

NHS STUDENTS ON GAME DAY!

Athletic Boosters Meeting Nov. 16th at 7:00 all are welcome. Please join us: Location: HS Library.

Inclement Weather Guidelines

Decisions regarding school closings and event cancellations are made by district administration. Communication of these decisions happens through the following ways.

> Skylert Instant Notification NPS Facebook



NPS Twitter WZZM 13 FOX 17 WOOD TV8

Skylert Instant Notification system uses the Skyward parent contact information to create an automatic call, text, and email message system. If you are the parent of a student in the Newaygo Public School district, you are encouraged to log into your Skyward profile and update information and check your preferences for Skylert notifications. If you are new to NPS or have never established a Skyward parent access account, all instructions for completing these processes are on the NPS website. If you need assistance with Skyward or Skylert, please contact Laurie Gracik at the High School.

The Newaygo chapter of the National Honor Society is readying itself for the induction of new members. Members are selected based on Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. In early October current juniors and seniors who have been in attendance at Newaygo for at least one semester and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or better are considered by the faculty council for membership. Those found to be in good standing with the high school are invited to submit profiles to the council for consideration. Successful students will be inducted on December 9th @ 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.



NPS is in need of caring adults to work as bus drivers. Individuals must have a MDOT Physical card and a CDL, Class B with P, S and Air Brake Endorsements. Please consider joining our team of drivers! Q. Why would I want to become a bus driver? A. To have a positive influence on the lives of kids. Drivers also have the luxury of being off during weekends, holidays, school breaks, etc. Q. What if I cannot commit to driving a bus every morning and every afternoon? A. We always have a need for substitute bus drivers. Substitutes help us cover routes when regular drivers are absent. Q. I am a stay-at-home Mom. How could I possibly make this work? A. We can make arrangements for people who have children. We are willing to collaborate with people to make accommodations depending on the ages of the children. Q. I have been mildly interested in helping our students and becoming a bus driver. How does the process work to get certification and trained to drive a bus? A. In order to get the MDOT Physical card, a person must get a physical. This physical is paid for by NPS. **Q.** What happens after I get the Physical process complete? A. Once an individual has acquired the MDOT physical card, he/she should meet with Chris Cronk to get a study guide and instructions for preparing for the CDL tests. Q. What is the format of the initial tests and where do I take them? A. Tests are done on a computer at the Secretary of State's Office. Q. Once I pass the tests, what happens next? A. Training to become a bus driver begins. This takes approximately 14-17 hours. Bus driver trainees are paid by NPS for the time they spend training. Q. Once I am done training, what do I have to do? A. Bus driver trainees then go to Muskegon to take the final test to get their bus driver credential. Once a person passes this step, he/she begins learning our bus routes and riding with other drivers. While doing all of these things, bus driver trainees are paid for their time. Q. What does a bus driver get paid? A. A driver with a regular route gets paid \$34 per route (\$68 per day). A substitute driver makes \$30 per route. Our average routes are approximately 90-105 minutes long. Extra pay is given for drivers that take trips transporting students to field trips, sporting events, etc. Q. I have heard that driving a bus can be a tough job. What if I'm a little apprehensive? A. Bus drivers (like all educators) have the opportunity to affect young lives and touch the future. Like any job in education, when adults build encouraging and reassuring relationships with students, the outcome is that NPS students benefit greatly. SCHOOL BUG **O. I have more questions. Who should I contact?** A. Chris Cronk at 652-1112.

Project Citizen 5th grade students participated in an amazing event at True North Community Service on 9/11. Students learned about the events of 9/11 from many local heroes; current military personnel, veterans and firefighters. After small group breakout sessions, students painted bowls for the Empty Bowl Event hosted by True North. The bowls will be auctioned to provide for the True North On-Site Food Pantry. This is one of the many community service projects that our Project Citizen students will do this year in efforts to give back and provide a helping hand.





"Project Citizen increases student understanding of becoming responsible citizens of the United States. All NPS 5th grade students participate. Project citizen builds awareness of community responsibility in our students and helps bridge the gap between school and community."

