

Board Proceedings

The Board of Directors for the New Hampton Community School District met in regular session, Monday, July 21, 2025, in the High School FCS Room. President Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with directors Denner, N. Schwickerath, A. Schwickerath, Superintendent E. Smith. Director Shawver and Board Secretary Roethler were absent. Superintendent Office Administrative Assistants Emily Hemesath and Laurie Thraenert assisted with board notes.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the agenda. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director Denner moved to approve the consent agenda. Approve minutes of June 16, 2025 regular session. Approve the June monthly financial report and the July 2025 bill listing. Approve the following recommendations: Colletta Harnisch (High School Paraeducator), Morgan Foreman (Elementary Special Ed Teacher), Alicia De los Reyes (High School Spanish Teacher), David Hoehne (JV Football Coach), Irisyanet Sandoval and Silvia Rodriguez Avalos (Evening Custodians). All new hires are pending obtaining suitable licensure and passing appropriate background checks. Approve the following contract updates of an additional \$0.75/hour for Zach Prouty and Bill Richter (Transportation Assistants). Approve the termination of Juan Zapata (Custodian). Director N. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Superintendent Smith presented information on the milk and bread bids. Director Denner moved to accept the milk bid from Anderson & Erickson and the bread bid from Bimbo Bakeries. Director N. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve First Citizens Bank as the district's depository with a limit of Ten Million. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director Denner moved to appoint the Chief of Police as the city truant officer and the Sheriff as the county truant officer. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Superintendent Smith presented the IASB Legislative Priorities. After discussion the board moved to endorse the following resolutions: Director A. Schwickerath moved to approve the following IASB Priorities. Director N. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

#7. We believe supplemental state aid is a critical component in student success by providing districts with adequate general fund resources. SUPPLEMENTAL STATE AID The school aid formula is the biggest driver in providing resources for a high-quality education that translates to a successful future for our students and economic growth in our state. A school's general fund supports a high-quality teacher workforce, critical for student achievement. We support state policies on supplemental state aid rate that: • Sufficiently supports the ability of local districts to meet parent and community expectations and provide a world-class education for all students. • Provides the resources to recruit and retain a high-quality teacher and staff workforce. • Incorporates inflation and cost-of-living increases to minimize the negative impact on a district's general fund from these increased costs. SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY Schools and school boards have a longstanding commitment to provide students with the programs and services they need to be successful. We support state policies on public school funding that: • Sufficiently supports the ability of local districts to meet parent and community expectations and provides a world class education to all students. • Equalize per-pupil funding for all program areas. • Equitably funds all Area Education Agencies (AEAs). • Maintain the funding mechanism for transportation costs that reduces the pressure on the general fund and addresses inequities between school districts. • Include factors based on changes in demographics, including socio-economic status, remedial programming, and enrollment challenges. • Reflect actual costs for special education services. • Support flexibility in the use of voter and board-approved special levy funds. • Incorporate categorical funding in the formula within three years. • Include a mix of state aid and property taxes. • Increase the budget guarantee to 103% to provide additional stability to support student achievement for districts with declining enrollment. PROPERTY TAXES © Iowa Association of School Boards 9 A strong connection between school districts and the community is important to ensure local accountability. Property taxes provide a stable form of financial support for public schools. We support state policies that: • Ensure efforts to minimize property tax disparities created by the additional levy rate without compromising additional resources to school districts. • Maintain the ability of districts to determine discretionary levies • Improve transparency and limits on the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) including: • Input from all affected taxing bodies before creation of a TIF district; and • A limit on the duration of all TIF districts. We oppose any limitation on the rate of growth of the total property tax rate and property tax collections for school districts. TAX BASE A stable and growing tax base is essential to ensure sufficient funding to school districts to support a world class education for all students. We oppose a constitutional amendment that would limit taxes, spending, or local control impacting education. We support state policies to: • Conduct a non-partisan annual review and analysis of all current income, sales, or property tax exemptions and any other tax credits or deductions currently, including an analysis of the impact on Iowa's economy and state and local tax revenues. • Conduct a non-partisan cost-benefit analysis, including the impact on Iowa's economy and state and local tax revenues prior to the creation of a new tax credit. • Eliminate any tax credits that are proven ineffective. • Limit the authority to approve any tax law changes that restrict future tax bases or provide additional tax breaks to the legislature. • Ensure transparency of current tax laws and proposed tax law changes on the direct and indirect impact on public school funding. BOND ISSUES Local community investment in world-class education facilities is an important part of providing the best opportunities for student achievement. We support state policies to: • Allow school bond issues to be passed by a simple majority vote. • Provide the authority to levy a combination of property taxes and income surtaxes to pay the indebtedness. • Clarify that revenue bonds do not count toward a 5% statutory debt limit. • Allow bond issues to be on the ballot during any special election date. UNFUNDED MANDATES Mandates on school districts that are imposed

