

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL, FTLA ROOM #816,
38431 LINCOLN TRL, NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, August 13, 2026
5:30 PM**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the FTLA Room #816 at the North Branch Area Middle School.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Tim MacMillan, Heather Naegele, Superintendent Paul and Adam Trampe

Absent: Jesse LaValla

Others in attendance: Pakou Lee, Todd Tetzlaff and John Wagner

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Grovender, seconded by Naegele, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paul presented an update regarding the district's strategic priorities, including student preparation and achievement, balanced technology use, core competencies, student engagement, and responsible digital citizenship.

The Board received updates regarding student transportation and safety, attendance initiatives and intervention, community and workforce partnerships, and the responsible allocation and use of district facilities and resources to support student learning.

Removal of Consent Items for Discussion:

None

Consent Items:

Moved by Naegele, seconded by Trampe and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of July 9, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of July 13, 2026 School Board Retreat
- C. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity

- Accounts Payable, Bank 07 – \$ 1,646,398.25
- Auxiliary, Bank 12 - \$ -41,006.10
- Payroll, Bank 13 - \$ 1,760,011.62
- Scholarship, Bank 18 - \$ 68,086.00
- High School Student Activities, Bank 31 - \$ 459.15
- Middle School Student Activities, Bank 32 - \$ 0.00

D. Personnel

- a. Lauren Larsen, resignation effective July 30, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River School
- b. Brent Lundgren, resignation effective July 6, 2026, as Special Education Teacher TOSA at North Branch Area Middle School
- c. Kristina Murphy, resignation effective July 7, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River School
- d. Tanya Giese, Intermittent leave request, effective July 13, 2026 through September 28, 2026, as Activities Secretary at North Branch Area High School
- e. Kyle Groh, leave request, effective approximately September 26, 2026 for two weeks, as K-5 Physical Education/DAPE Teacher at Sunrise River School
- f. Christine Hartgers, leave extension through August 12, 2026, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
- g. Cynthia Scheele, leave request effective July 13, 2026 through July 29, 2026, as Youth Connections Program Manager at North Branch Area Education Center
- h. Michelle Bjork, effective September 1, 2026, position change from Youth Connections Adult Assistant to Early Childhood Educational Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
- i. Ian McWilliams, effective August 24, 2026, position change from Special Education EBD Teacher to Special Education TOSA Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School
- j. Amy Pesek, effective August 25, 2026, position change from Playground/Lunchroom Assistant at Sunrise River School to Early Childhood Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

- k. Paige Stevenson, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, position change from Career Center Clerk to BS, Step 1, one-year contract, as Tier 1 Media Specialist at North Branch Area High School
- l. Lisa Bidwell, employment effective August 25, 2026, as Playground/Lunchroom Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
- m. April Birdsall, employment effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year, as Health Clerk for North Branch Area Public Schools
- n. Requel Elsenpeter, employment effective August 25, 2026 as Playground/Lunchroom Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
- o. Michael Schoeneck, employment effective August 25, 2026, as Media Clerk at North Branch Area Middle School
- p. Tyson Bohoney, BA, Step 13, one-year contract for the 2026-27 school year, as Tier 1 License Family and Consumer Science Teacher at North Branch Area High School
- q. Simone Collins-Goodwin, BS+15, Step 3, one-year contract for the 2026-27 school year, as Tier 2 Medical Careers Teacher at North Branch Area High School
- r. Tristen Geving, MAT, Step 1, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, as Elementary Teacher at North Branch Area Education Center
- s. Jade Hibbard, MA+30, Step 17, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, as Media Specialist/Tech Integrationist at North Branch Area Middle School
- t. Sarah Huberty, MS, Step 6, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, as Elementary Teacher at Sunrise River School
- u. Chelsea McQuisten, BS+30, Step 2 as Long-Term Substitute for Erika Duffy, effective August 24th, 2026 to October 12, 2026, as Fourth Grade Teacher at Sunrise River School
- v. Catherine Miller, MA, Step 11, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, as Special Education - EBD Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School
- w. Joseph Stauffer, MS, Step 3, beginning with the 2026-27 school

year, as Counselor at Norse Area Learning Center

E. Acceptance of Donations

July 2026

DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT	USE
7/9/26	North Branch Dental, 6460 Main Street, PO Box 220, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship	\$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
7/9/26	Tina Thompson, tinathompson265@hotmail.com	NBHS Scholarship	\$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
7/13/26	Edelstein Family Foundation, c/o Victoria Keller, 500 E Grant Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404	NBHS Scholarship	\$67,086.00	Scholarship Donation
7/23/26	Sons of the American Legion, PO Box 87, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship	\$2,000.00	Scholarship Donation
7/29/26	Anoka-Ramsey Community College, 300 Spirit River Dr. S., Cambridge, MN 55008	NBHS	\$100.00	Career Day Sponsorship
			\$71,186.00	

Open Mic

None

Old Business

A. Approval of Second Reading of the Following Policies

Moved by Trampe, seconded by Naegele and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of the Following Policies.

1. Policy 418 - Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
2. Policy 516 NB - Student Medication

New Business

A. Approval of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement FY 2026-27

Moved by Trampe, seconded by Grovender and carried unanimously to approve the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement FY 2026-27.

B. Approval to Set the Adult Meal Price at \$5.30

Moved by Grovender, seconded by Trampe, and carried unanimously to approve to Set the Adult Meal Price at \$5.30.

C. Superintendent Evaluation

The School Board recognized Superintendent Paul for her strong, student-centered leadership and successful progress toward district goals during the 2025–26 school year. The Board expressed confidence in her leadership and identified continued priorities in academic achievement, balanced technology use, and expanded college, career, workforce, and individualized student opportunities.

Information

None

Board Requests

None

Committee Reports

Member Grovender gave an update on SCRED.

Member Naegele gave an update on MSBA

Dates to Remember

- A. August 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Middle School
- B. August 18, 2026 at 4:30 PM - NBSSA Negotiations Session, North Branch Area Middle School, FTLA Room #816
- C. August 24, 2026 at 4:00 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Middle School
- D. August 24, 2026 at 4:30 PM - Principal Negotiations Session, North Branch Area Middle School, FTLA Room #816
- E. August 27, 2026 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, North Branch Area Middle School, FTLA Room #816
- F. September 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM - Policy Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Middle School
- G. September 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, North Branch Area Middle School, FTLA Room #816

Adjournment

Moved by Grovender, seconded by Trampe and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:29 PM.

Heather Naegele, Clerk