-Superintendent Mathis





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Current Velma Matson Upper Elementary School

- 'Old' portion built in 1926
- 'New' portion built in 1992



Proposed K-4 Elementary School on Velma Matson site

- Renovate the 'new' portion that was built in 1992
- Tear down the 'old' portion and replace with new facility with add-ons as shown in drawing below



FACILITIES PLAN MOVING FORWARD

Last year, the Newaygo School Board authorized a facilities study. TowerPinkster (architect and engineering firm) and The Christman Company (Construction Management firm) completed this study during the 2014-2015 school year. The preliminary findings were presented to a community group and it was revealed that making a plan to fix up all four of our school buildings would be cost prohibitive. Our elementary schools are in need of much repair and while our middle school and high school buildings are in good shape, there are still items that need to be addressed at those buildings as well.

Consequently, other options were examined. Vacating two elementary schools and building a new one is not feasible or the best financial option. TowerPinkster and Christman have devised a plan to renovate the "newer" portion of Velma Matson and tear down and build new in the "older" portion of Velma Matson. The end result would be a K-4 Elementary School on the site where the Velma Matson building now stands. The Vera Wilsie building would be vacated.

Q & A

Q. Why don't we just fix up what we have?

A. To address the needs at the Vera Wilsie building alone would cost over \$10,000,000. The total project to fix everything in every building would be over \$40,000,000.

Q. Why don't we look for land and build a new K-4 elementary school?

A. After gathering input from parents and community members, the sentiment is that Newaygo has always had a school "on the hill" and it is important to preserve the heritage and culture of the school and community.

Q. Will all students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade fit in one building?

A. We are required to get authorized enrollment projections for the NPS district before we go the voters and/or start a building project. These enrollment projections are the guide by which we plan for classroom space and facilities. At this time, indications are such that a K-4 facility like the one shown will meet our needs for now.

Q. What will happen to the Vera Wilsie building?

A. This building will be vacated and not used by NPS. Sale of the building or demolition will need to occur.

Q. What type of work would be done at the other buildings?

A. Some of the work includes the following. The middle school needs some roof work done and control systems need to be replaced. The high school needs to have boilers replaced. Additionally, safe and secure entrances at each building need to be addressed.

Q. What is the total cost of a big project like this?

A. Right now to build this facility and do improvements at the other buildings, the total cost would be approximately \$23,000,000.

Q. How can a project like this be paid for?

A. We plan to go to the voters in May, 2016 for bond approval in an election.

Q. What will this cost me?

A. We currently levy 6.5 mills in our school district. That millage rate is scheduled to "step down" in the near future. If the voters approve this, the millage would not "step down" and would remain at 6.5 mills for a longer period of time. Therefore, the actual amount of taxes levied on a home would remain constant (unless property values increase) but the 6.5 mills would extend longer into the future.

Q. I have more questions. Where can I get more information?

A. Superintendent Peg Mathis can be reached at 231-652-4933.



Musical chairs is always a favorite activity when it comes to NHS pep assemblies!







Left to right: Sophomore Representatives: Daisy Hagen and Brian Gomez; Senior Representatives: Chloe Nelson and Ryan Karrip; Senior Representatives Queen Katelyn Wright and King Joseph Barnett; Freshmen Representatives Princess Sam Dosch and Prince Andrew Goodin Senior Representatives: Tosha Cross and Sawyer Biegalle and Junior Representatives: Shelby Acosta and Gabriel Smith.

Middle School





As part of the 5th grade science body system unit, Mrs. Erica Jordan from the Grand Rapids YMCA is visiting each classroom for 6 weeks. She is teaching the students about the importance of nutrition

to keep our bodies healthy. Each lesson includes exercise, class discussion, activities and a healthy snack!

The Newaygo Middle School of Newaygo, Michigan is currently looking for corporate businesses, local businesses, universities, colleges, families and individuals to donate or sponsor the E.T. Cyber Cafe. We are working on raising funds to change the library from a "passive warehouse" to a more active community center, learning center, study center, technology center to meet the needs of our 21st century learners.

