NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM C120, 38705 GRAND AVENUE, NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, April 9, 2026
5:30 PM

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the North Branch Area Education Center.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

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

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Bob Becker, Jason Hehir, Kendra Helin, Mike Hennek, Christine Johnson, Rob Johnson, Chloe Kavanagh, Rachel Kytonen, Pakou Lee, Denise Martin, Claire Patterson, Todd Tetzlaff, Pat Tepoorten and David Treichel

Approval of Agenda:
Moved by Naegele, seconded by LaValla, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

School Board Recognition
Winter Sports Awards

- Boys Hockey: Riley (Robert) Dufore, Ben Fruth and James Gosiak
- Girls Hockey: Tori (Victoria) Thurmer
- Gymnastics: Ella Dick, Emma Fenton, Brooke Giese, Sophia Thorsen and Ava Witkowski
- Girls Basketball: Sharis Garcia Velazquez, Sharleen Garcia Velazquez, Eva Glanz, Annabelle Lattimore, Addyson Lelm, Carolyn Lombard, Isabel Nuveen, Madison Orf, Sophia Petersen, Alyssa Rediske, Natalia Rosales and Lauren Thiel
- Boys Basketball: Henry Christensen, Brandon Giese, Jacob Knoespel, Ethan Thelander and Ethan Thorson
- Wrestling: Nicholas Andreotti, Mason Henry and Lucas Hunter

- Dance: Annabella Freudenberg, Evelina Gilkerson, Madeline Grovender, Leota Johnson, Addyson Lewerenz, Shanna Swanstrom and Alexis Sway

Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Paul shared an update highlighting district vision, student success, and community engagement. Emphasis remains on collaboration, role clarity, and shared accountability.

North Branch Area High School reported a 93% graduation rate for the Class of 2025, exceeding regional and state averages. Alternative programs continue to support students through flexible pathways.

Updates included Senior Spotlight recognition, staff scholarship fundraising, and upcoming events such as Prom and the spring musical. The district remains focused on ensuring every student graduates with a clear post-secondary plan.

Community engagement remains strong, with over 400 attendees at the World Down Syndrome Day event, along with upcoming initiatives including a food drive and Community Service Day.

Removal of Consent Items for Discussion:
None

Consent Items:
Moved by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

A. Minutes of March 5, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting

B. Minutes of March 5, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting

C. Minutes of March 26, 2026 Special School Board Meeting

D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity

- Accounts Payable, Bank 07 – $ 777,316.78
- Auxiliary, Bank 12 - $ 8,938.22
- Payroll, Bank 13 - $ 2,345,094.35
- Scholarship, Bank 18 - $ 5,500.00
- High School Student Activities, Bank 31 - $ 12,752.40
- Middle School Student Activities, Bank 32 - $ 0.00

E. Personnel

1. Lynne Wilzbacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-26 school

year, as Grade 3 Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School

2. Crystal Hoffbeck, resignation effective February 23, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

3. Hannah Leuch, resignation effective March 17, 2026, as Early Childhood Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

4. Richard Red, resignation effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year, as Agriculture Teacher at Norse Area Learning Center

5. Olivia Berg, leave request effective August 19, 2026 through October 18, 2026, as Grade 5 Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School

6. Christine Hartgers, leave request effective March 23, 2026 through June 12, 2026, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

7. Cynthia Scheele, leave request effective March 11, 2026 through April 27, 2026, as Youth Connections Program Manager at North Branch Area Education Center

8. Lynn Wilzbacher leave request effective April 13, 2026 through May 15, 2026, as Grade 3 Teacher at Sunrise River School

9. Kristi Johnson, leave extension request through May 10, 2026, as Kindergarten Teacher at North Branch Area Education Center

10. Jennifer Pate, leave extension request through May 14, 2026, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School

11. Markell Anderson, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Spanish Teacher at North Branch Area High School

12. Jordan Antilla, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Special Education Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School

13. Nathan Appleby, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Special Education Teacher at North Branch Area High School

14. Angela Biondo, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Special Education Teacher at Sunrise River School

15. Jaide Ehalt, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Elementary Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School

16. Gavin Lien, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Math Teacher at North Branch Area High School

17. Emily Miller, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Spanish Teacher at North Branch Area High School

18. Dillon Raborn, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as English Teacher at North Branch Area High School

19. Rebekah Towns, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Elementary Teacher at Sunrise River School

20. Courtney Wood, non-renewal for the 2026-27 school year, as Elementary Teacher at Sunrise River School

21. Josie Schlosser, BS, Step 1, continues as Long-Term Substitute Teacher for Kristi Johnson through May 11, 2026, as Kindergarten Teacher at North Branch Area Education Center

22. Ann Fortier, effective March 30, 2026, position change from Schoolkeeper to Custodian at North Branch Area Public Schools

23. Samantha Guerrette, effective March 30, 2026, position change from Schoolkeeper to Custodian at North Branch Area Public Schools