without funding put pressure on the school's general fund budget and can negatively impact efforts to provide a high-quality education for © Iowa Association of School Boards 10 all students. We oppose any mandate that does not provide adequate and direct funding for successful implementation. SPECIAL EDUCATION All students deserve a world-class education, regardless of disability. To ensure the success of students receiving special education services, we support policies that will: • Ensure predictable and timely state funding reflective of these students' actual cost and needs, including educational programming and healthcare. • Support federal funding that covers 40% of the cost of educating students receiving special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). • Modernize and fully fund IDEA by emphasizing improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

#8. We believe that every student deserves to learn, and every staff member deserves to work, in a safe and secure environment.

SCHOOL SAFETY Every student and staff member should have a safe and secure environment in which to learn and work. We support state policies to: • Expand resources and evidence-based training for staff and adults working with students to address behavioral issues. • Provide early identification, intervention, and school violence prevention programs. • Enhance flexibility for schools to work with parents, the community, law enforcement and emergency personnel to institute safety measures in and around schools. • Provide evidence-based school safety training for students and staff. • Allow maximum flexibility and equitable distribution of resources to meet student, staff and building safety needs. • Protect school staff from physical or verbal abuse from parents and/or guardians and students.

#2. We believe that a high-quality teacher workforce is necessary for student achievement.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND LICENSURE © Iowa Association of School Boards 3 A highly skilled teacher workforce is essential to student achievement and can be supported by state policies that: • Ensure high-quality teacher preparation programs, including alternative licensure programs that include in-classroom experiences, pedagogy training, content knowledge in curricular area and mentoring for individuals with non-traditional or international education backgrounds. • Encourage initiatives and programs that diversify Iowa's teaching profession to better match our student demographic makeup. • Support increased funding and more equitable distribution for the Teach Iowa Scholar loan repayment program. • Create programs for student teaching grants and stipends and expand teacher apprenticeship programs to make education careers a more attractive and affordable option. • Create a program to provide beginning teacher incentives and recruitment incentives to attract high-quality teachers. • Create reciprocity agreements with other states that have high-quality teacher preparation programs to increase diversity among certified teachers and administrators. TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION • Developing effective teachers and keeping them in every Iowa school district is crucial to student success and can be supported through state policies that: • Provide teacher leadership and quality professional development programs. • Provide beginning teacher mentoring programs. • Maintain Iowa's teacher leadership and compensation program • Create a program to fund retention incentives to maintain a high-quality teacher workforce. • Allow flexibility and resources to pay school staff market competitive wages.

#4. We believe that student, educator, and staff mental health needs must be addressed and supported to improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates, and maintain a high-quality workforce.