Advances in technology and the wealth of information available online can appear to make rooms filled with books obsolete, however libraries are still very important! The Entrepreneurship and Technology (E.T.) Club students will think critically, collaborate, plan and create a cyber cafe in the library to build a career-focused and college-going culture within our district. The E.T. Club students will gain exposure to a college-going culture, learn job skills to increase the likelihood that they're going to be able to be successful in an employment situation. The club will create a sense of community and transform the library into a user-friendly space with 21st century services to ensure the library stays viable. This project will immerse kids in business and technology skills that top colleges and employers are seeking, while maximizing the social and interactive nature of the physical library space and preserving the book experience. The E.T. Cyber Cafe will encourage the students to come to the library to read, work and use the technology.

<u>Our fundraising goal for The E.T. Cyber Cafe is \$21,600.</u> This includes electronics, reading apps, furniture, cafe equipment, college decor and basic start up business expenses. Your contribution will bring us one step closer to providing Newaygo Middle School students a 21st Century learning environment. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. The Fremont Area Community Foundation has granted \$5,000 towards The E.T. Cyber Cafe contingent on achieving the rest of our goal.

Top Level Sponsor: \$5,000+ Acknowledged as the official E.T. Cyber Cafe Sponsor on all E.T. Cyber Cafe signage, sponsor wall, and on printed promotional material.

Doctorate Sponsorship: \$2,000 Acknowledged as a sponsor on E.T. Cyber Cafe furniture, sponsor wall and on printed promotional material.

Master's Sponsorship: \$1,000 Acknowledged as a sponsor on an E.T. Cyber Cafe electronic, sponsor wall, and on printed promotional material.

Bachelor's Sponsorship: \$500 Acknowledged on sponsor wall and on printed promotional material. **Associate Sponsorship:** \$250 Acknowledged on printed promotional material.

Please return your tax-deductible contribution (by December, 21st) to the Newaygo Middle School, 850 E. 76th St., POB 820, Newaygo, MI 49337 Attn: Jaime Harkness, E.T. Cyber Cafe Coordinator. If you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at (231) 720.5032 or by email at jharkness@newaygo.net. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Jaime Harkness E.T. Cyber Cafe Coordinator

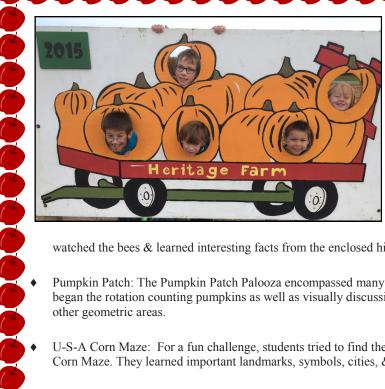
Brad Reyburn NMS Principal



Students in Mrs. Harkness' 5th grade social studies class learned more about the seat belt laws on school buses from 8-Cap Transportation Director Kevin Harkness. Mr. Harkness was invited to speak on this issue after students learned about the legislative branch, how a bill becomes a law and shared powers between the federal and state governments. The majority of 5th grade students questioned why Congress has not pushed for having seat belts on school buses. Mr. Harkness was able to explain the research behind the safety of not having seat belts and why the legislators have not made it a law requiring children to wear them on a school bus.

November 2015

Velma Matson Upper Elementary



On Friday, October 23, the 2nd grade students took a field trip to Heritage Farms. Our students were able to be involved in the following activities:

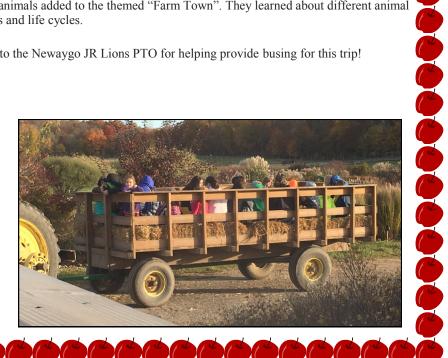
Apple Cider Pressing: Students saw how ٠ apples are pressed to make delicious apple cider. They learned the basics of supply & demand for cider. Each participant received a cup of cider, an apple and a homemade doughnut from the bakery.

