

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
January 16, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Newark Community High School District #18 Board of Education was called to order by President Jacobs at 6:30 p.m. in the LRC at Newark Community High School. Superintendent /Principal Ulrich was present.

Roll call was taken showing the following Board Members present: Bromeland, Fletcher, Jacobs, Smith, Steffen, and Thompson. Carlson was absent.

**Welcome guests and visitors:** Jeanette Buhle, Joe Steffen

**Public Comment:** None

**Teacher/Staff Comment:** Mr. Steffen shared with the Board that the National FFA Convention was great and two Illinois students were recognized as 2024 American FFA Star Candidates.

Mr. Carlson arrived at 6:32

**Communications:** Mr. Ulrich thanked the Board for the Christmas gift. He shared with the Board a thank you he received from Mr. Blidy and his students for the new pottery wheel.

**Consent Agenda Item:**

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda items: (a) approve the Public Levy hearing of December 19, 2024 (b) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024 (c) Financial Report-Fund Balances as of December 31, 2024, (d) approval of Bills and Requisitions.

Voting Aye: Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

The board went over the financial reports as of January 16, 2025:

December 2024, Treasurer's Financial Report of operational account balances:

- Education Fund: \$216,214.05
  - Operations and Maintenance Fund: \$ 57,063.94
  - Transportation Fund: \$31,150.99
  - IMRF/SOC Fund: \$37,519.09
  - Working Cash Fund: \$4,097.68
  - Tort Fund: \$3,399.89
  - Health/Life Safety Fund: \$55,532.31
- December 31, 2024 Total Funds Balance: \$404,977.95

- December 2024 payrolls in the amount of \$142,803.92

And Financial Reports January 2025 List of bills amounting to:

- Education Fund: \$35,394.44
- Operations and Maintenance Fund: \$17,416.21
- Transportation Fund: \$5,369.82
- Tort Fund: \$150.00

January Board bills subtotal: \$58,330.47

Extra bills for January:

- Education Fund: \$1,335.00
  - Operations and Maintenance Fund: \$500.00
  - Transportation Fund: \$519.76
- Extra bills subtotal: \$2, 354.76

**Board Business:**

## Approval of Course Description Book

A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Fletcher to approve the Course Description Book for the 2025-2026 school year.

Voting Aye: Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

## Second reading of policies.

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Bromeland to approve the second reading of the policies as presented.

Voting Aye: Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

## Land cash request

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Steffen to approve the Land Cash Request.

Voting Aye: Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

## Approval of Authorized IMRF Agent

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Carlson to approve Mr. Ulrich as the authorized IMRF agent for NCHS.

Voting Aye: Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

#### Softball Overnight Field Trip

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Smith to approve the Girls' softball overnight trip to Jacksonville, IL

Voting Aye: Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

#### The Resolution to Support of IASA Vision 2030.

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Bromeland to approve the Resolution to Support of IASA Vision 2030.

Voting Aye: Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

#### Review bid for Biology and FACS renovations.

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Smith to approve the bid for the Biology and FACS renovations for the summer of 2025. We accepted the bid from Sjostrom & Sons for the price of \$865,500.00.

Voting Aye: Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

Review bid for HVAC.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Thompson to approve the alternate bid for HVAC work on the Social Studies and Math classroom from Sjostrom & Sons for the price of \$179,600.00.

Voting Aye: Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

Mr. Ulrich shared with the Board the school fees. He is not proposing any changes for the school year 2025-2026. The fees will be on the agenda for the February meeting for approval.

### **Principal's Report:**

- The focus of institute day was artificial intelligence and helping our teachers become more exposed to AI. Also discussed was how it is transforming education.
- As a result of the AI presentation, I will be working on creating a set of guidelines for our district on the use of AI in the classroom and our philosophy. I have asked Mike Hall and Lisa Woods to help me work on these guidelines. My goal will be to have guidelines published for staff, students and parents before the start of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Working to schedule a second round of non-tenured teacher evaluations.
- Continuing to meet with staff for professional meetings every quarter.
- We reviewed the writing of behavior referrals during our institute day with a focus on being consistent and fact-based in the language used on the referrals.
- Ms. Elliott continues to work in health classes every Wednesday with a specific focus on student mental health.

A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Smith to go into closed session at 7:43 p.m. to (a) review the closed session minutes from December 19, 2024 (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)). (b) Discuss School Personnel matters (as per the Illinois Open Meetings, Act, “the appointment employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of Newark Community High School (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)). (c) Discuss Student Discipline. (As per the Illinois Open Meeting Act, “the discussion of student discipline” (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (9)), (d) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2)). (e) Discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined by the Open Meetings Act, including the vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (3))

Voting Aye: Smith, Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

The regular board meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

Roll call was taken showing the following Board members in attendance: Steffen, Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, and Jacobs

**Action taken as a Result of Closed Session:**

A motion was made by Fletcher and seconded by Smith to approve the closed session Board minutes of December 19, 2024 as corrected.

Voting Aye: Thompson, Bromeland, Carlson, Fletcher, Smith, Steffen, and Jacobs

Voting Nay: None

Motion carried

**Upcoming Action items, Activities and Events;**

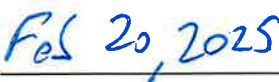
a. Next Board Meeting February 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**Other Matters of Discussion:** Principal Ulrich shared with the Board that the district will be getting new security cameras with grant money. The Little Ten Band Festival and Fine Arts Festival will be held in Somonauk on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and NCHS will be hosting this event.

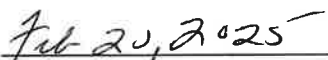
A Motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Voice Vote: 7 Ayes  
Voting Nay: None  
Motion carried

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Jacobs, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Fletcher, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date