DROPOUT/AT RISK School boards strive to provide every student with the services they need to remain in school, progress, and graduate to become productive citizens. We support state policies to: • Include dropout prevention and funding for at-risk students in the foundation formula and the socio-economic status as a factor in determining a student's at-risk status. • Equalize the ability of all districts to generate dropout prevention funds. • Increase district participation in statewide programs that serve at-risk students. MENTAL HEALTH Mental health issues are increasing and impacting student achievement. To address these concerns, we support state policies that would establish comprehensive school and community mental health systems to offer preventative and treatment services to: • Increase access to mental health professionals via in-school, in-person, or telehealth visits. • Expand the capacity for therapeutic classrooms to provide short-term solutions to behavioral issues. • Improve awareness and understanding of child emotional and mental health needs through ongoing teacher, administrator, and support staff training. • Integrate suicide prevention and coping skills into existing curriculum. • Support the mental health needs of educators and staff. • Provide a comprehensive mental health resources clearinghouse for schools and community providers. • Expand training that includes a referral plan for continuing action provided by mental health professionals outside of the school district. • Designate a categorical funding stream for mental health professionals serving students and ongoing teacher, administrator, and support staff mental health training. • Support development of a mental health workforce to provide services to children. ABSENTEEISM Attendance at school is essential for students to succeed, but chronic absenteeism has steadily increased. We support reasonable and appropriate state policies that address and improve attendance across grade levels, including: © Iowa Association of School Boards 5 • Locally-elected school boards should have the authority to identify chronic absenteeism that has the potential to, or already is, negatively impacting student achievement. • School boards shall collaborate with the appropriate school staff, outside experts and county attorneys to address those problems, including determining appropriate and consistent supports and enforcement for students who are deemed chronically absent or truant. • Providing resources for school districts to address attendance issues early through collaboration with parents, early intervention and dedicated staff.

Superintendent Smith presented information regarding the Athletic Director Stipend. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the increase of \$2,000 to be added to the FY26 Contract and moving forward the yearly negotiated settlement amount will be added to the AD Contract. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the negotiated 20 vacation days for the School Business Official Christy Roethler. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director A. Schwickerath moved to approve milk fees for the 25-26 school year. Extra milk cost will remain the same at \$.40 and the afternoon milk fee will increase from \$45 to \$60. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Superintendent Smith presented information on Board Policy 503.9 & 503.9R1 regarding the regulation for Student use of personal electronic devices. These policies were to go in effect July 1, so Superintendent Smith asked the board to waive the first reading and approve the policy and regulations. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve Board Policy and Regulation for 503.9 & 503.9R1. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30pm. There will be a work session prior to the meeting at 6:15pm.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to adjourn at 7:25pm. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

**Monthly Bills
July 2025
General Fund (10)**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aegerter, Lisa	150.00	Principal Life Insurance Company	597.44
Amazon Capital Services	6,910.86	Quadient Finance	5,000.00
Bauler, Rachel	0.00	Roethler, Christy	259.00
Chickasaw Wellness Complex	300.00	Rural School Advocates of Iowa	750.00
City of New Hampton	15,252.92	School Specialty, LLC	721.65
Decorah Mobile Glass, Inc.	237.00	Schumacher Elevator Company	4,243.36
Dowd, Leo	100.00	Sherwin-Williams Co.	910.72
Frontline Technologies Group, LLC	6,292.06	Smith, Erik	591.71
Glenn, Jill	206.00	Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.	721.00
Hulbert, Shawn	150.00	Threanert, Laurie	45.00
Iowa Assoc. of School Boards	4,576.00	Trinity Health International	30.00
Iowa Division of Criminal Inv	500.00	Turkey Valley Community School	200.00
ISFIS, Inc.	1,858.20	VISA	345.32
Madison National Life Insurance	2,187.71	Washington National Ins. Co.	800.10
NHMU Fiber	310.00	Wickham, Laura	150.00
Pearce, Rodney	100.00	Windstream	1,856.06
PowerSchool Group LLC	7,656.60		
		Fund Total:	\$ 64,008.71
Capital Projects	(33)	Physical Plant & Equipment	(36)
L & R Manufacturing, LLC	5,642.00	Larry's Sales & Service	640.00
Fund Total:	\$ 5,642.00	Fund Total:	\$ 640.00
Debt Service	(40)	Management	(22)
Piper Sandler & Co.	1,000.00	Community Insurance of Iowa	512,055.00
Fund Total:	\$ 1,000.00	EMC Insurance Companies	653.45
		Iowa LGRP	134,413.50
		STORM PROTECTION FUND	43,445.00
		Fund Total:	\$ 690,566.95

Attest: July 21, 2025

Jay Matthews
Board President

Christy Roethler
Board Secretary