Heritage Bee Hives: The honey gathering ٠ pollination activities of bees are vitally important to fruit and vegetable production. We

watched the bees & learned interesting facts from the enclosed hives.

- Pumpkin Patch: The Pumpkin Patch Palooza encompassed many Common Core State Standards. The staff began the rotation counting pumpkins as well as visually discussing lines of symmetry, shape formation and other geometric areas.
- U-S-A Corn Maze: For a fun challenge, students tried to find their way through the states & capitals themed Corn Maze. They learned important landmarks, symbols, cities, & regions in the U.S.
 - "I Spy" Hayride: Students took a scenic ride through the woods and apple orchards while spotting the "Farm Five". A fact sheet was provided about the "Farm Five" and trying to find the objects was enjoyable.
 - Farm Town: Children saw the animals added to the themed "Farm Town". They learned about different animal traits, characteristics, structures and life cycles.

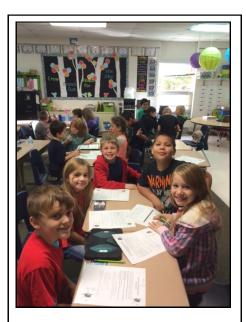
It was a wonderful trip! Thank you to the Newaygo JR Lions PTO for helping provide busing for this trip!



Newaygo Public Schools

Velma Matson Positive Behavior Interventions and W.I.N.

Each Wednesday morning, Velma Matson students participate in W.I.N. time, or "What I Need", to support and enrich what they are learning both academically and behaviorally. For the first four sessions of W.I.N. time, students at all grade levels, $2^{nd} - 4^{th}$ grade, participated in various activities to practice important Positive Behavior expectations that complement our school's message to R.O.A.R. with pride in the classroom, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and other areas of the school. Students participated in a wide range of activities, in different classrooms, to apply what it means to Respect Others, Act Responsibly and Safely--making W.I.N. time fun and successful for all!



Third graders created commercials to advertise how a Newaygo Lion R.O.A.R.S. with pride at Velma Matson when we Respect Others, Act Responsibly and Safely.



Second graders created a flow map of Cafeteria Expectations during one of the W.I.N. time sessions to promote positive behavior at Velma Matson.



Newaygo Lions show what it looks like and sounds like to show respect in the classroom as they create commercials to promote positive behavior.



Ms. Strong helps students record their Lion Pride commercials.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK @facebook.com/newaygopride



Learning at Vera Wilsie!

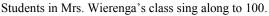
The students at Vera have been working hard to make sure they are doing their very best day in and day out. Students are meeting the challenges that are given to them by their teachers, learning throughout each day. The utilization of technology, differentiation of academic instructional levels, and providing of a safe and caring environment are many of the ways this occurs.



