

**NORTH CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 6:30 PM CST

Location: North Central Elementary Conference Room – Hermansville, MI 49847

1. Meeting called to order by President Chris Fazer at 6:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call:

A. PRESENT: Nathan Fleetwood, Kelly Plunger, Melissa Mercier, Chris Fazer, Jordan St. John, Superintendent/Elementary Principal: Travis Depuydt, MS/HS Principal/Athletic Director: Donny Bianco, Board Appointed Secretary: Wendy Granquist, Director of Online Learning: Amanda Norkoli

B. TARDY:

C. ABSENT: Craig VanEnkevort, Matt Bouty

4. Agenda:

A. There were no items to be added or deleted.

B. There were no items to be excluded from the consent agenda to be dealt with individually.

C. Motion by Mercier, supported by St. John to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 5-0.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Reports

i. Transportation/Maintenance Directors Report: Mr. Klee written report.

ii. Athletic Directors Report: Mr. Bianco gave his report.

iii. MS/HS Principals Report: Mr. Bianco gave his report.

iv. Director of Online Learning Report: Ms. Norkoli gave her report.

v. Superintendent/Elem. Principal Report: Mr. Depuydt gave his report.

vi. Miron/IDI Presentation

Phil Niemi – IDI discussed that we will now be in the Design/Construction phase of the project. Congratulated Dr. Depuydt and the board of education for all of the hard work on the bond proposal and the 58% community approval to pass the bond. He also discussed putting together a Bond Committee which would be decision makers, maintaining schedules, reviewing the budget and a liaison to the Board of Education

Preliminary Timeline

- * Initial Survey – Christmas Break
- * Schematic Design – January-April 2026
- * Design Development – May-June 2026
- * Construction Documents – Aug-Oct 2026
- * Bidding & Procurement – Nov-Dec 2026
- * Construction – May 2027-August 2028

We also need a hazardous material report for the Middle/High School.

Bridget from Miron

Communications -

- *Post Bond Logo
- *Website Transition
- *Monthly/Quarterly updates
- *District-wide Newsletters

Community Engagement -

- *Groundbreaking
- *Community Milestone
- *Project Dedication Celebration

Also discussed Connecting in the Classroom – CTE Apprenticeship Program in which students from the district work on the Construction Project.

NEXT STEPS

- * Kick-off Meeting on Wednesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.
- * Staff Engagement
- * Schematic Design

The only question that they board had was from Mr. Plunger stating that very happy with the 58% turnout, but that the board of education is going to hold IDI/Miron accountable to get the most for our money with this project. The taxpayers of the district are expecting this from the board of education.

B. Regular Board Meeting & Workshop Minutes:

- i. October 15, 2025 Regular Meeting – St. John was tardy at last meeting, not absent. Also adjust motion numbers to “6-0”.

- C. Motion by Plunger, supported by St. John to approve the consent agenda with the revised minutes. Motion carried, 5-0.

6. Approval to pay the bills

- A. Motion by Mercier, supported by Plunger to approve the October/November bills.
General Fund - \$53,661.26 Activity - \$12,925.05 Lunch - \$10,843.13 Debt - \$75.00

7. Action Items

- A. Motion by Mercier, supported by Fleetwood to approve the North Central Area Schools 2025 fiscal year audit as prepared by Schneider, Larche, Haapala & Co. Motion carried, 5-0.
- B. Motion by St. John, supported by Mercier to approve the Superintendent to determine whether to opt in or opt out of Section 31aa School Safety and Mental Health Funding on behalf of the district. Should the district elect to opt in, the district’s participation shall be contingent upon the State of Michigan modifying the current language to eliminate the requirement to waive attorney-client privilege or any comparable legal rights and protections. Motion carried, 5-0.

8. Public Comment

- A. John Raab – Talked about wrestling practice using the welding side of the Voc Ed building.
- B. Cheryl Chrisitansen – Asked about the drawing of the new school and the Gauthier property next to the parking lot.

9. Correspondence

- A. Thank you cards from Larry LaBonte and Doreen Fazer

10. Board Discussion

Mr. Plunger discussed minutes from the Building Trades Advisory Committee it was there 1st meeting present were Tim Zimmerman, Michelle Nileo, Griffin Gaten, AJ Holle, Leo Gorzinski and Kelly Plunger who was named Chairman.

He stated that they will have 2 meeting/month to start. He also talked about Construction Connect. He stated that these classes should qualify for Early Middle College. They are looking at a Construction Trades Club, also looking at National Competitions.

There are 14 student in the class, right now, Leo has no budget from the MCISD, he is constructing deer blinds, sheds and look into mini buildings. They are looking at putting shelving in the bus garage, they would like to finish the insulation and ceiling in the bus garage. They would like to put in an insulated door and concrete for the floor of the bus garage. They are also looking at a lumber storage lean to in which they were donated lumber from a company that Mr. Plunger knows. Mr. John Raab would use his tools and knowledge for help with the concrete floor.

Mr. Plunger was looking for support from the board. Dr. Depuydt is not in opposition and neither are any of the board members, but Dr. Depuydt would like to just pump the brakes and slow down a little bit.

Mr. Plunger also discussed 11th & 12th grades for building trades with possibly Sophomores in 2026. There is also a Pathways program where simple building trades would be taught in Middle School.

Mrs. Cheryl Christiansen – stated that it would be nice if an class such as Spanish could be taught in Middle School and also if students in 8th grade could take Algebra which would then free up Sophomores to take a Building Trades class.

Mr. St. John asked if there has been any progress made with the sale of the LaBranche Property or also the River Road property.

11. Other Business

A. None

12. Adjournment

A. Motion by St. John, supported by Fleetwood to adjourn from the November 12, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:22PM. Motion carried, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Plunger, Secretary