intermediate School District Board of Education, on behalf of the citizens, communities, educators, and schools it services, does hereby recognize and express respect and appreciation for the leadership and service provided by the members of the boards of education of each of the school districts of Jackson County.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Board Communications**

- Email of appreciation from Alum, Tara Edwards.

3. **COMMUNITY COMMENT**

- Community member who expressed concerns for masking students and the current time of the board meetings.
- Jackson County Commissioner - Updates in Jackson County
- Community member who expressed concerns for technology and masking of students.
- Community member who expressed the need of virtual board meetings for public access.
- Community member who expressed concerns on the district's ranking.
- Community member who expressed concerns on staff influence of false information.

4. **BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE**

The NWBOE welcomed Administrators from NWHS and NWMS who presented updates in the secondary buildings regarding culture and fine arts.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Dan Griswold, seconded by Allison Cooper, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the December 13, 2021, regular meeting.
- Employment of Cory Parrott as an 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, effective January 3, 2022 at Northwest Middle School.
- Employment of Sue DeSimpelare as a 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, effective January 3, 2022 at Northwest Middle School.
- Employment of Jennifer Edwards as a 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, effective January 3, 2022 at Northwest Middle School.
- Resignation of Adam Grybauskas as the Varsity Head Football Coach at Northwest High School, effective December 15, 2021.
- Resignation of Tim Warneck as a Girls Basketball Coach at Northwest Middle School, effective December 10, 2021.
- Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence for Mara Bentschneider, Teacher at Northwest Early Elementary School, beginning January 18, 2021 through June 10, 2022. Mrs. Bentschneider is expected to return to her teaching assignment on the first day of the 2022-2023 school year for teachers.

**Motion Carried - 6-0**

6. **FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

None

7. **BUSINESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS**

None

8. **REPORTS**

None

9. **CURRICULUM**

None

10. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Board Policies – Second Reading**

- 0100 - DEFINITIONS
- 0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
- 3120 - EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF
- 5335 - CARE OF STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS
- 6114 - COST PRINCIPLES - SPENDING FEDERAL FUNDS
- 6152 - STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND SUPPLIES
- 6352 - PROCUREMENT - FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS
- 7450 - PROPERTY INVENTORY
- 7544 - ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR CAPITAL - ASSETS
- 8310 - PUBLIC RECORDS
- 8320 - PERSONNEL FILES
- 8330 - STUDENT RECORDS
- 8500 - FOOD SERVICE

B. **Budget Revisions – 2021-2022**

The original budgets for the 2021-22 school year were approved on June 21, 2021. At that time, student count, per-pupil funding allocations, federal funding, and other items were estimated. Now, these amounts are known and require a budget revision to reflect a more accurate representation of the revenue and expenditures for the district.

Moved by Nick Rush, seconded by Libby Conant-Lounds, that the Board of Education adopt revisions to the 2021-2022 budget, as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:6**

**NAYS:0**

C. **Letter of Agreement - Northwest Education Association**

A Letter of Agreement was presented for approval that will modify the Northwest Educational Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year only. This Letter of Agreement will increase wages for staff who choose to substitute during their prep hour.

Moved by Allison Cooper, seconded by Libby Conant-Lounds, that the Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement for the Northwest Educational Association, effective January 10, 2022, as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES:5**

**NAYS:0**

**Abstain- Nick Rush**

11. **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

A. Board Update

- JCASB Dinner - February 10, 2022
- JCASB Meeting at NW - March 5, 2022

B. Superintendent Update

- Superintendent Bontrager gave an update on the district including COVID, upcoming vaccination clinics, transportation, upcoming dates to remember and the MLK Breakfast.

12. COMMUNITY COMMENT

None

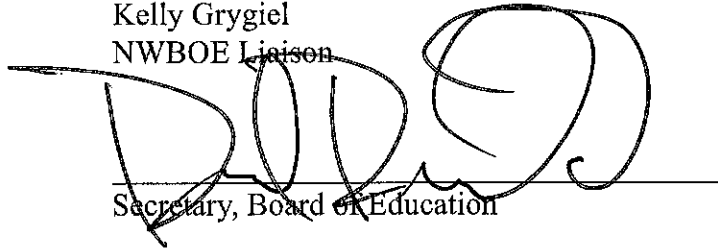
14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Libby Conant - Lounds and seconded by Dan Griswold, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Grygiel  
NWBOE Liaison



Secretary, Board of Education