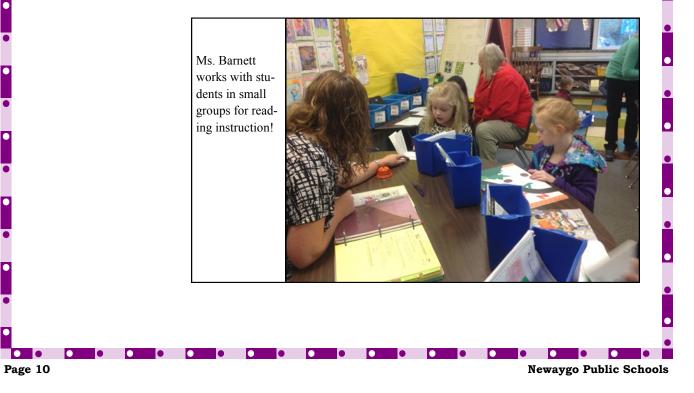
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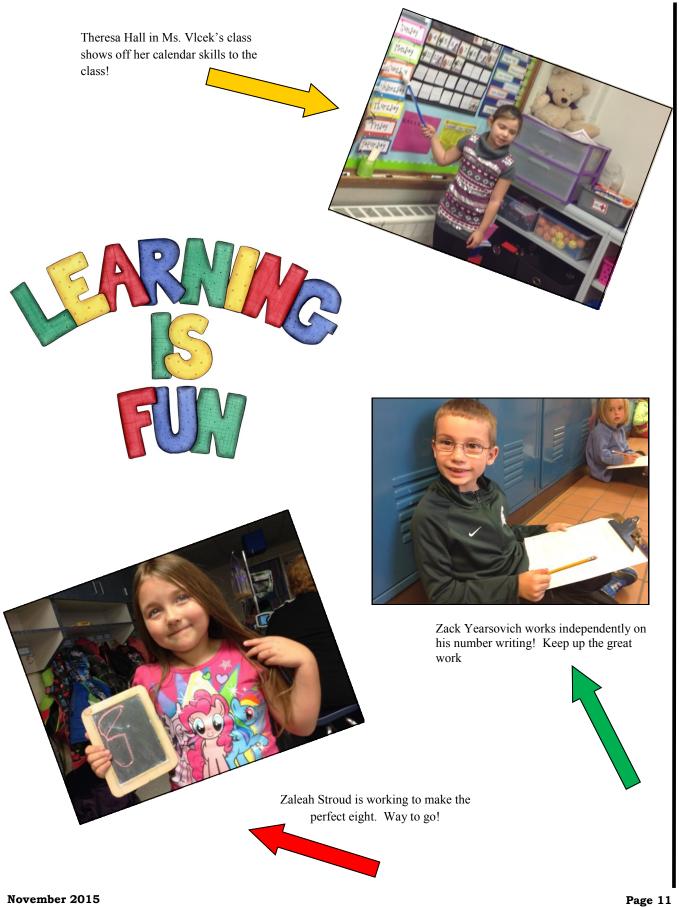
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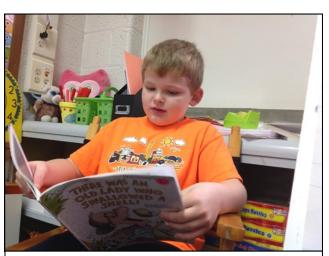




Vera Wilsie Elementary



Thinking through a math problem on the carpet is always fun! Just ask Caiden Rusnell.



Colten Brown works on his reading skills!

As grandparents and special family friends are such a vital part of family life, the first graders at Vera Wilsie Elementary celebrated with them on October 2nd. The students in first grade invited their respective grandparents or a special person back to school for fun, learning and celebration. There were songs and stories in the gym and then the grandparents and specials were escorted to the classrooms where there were family trees to create~ a social studies objective, lots of sharing and of course, treats! Mr. DeShano, the Vera Wilsie principal, even shared a treasured memory and picture of he and his grandfather with the first grade students and their guests. A sincere thank you goes out to all Grandparents and Special Friends for attending this event. You have helped make another loving lasting memory.



Vera Wilsie Elementary students had the opportunity to meet with Firefighters from the Newaygo Fire Department on Wednesday September 30th, 2015. The kindergartners were able to learn how not to be afraid of a firefighter in their gear, to yell out if they are inside, and to call 9-1-1 if there is an emergency. The visit ended with a view of the fire engine. The first graders enjoyed a special classroom visit from the firefighters where they learned about creating a safe escape plan and they practiced STOP, drop and roll. They were also able to hear what a firefighter sounds like when they are wearing all of their gear, so that they are not afraid. Thank you so much for visiting us and kicking off fire prevention week!





NPS is in need of bus drivers and substitute teachers.

If you are interested in being a **bus driver**, please contact Chris Cronk 652-1112 (see page 2 for Q & A).

Interested in becoming a **substitute teacher**? Please contact PESG at 866-SUBPASS (see back page of newsletter).

Interested in working in food service? Please contact Mary Anne Charette 652-9286

Board of Education

Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting Monday, June 15, 2015.

The Board received an overview of the proposed 2015-16 General Fund Operating Budget and the School Service Fund during the budget hearing. There was no public comment.