24. Brandon Persaud, effective March 30, 2026, position change from Schoolkeeper to Custodian at North Branch Area Public Schools

25. Sarah Servaty, effective March 30, 2026, position change from Schoolkeeper to Custodian at North Branch Area Public Schools

26. Heather Freetly, employment effective March 2, 2026, as Lunchroom Assistant at North Branch Area Middle School

27. Sarah Jo Hernandez, employment effective March 16, 2026, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools

28. Lauren Jackson, employment effective March 4, 2026, as School Age Care Senior Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

29. Heidi Lehrke, employment effective March 19, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School

30. Kayla Markusson, employment effective February 4, 2026, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School

31. 2025-26 Extracurricular Spring Coach Positions

    a. Matt Solberg, Class 2, Step 10, as Head Coach for Baseball

    b. Josh Beaver, Class 4, Step 5, as Assistant Coach for Baseball

    c. Clint Mattson, Class 4, Step 4, as Assistant Coach for Baseball

    d. Erin Pederson, Class 4, Step 2, as Assistant Coach for Softball

    e. Samantha Pederson, Class 4, Step 4, as Assistant Coach for Softball

    f. Ava Sittlow, Class 4, Step 3, as Assistant Coach for Softball

    g. Jessica Audette, Class 6, Step 6, as Coach for Middle School Softball

    h. Isabella Folkema, Class 6, Step 1, as Coach for Middle School Softball

    i. Kevin Grote, Class 6, Step 9, as Coach for Clay Target

    j. Everett Appleby, Class 4, Step 4, as Assistant Coach for Track & Field

    k. Eli Erickson, Class 4, Step 3, as Assistant Coach for Track & Field

    l. Brandon Hunter, Class 5, Step 2, as Assistant Coach for Boys Tennis

32. 2025-26 Activity Advisor Position

    a. Angela Lund (Brown), Class 9, Step 6, as 0.5 FTE Advisor for the Spring Musical Accompanist (Choreographer)

    b. Angela Lund (Brown), Class 9, Step 6, as 0.5 FTE Advisor for the Spring Musical Set Design (Props)

