

NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

JULY 17, 2025 MINUTES

The members of the Board of School Trustees of the North Putnam Community School Corporation held a regular session meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, 7:00 P.M. at North Putnam High School, Large Group Instruction Room, 8869 N CR 250 E, Roachdale, Indiana.

Board members present in person: Mark Hoke
Nathan Scott
Zac Williams
Joanie Knapp
Heather Lawson

Board members absent: David McCollough
Ron Spencer

Superintendent present: Dr. Dustin LeMay

Attorney present: Dan Taylor

I. SUPPORT

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Mark Hoke called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Mark Hoke, Nathan Scott, Zac Williams, Joanie Knapp, and Heather Lawson.

Dr. LeMay asked for a moment of silence for Kandace Wireman who recently passed away.

B. Approval of Agenda:

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Nathan Scott seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

C. Public Comments:

There were no comments.

D. Consent Agenda:

Nathan Scott motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Zac Williams seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Assistant Superintendent's Contracted Days:

The new contract would increase the days from 240 to 260 to be year round. The daily rate basically stays the same. The Board and Dr. LeMay appreciate all of Mr. Simpson's hard work.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the assistant superintendent's contracted days as presented. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

F. Approval of A La Carte Pricing for 2025-2026:

Last month, we recommended no increase to our school lunch and breakfast prices. We are asking for a small increase in the a la carte food items. The cost of these items has gone up and this is the main reason for the increase.

Nathan Scott motioned to approve the above a la carte pricing for 2025-2026 as presented. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

G. Approval to Dispose of Old Furniture:

We have some old furniture to dispose of. We are looking to donate if possible, but some will have to be disposed of.

Zac Williams motioned to approve the above disposal of old furniture as presented. Nathan Scott seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

H. Approval of Literacy Retreat for Elementary Teachers – July 28, 2025:

This is a unique opportunity for our teachers and the cost is paid through a grant from United Way.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the Literacy Retreat for elementary teachers as presented. Zac Williams seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

I. Appointment of Brenda Kerns to Roachdale Library Board:

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the appointment of Brenda Kerns to the Roachdale Library Board. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

J. Appointment of Dakota Lanham to the Putnam County Library Board:

Zac Williams motioned to approve the appointment of Dakota Lanham to the Putnam County Library Board. Nathan Scott seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

K. Approval of Bus Driver Retention Stipend:

We added a bus driver retention stipend last year to our bus driver compensation and it was worded that it would have to be approved each year. We are recommending that this is changed and will continue each year from here on out. Nathan Scott asked if this is common. Dr. LeMay said it is common with school corporations. It's a good incentive. Heather Lawson asked why it's just the bus drivers because we want to retain all non-certified staff. Dr. LeMay said that, when they looked at this last year and what area was lower than where it should be, the area was the bus drivers. We can look at the other positions and start that process. Heather Lawson said that when we increased the daily driver rate not long ago it was a substantial increase. She wondered about tabling this until we can look at including all non-certified staff in this. Dr. LeMay noted that this is something we committed to the bus drivers last year and he thinks we should continue with it now and then we can look at the rest of the non-certified staff in August or September.

Nathan Scott motioned to approve the bus driver retention stipend as presented. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 1 vote (Heather Lawson abstained).

II. PROTECT

A. Approval of Student Handbooks – Bainbridge & Roachdale Elementary Schools:

There were minor changes to attendance.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above student handbooks for Bainbridge and Roachdale Elementary schools as presented. Zac Williams seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Cougar Cub Developmental Preschool Handbook:

There were no changes.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the above Cougars Cub Developmental Preschool Handbook as presented. Nathan Scott seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Support Personnel Handbook:

There were minor changes. Changes included mandatory lunch breaks if working over 4 hours and leave days must be used before deduct days.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above Support Personnel Handbook as presented. Zac Williams seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

III. ENGAGE

There were no topics.

IV. EDUCATE

There were no topics.

V. DEVELOP

A. Hold First Preliminary Determination Hearing:

Before a school corporation enters into a lease and/or issues bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excel of certain thresholds or due to a school corporation's debt service fund tax rate, we must hold two public hearings on the preliminary determination to do so. This hearing is open to the public. Dan Taylor noted that this is the first of two hearings where the Board will determine the appropriateness of the project and the financial impacts of the project. No action is taken tonight, but at the August Board meeting we will have the second Preliminary Determination Hearing and adopt the resolutions. Stifel discussed the financial impact and provided information.

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent (Dr. LeMay):

He thanked the Board and community for all of the thoughts, prayers, and patience as it has been a difficult month with the passing of Kandace Wireman. He thanked the Five Star team for all their help. Thanks to the Board for addressing Mr. Simpson's contract. He is very valuable.

B. Assistant Superintendent (Rodney Simpson):

There were no comments.

C. Business Manager (Tanya Pearson):

There were no comments.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS:

Nathan Scott is looking forward to the projects and their completion. His thoughts to Kandace Wireman's family and he appreciates the moment of silence. Joanie Knapp is excited that school is starting. Thoughts and prayers to the Wireman family. Heather Lawson reiterated her thoughts and prayers to Kandace's family. She thanked Tanya Pearson and April Lambermont for jumping in and covering where needed and continued prayers for them as well. Zac Williams said many prayers to the Wireman family for their loss. He commented that the semi looks great out front. Thanks to everyone who helped get this done. The football field looks great and projects are coming along. Mark Hoke said many prayers to Wireman family. He has heard positive things on the semi and kudos for getting that going. Dan Taylor thanked Stifel for coming and presenting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Joanie Knapp moved for adjournment of the meeting. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 21, 2025 at the high school.

Mark Hoke, President

David McCollough, Member

Joanie Knapp, Vice President

Ron Spencer, Member

Nathan Scott, Secretary

Zac Williams, Member

Heather Lawson, Member