During the regular meeting: the Board approved the Michigan High School Athletic Association Membership Resolution; set the first day of school for the 2015-16 school year: Tuesday, September 8, 2015; and established the date for the board's Organizational Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Newaygo High School Library. TowerPinkster/Crisman gave a brief presentation to the board. The Academic Highlight was introduced by Dr. Mathis and presented by building principals.

The Board hired Allison Brummel, Secretary, Vera Wilsie Elementary School and Kirk Fansler, Boys Freshman Basketball Coach. Letters of resignation were received by: Dan

Maki, Freshman Boys Basketball coach; Jeff Milbourne, Varsity Head Baseball coach; Lisa Portell, High school Aide and Stacey Kirk, Vera Wilsie Elementary school Aide.

The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:

Approved the 2014-15 Budget Amendment for General Fund and the revises 2014-15 Food Service Budget, Approved the 2015-16 Budgets for General Fund Operating and School Service Fund, Approved the Resolution for Levying Taxes for 2015, Approved the Newaygo Education Association (NEA) Union bargaining agreement for 2015-16.

Special Meeting Saturday, June 27, 2015.

The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items: Approved contracts for Administrators / Support Staff for the 2015-16 School Year; Approved the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) bargaining agreement for 2015-16.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are available on the district website. www.newaygo.net

Anyone with questions regarding any meeting of the Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education is invited to contact any member of the Board of Education or Superintendent Peggy Mathis at (231) 652-6984. Minutes of any meeting of the Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education are available for review in the school district's administration office, 360 S. Mill Street, Newaygo, MI 49337. The Board Held an Organizational Meeting and took the following actions:

Approved policies regarding Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Board Members, and Board Position Vacancies, as were approved in March 2008, Established the third Monday of each month at 6:00 o'clock p.m. in the high school library as the dates/time/place for regular meetings, established the date for the Board's Work Session as Monday, June 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library, and established July as the month for future organizational meetings. Designated banks and depository, the Times-Indicator as the school district's official newspaper, and the school district's attorney firms. Appointed assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers, and Approved the Legal Reference Note.

During the regular meeting the Board hired Jenifer Thomasma, 1st Grade Teacher and Victoria Vlcek, 1st Grade Teacher.

A letter of resignation was received by Mary VanDam, Aide, Vera Wilsie Elementary School.

The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:

Approved the Superintendent Employment Agreement, and Approved the contracts for the Athletic Director & Support Personnel for the 2015-16 School Year.

The Board of Education considered the following New Business items:

Cross Country Camp-Overnight Trip Request, Athletic Code Consent Form - Revised Increase in Lunch Prices, Student/Staff/ Parent Handbooks for 2015-16, Resolution for School Calendar Option for 2015-16.

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 17, 2015.

The Board of Education hired Branden Listh, part-time Music Teacher and Paul Bailey, Varsity Baseball coach.

The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:

Resolution for School Calendar Option for 2015-16, Cross Country Camp-Overnight Trip Request, Athletic Code Consent Form –

Revised, Increase in Lunch Prices, Student/ Staff/Parent Handbooks for 2014-15.

The Board of Education considered the following New Business items:

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Delegate Assembly Representatives.

The Board was update on the finances of the District.

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2015.

Ms. Angie Roelofs from Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C. presented the Draft Audit to the board.

Academic Highlight - Presenters were introduced by Mrs. Deb Iwema, Middle School teacher. Presenters consisted of Middle school students; they took board members outside and showed them the different gardens outside of the middle school that they have worked on and described the different type of plant species that are planted in each garden.

Letters of resignation were received by Inger Andree – Aide Vera Wilsie Elementary, Amber Aparicio – Aide Velma Matson Upper Elementary, James Harrington – Bus Driver, Tracy Harrington – Bus Aide.

The Board of Education hired Jennifer Larsen, Heather Horning, Karla Winter – Aide at Vera Wilsie Elementary; Stacey Kirk & Andrea Hether – Aides at Velma Matson Upper Elementary; Brooke Schaffer – One on One Aide at High School.

