

Newberry Community School Board Meeting

November 4, 2025
6:30 PM

Newberry City Hall
25440 W Newberry Rd.
Newberry FL, 32669

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER at: 6:30pm by: Derek Danne/ Chair

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Board members present=Derek Danne/ Chair, Chuck Clemons, Leslie Hayes Morrison/ Treasurer, Leslie McGehee/ Vice Chair, Veronica Kadala/ Secretary; Quorum: present by roll call

Others present=Principal Designee/ Lacy Roberts, Parent Representative/ Leslie Hayes Morrison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda as distributed

Made by: Chuck Clemons; Second by: Leslie McGehee; No discussion;

Vote: passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve consent agenda

Made by: Leslie McGehee; Second by: Leslie Hayes Morrison; No discussion;

Vote: passed unanimously

1. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting (10/20/25)
2. 501(c)(3) Application

PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT TO 2 MINUTES): No public comments at that time (opportunity to make public comments was also given during discussion of agenda items)

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Emerald Data - IT Infrastructure**= Motion to approve an hourly rate of \$195.00 for Emerald Data to provide consulting services, with a cap of 50 hours, before coming back to board for approval.

Made by: Chuck Clemons; Second by: Leslie Hayes Morrison

Discussion: included type of services and timelines for service provision. Emerald Data will be given direction by the principal.

Vote: passed unanimously

2. **Principal Hiring Update** = Motion to hire Lacy Roberts as principal and enter into contract negotiation with hiring date of 11/17/2025. (the original motion to hire Lacy Roberts as principal was amended to include entering into contract negotiation and the time frame.)

Made by: Chuck Clemons; Second by: Veronica Kadala

Discussion: included information that only one candidate stood out and was chosen by all board members, as one of their top candidates. It was agreed that no other candidate was as strong in knowledge, experience, and local connection as that one. It was also discussed whether interviews should still be done with that candidate and at least one other candidate as an indicator of transparency in the process. The other top candidates revealed concerns that were unlikely, or not at all, to be resolved enough to be considered as viable candidates for the principal position. It was decided that, in order not to waste their time unnecessarily, further interviews, just for the show of doing interviews, would not be done. Public comment included concerns about bias in favor of the candidate. Although concern was shared by one board member about selecting a candidate without further interviews, that member also concurred that the top candidate was the best choice for the principal position.

Vote: passed unanimously

3. Timeline for Student Enrollment = Motion to adopt timeline for student enrollment

Made by: Chuck Clemons; Second by Leslie McGehee

Discussion: There was some discussion and clarification regarding the enrollment zone and preferences. Enrollment will begin on February 1, 2026 and close on March 1, 2026. Procedures for enrollment were provided, including a lottery process, as needed. The projected number of seats for students, as well as the number of teachers needed, per grade level, to achieve and maintain the class size requirements, was provided. These numbers were adjusted to account for current enrollment at the school: K= 108 students, 6 teachers; 1st= 126 students, 7 teachers; 2nd= 144 students, 8 teachers; 3rd=126 students, 7 teachers; 4th=132 students, 6 teachers; PreK ESE= 20 students, 2 teachers.

Vote: passed unanimously

FINANCE REPORT: presented by: Derek Danne

1. All board members will get monthly statement to review
2. The financial committee will report

CONSULTANT UPDATE/ Lacy Roberts:

1. The web page being built out by Liquid is evolving; they have finished the branding kit.
2. There will be a flyer and banner for festivals that directs to the webpage.
3. We need to find out if board members will participate at the Fall festival at Greenfield this coming Saturday starting at 5:00pm
4. Lacy has been meeting weekly with NES staff and answering their questions. The #1 issue expressed is the behavior policy. Teachers seem to be showing positive energy. It's estimated that 65% of teachers are on board with the charter school.
5. Lacy has been working on enrollment – in particular an electronic form
6. Lacy has asked the district about NCS putting out a teacher intent form in December
7. Lacy has been working on a staffing form that she will bring to the board soon.
8. Board meetings will be held one time per month, on the third Monday of every month, starting in December.

9. Lacy will be sending board members regular updates. Board was cautioned not to “reply” or “reply all”, but, rather, to call or text Lacy with any comments or questions.
10. Lacy will send out policies so that the board can review and vote on in the next meeting.
11. Board members need to get training and fingerprinting done ASAP.
12. A temporary phone number has been set up.
13. There will be an NCS office in the Little Red Schoolhouse building, with a computer, that can be used there for student enrollment.
14. Lacy asked if board members would be interested in having shirts embroidered with the NCS logo for when they attended events.
15. There will be no VPK at NCS in order to keep classroom space available for the other grade levels and PreK ESE.

LEGAL UPDATE/ Shawn Arnold:

The attorney was not available

BOARD COMMENTS:

Chuck Clemons: commented that he is cautiously optimistic about the number of students who would be enrolling in the charter school. He is pleased to see the progress so far, as well as how the community has come together in fervent commitment to the Newberry Community School.

Leslie Hayes Morrison: asked for clarification about what would qualify students to be in the PreK ESE program. She also asked about the number of paras for the school and the EDEP program. Lacy responded that PreK ESE students would be 3 or 4 year olds with IEPs who have an identified disability. She also explained that the EDEP program would provide before (starting at 6:30am) and after (until 6:00pm) care at the school. An EDEP director would be hired, who would then hire employees.

MEETING ADJOURNED at: 7:46pm by: Derek Danne/ Chair