    c. Angela Lund (Brown), Class 3, Step 3, as 0.6 FTE Spring Musical Director

F. Policy

    a. Policy 906 - Community Notification of Predatory Offenders

    b. Policy 907 - Rewards

G. Acceptance of Donations

March 2026

DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT	USE
3/3/2026	Anonymous	NBHS Athletics	$500.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/3/2026	NB Area Hockey Assoc., PO Box 541, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$1,500.00	Softball Program Donation
3/3/2026	S.J. & J.A. Rumchik, 44700 Acacia Trl, Harris, MN 55032	NBHS Athletics	$100.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	Jacklyn Badger, 6167 Aztec Trl, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$100.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	JD Dental Lab, Main Street Center, 6448 Main Street, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$100.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	Jones Granger Attorneys at Law, 5481 St. Croix Trl, Ste. 150, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$200.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	Barbara Krawczewski, 16536 Wild Mountain Rd, Taylor Falls, MN 55084	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$20,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/6/2026	NBAEF, 38868 12th Ave #4, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$3,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	Maureen Puziewicz, 9955 468th St, Harris, MN 55032	NBHS Athletics	$7,500.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	Stacy Lions Club, PO Box 1, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$5,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/6/2026	Tom Kadlec Chevrolet, 38420 Tanger Dr, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/6/2026	VFW Post 6424, PO Box 373, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/9/2026	Empire Insurance Group, 6063 Main St, Ste. A, North Branch, MN 455056	Sunrise River Elem.	$500.00	Fun Run Donation
3/9/2026	North Branch Dental, PO Box 220, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	$250.00	Fun Run Donation
3/9/2026	Peterson's North Branch Mill, PO Box 218, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	$500.00	Fun Run Donation
3/9/2026	The Hungry Farmer, 6241 Main St, Ste. 100, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	$500.00	Fun Run Donation
3/9/2026	Kim Theis, 4715 384th St, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	$250.00	Fun Run Donation
3/9/2026	Tom Kadlec Chevrolet, 38420 Tanger Dr, North Branch, MN 55056	Sunrise River Elem.	$1,000.00	Fun Run Donation
3/12/2026	Innovative Design & Engineering, 6202 402nd St, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$250.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/12/2026	Daniel McMurchie, 2169 Cool Stream Cir, Eagan, MN 55122	NBHS Athletics	$100.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/12/2026	North Branch Fire Relief Assoc, PO Box 245, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$500.00	FRC Robotics Program Donation
3/19/2026	Anderson & Koch Ford, PO Box 158, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/19/2026	Anonymous	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/19/2026	Chisago County Pheasants Forever, PO Box 23, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$750.00	Scholarship Donation
3/19/2026	Climate Makers, 1700 Freeway Blvd #10, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430	NBHS Athletics	$500.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/19/2026	Barbara Nelson, PO Box 102, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/19/2026	North Branch Chamber of Commerce, 6063 Main St, Ste. B, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$500.00	Scholarship Donation
3/19/2026	Jayne Taylor, 31000 N Lakes Ct, Lindstrom, MN 55045	NBHS Athletics	$200.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/20/2026	Anderson & Koch Ford, PO Box 158, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/20/2026	Preferred Tool, PO Box 493, Hugo, MN 55038	NBHS	$200.00	Career Day Donation
3/20/2026	Tom Kadlec Chevrolet, 38420 Tanger Dr, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/20/2026	Wolf River Electric, 101 Isanti Parkway NE, Isanti, MN 55040	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/27/2026	Anonymous	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/27/2026	Nancy Barber, 20450 Huebner Rd, Apt. 11225, San Antonio, TX 78258	NBHS Athletics	$200.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/27/2026	Kelly Doohen, 9283 301st Ave NE, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/27/2026	Hazelden Betty Ford, PO Box 11, Center City, MN 55012	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$600.00	Scholarship Donation
3/27/2026	Lakes Region EMS, 40245 Fletcher Ave, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/27/2026	Neighborhood National Bank, 5481 St. Croix Trl, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$500.00	Scholarship Donation
3/27/2026	Warren Puziewicz, 6479 Tranquilo, #3062, Irving, TX 75039	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/27/2026	Joel Skelton, PO Box 386, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$400.00	Scholarship Donation
3/27/2026	Wyoming Machine, PO Box 180, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS Athletics	$1,010.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/30/2026	CAF America/Associated Bank (A. Fenton)	NBHS Athletics	$250.00	Gymnastics Program Donation
3/30/2026	Chisago County Pheasants Forever, PO Box 23, Stacy, MN 55079	NBHS Athletics	$1,000.00	Clay Target Program Donation
3/30/2026	NBEA, jharren@isd138.org	NBHS Scholarship A/C	$2,000.00	Scholarship Donation
3/30/2026	Riehle Family Charity, 1521 Glenbeigh Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125	NBHS Athletics	$500.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/30/2026	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$50.00	Girls Track Program Donation
3/30/2026	Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$500.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/30/2026	NAPA, 5881 Elm St, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	$100.00	FTC Robotics Program Donation
3/31/2026	Arrow Tank & Engineering, 650 Emerson St N, Cambridge, MN 55008	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/31/2026	Hawk Aviation, 51601 County Rd 33, Rush City, MN 55069	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/31/2026	MMCD, 2009 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55104	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
3/31/2026	Twin Pines Metrology, 3114 Medalist Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54902	NBHS	$100.00	Career Day Donation
			$60,810.00	

MAR	Jordan Wyttenback, 40519 Fenian Way, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	*Donated 2 Prom Dresses
MAR	Lucy Jacobson, 40519 Fenian Way, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS	*Donated 1 Prom Dress

Open Mic

None

Old Business

A. Approval of Second Reading of the Following Policy

Moved by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve a Second Reading of the Following Policy.

1. Policy 799 – OPEB Investment Policy Statement

New Business

A. Approval of the Student Transportation Services Agreement between North Branch Area Public Schools ISD 138 and 4 Point 0 School Services of North Branch Inc. from 2026 - 2032
Moved by Grovender, seconded by Naegele, and carried unanimously to approve the Student Transportation Services Agreement between North Branch Area Public Schools ISD 138 and 4 Point 0 School Services of North Branch Inc. from 2026 - 2032.

B. Approval of the Letter of Agreement — Pay Differential for Speech Language Pathology Assistants
Moved by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve First Reading of the Following Policies the Letter of Agreement — Pay Differential for Speech Language Pathology Assistants.

C. Approval of Authorizing the Issuance of Purchase Orders for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in an Amount not to Exceed 80 Percent of the Adopted 2025-26 Budget for Supplies and Services
Moved by Naegele, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve Authorizing the Issuance of Purchase Orders for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in an Amount not to Exceed 80 Percent of the Adopted 2025-26 Budget for Supplies and Services.

D. Approval of a First Reading of the Following Policy
It was moved by Grovender, seconded by LaValla, and carried unanimously to approve a First Reading of the following policy.

Board member Trampe requested revisions to Section VIII, line H, to clarify the use of “school building principal.”

A revised motion was then made by Trampe, seconded by Naegele, to approve the First Reading with the proposed changes, and carried unanimously.

1. Policy 514 - Bullying Prohibition

Information
None

Board Requests
None

Committee Reports
Member MacMillan gave a reminder of an upcoming American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) date.

Dates to Remember

A. April 14, 2026 at 1:30 PM - OPEB Committee Meeting, Virtual

B. April 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room, Room C120

C. May 14, 2026 at 4:30 PM - Policy Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122

D. May 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room, Room C120

Adjournment

Moved by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:38 PM.

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Heather Naegele, Clerk