The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:

Adopted and Approved Draft Audit, Reinstated a High School student, Approved Amendment to Board Policy 8260, Approved High School Science students Costa Rica trip, Named Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Delegate Assembly Representatives, Named Board Representative for Newaygo County School Board Association.

The Board of Education considered the following New Business items:

Cross Country Over-night Trip Request.

The Board was update on the finances of the District.

Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education meets on the third Monday of every month. Meetings are held in the Library of the Newaygo High School, 200 East St., Newaygo, MI 49337. Meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m.

2015-2016 School Calendar

November 6	End of First Marking Period	
November 9	Half-Day Students; Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00-4:00 & 5:00-8:00p	
November 12	K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 p.m.	
November 25, 26, 27	No School - Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1	No School- Christmas Break	
January 4	School Resumes	
January 22	Half-Day Students; End of 1st Semester-Records Day in p.m.	
January 25	No School for Students; Records & Professional Development	
February 18	Half-Day Students; Begin Mid-Winter Break	
February 19	No School - Mid-Winter Break	
February 22*	No School - Mid-Winter Break	
March 14	No School for Students; Teacher P.D. in a.m., Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00-4:00p	
March 15	NPS Lion Pride Night 5:00-8:00p	
March 24	End of Third Marking Period	
March 25	No School - Good Friday	
April 1	No School - Spring Break	
April 4-8	No School - Spring Break	
May 30	No School - Memorial Day	
June 9	Half-Day Students; Records Day in p.m.	
June 10	Half-Day Students; Records Day in p.m. Last Day of School.	

*Alternate Days of Instruction. If additional days of instruction are needed to comply with State Requirements of minimal number of hours of instruction (1,098) they will be added on dates indicated and/or the end of the school year.

Board of Education

Bret Brummel, President Vince Grodus, Vice-President Jim Badgero, Treasurer Jackie Malsom, Secretary Reid Sherwood, Trustee Jann Holeman, Trustee Melissa Swinehart, Trustee



2015-16 Administration

Peggy Mathis	Superintendent	652-6984
Cindy Blamer	Business Manager	652-6984
Jackie Knight	H.S. Principal	652-1646
Sarah Rodriguez	Assistant H.S. Principal	652-1646
Brad Reyburn	M.S. Principal	652-1285
Steve Bush	Velma Matson Upper Elem.	652-2100
Adam DeShano	Vera Wilsie Elem. Principal	652-6371
Bud Gould	Dir. Buildings & Grounds	652-9313
Chris Cronk	Dir. Transportation	652-1112
Mary Anne Charette	Dir. Food Services	652-9286
Adam DeShano	Dir. Athletics	652-1646
Walter Aslakson	Technology Director	652-1646



Are you a past Fremont Area **Community Foundation** Scholarship recipient?

Did you receive a scholarship from Fremont Area Community Foundation between May 2010 and May 2015? If so, you may be eligible for one of two cash awards!

The Ready2Work Award and Graduation Award are designed to help our graduates to a better future. For more information, visit facommunityfoundation.org/scholarships.





Thought about becoming a substitute teacher? **NPS needs you!**

Please contact PESG for details.

866-SUBPASS or www.subpass.com



Newaygo Public Schools 360 S. Mill Street P.O. Box 820 Newaygo, MI 49337

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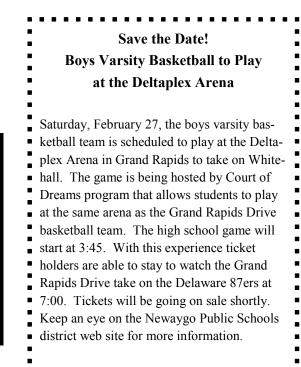


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The Newaygo Public Schools Newsletter is published by the Newaygo Board of Education and Administration. All news for this publication should be sent to the Administration Office, 360 S. Mill St., P.O. Box 820, Newaygo, MI 49337. All submissions should be sent to the attention of Jessie Borkowski, Editor. Newaygo Public Schools is committed to the policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin and handicap in all of its programs.