

Newberry Community School Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026 at 6:30pm

Little Red School House, 25815 SW 2nd Ave, Newberry FL 32669

CALL TO ORDER at: 6:33pm, 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/ Amber Yanone; Parent Representative/ Leslie Hayes Morrison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda as distributed

Made by: Leslie McGehee; **Second by:** Leslie Hayes Morrison;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve consent agenda

Made by: Chuck Clemons; **Second by:** Veronica Kadala;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously

1. Approval of minutes from prior meeting (12/15/25)

2. Revised Financial Controls Policy

3. Teacher Supplements

4. School Schedule

5. E-Rate Advantage Contract

PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT TO 2 MINUTES) None at this time

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Personnel Changes/ Hiring Updates (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

There are 26 teaching positions – with almost all filled. Changes included: the ELL teacher will be an ELL para; the Science / technology teacher will be the Gifted/ STEAM teacher; the registrar position was dropped; and an additional custodian was added. A board member commented that the principal has the flexibility she needs for teachers filling in positions.

Motion to approve the 2026-27 Staffing Plan

Made by: Leslie McGehee; **Second by:** Leslie Hayes Morrison;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously

A discussion related to Teacher Supplements occurred and focused on: a 5% increase of what the district typically offers (NCS numbers are taken from the SBAC numbers as a guide) – giving the board a chance to make it more meaningful for teachers; looking at differences in what is expected from teachers – considering that some supplement categories require more than others (eg. club sponsor vs. safety patrol) and should be compensated accordingly; and that as principal is interviewing, she may indicate for now, that current amounts are minimums and some areas may be increased. Leslie McGehee offered to be chair of a subcommittee for supplements.

2. Food Service RFP (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

RFPP will be out by the end of the week. Vendors should be those who comply with the school lunch program. The providers will run the school lunch program, and initially there will be no free lunch for the whole school/ some will have to pay. If families qualify/ sign up with the school for Title I, a community assessment will determine percentages of need – so a free lunch program may still be possible some time after the school opens.

3. Transportation RFP (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

RFP went out last week, with proposals due by 2/15/26 at 3:00. The RFP can be seen on the City page. ACPS has declined to transport a student in a wheelchair. The number of students needing transportation will still be unknown on 2/18/26.

Questions from the board regarding transportation included: What does the transportation network look like? What is proposal based on? What does the map and possible route look like? We need more time to negotiate and make sure any proposals meet our needs – students with disabilities are an important consideration and we need pricing options for wheelchair transport. It was decided that staff should be directed to make no decisions until more information is provided to the board at the next board meeting.

4. Proposed Policies – Civility (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

The policy has been reviewed by Arnold Law Firm. The plan is to review it with parent(s) and student at enrollment and have parent sign to indicate understanding and agreement to follow the policy.

Questions were asked about parents signing the policy every year - maybe with the intent to re-enroll notification, and/ or when an updated policy goes out. It was also suggested that signing by the student, although not legally binding, may present an opportunity for teaching responsibility.

Motion for approval of civility policy as presented.

Made by: Leslie McGehee; **Second by:** Leslie Hayes Morrison;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously

5. Proposed Policies- HR (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

The policies are not yet ready. Because we need to work with the city HR on employment, we need to come up with a plan that works with their employment/ HR policies. Lacy wants to go through and make some changes. There are some concerns regarding terminal sick leave payouts (honoring sick

leave and teachers cashing out upon retirement/ leaving) and she needs to look more in depth at the policies. Developing a plan is a high priority because we're hiring people already.

6. Ratification of Filing of Petition for Attorneys' Fees and Costs (presented by Shawn Arnold/ Attorney)

NCS had a time frame of 60 days to file a petition for reimbursement of fees, and it was done after 30 days. SBAC declined to pay all fees. The court issued orders to district to respond. A potential offer is expected later this week. A litigation strategy will not be discussed publicly – and is not required to be, under the law.

The comments from the board included that: these fees should be considered as usual, reasonable, and customary, and that the attorneys and board members have tried to be good stewards of the board's finances.

Motion to ratify the filing of the petition for NCS attorney's fees and costs

Made by: Chuck Clemons; **Second by:** Leslie McGehee;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously

7. Panther PAWS Before/ After Care (presented by Amber Yanone/ Principal designee)

This is like the current EDEP program at NES. Some changes include: there will be before school care that starts at 6:30am; after school care ends at 6:00pm; there will be a one time registration fee of \$30; cost per week=\$70; we will offer Wednesday early release (1X/ month) care for a fee of \$30; There can be reduced fees/ subsidies for students who would qualify for free/ reduced lunches.

Some questions were asked about discounts for multiple children in the same family. The board is interested in resolving the questions of discounts, before final approval.

FINANCE REPORT (Presented by Derek Danne)

Derek reported assets and expenditures as listed in the November 2025 financial report. Derek will report on December and January finances at the February meeting.

LEGAL UPDATE (presented by Shawn Arnold)

1. Shawn reported that the house bill was filed and completed. He suggested creating a communication to legislators to back this bill related to capital outlay fees – to be available to charter schools in the first year of operation. This would be very beneficial to charter schools!

2. Another school, in Orange County, has converted to a public charter school – with an overwhelming parent vote of 185-32. Orange County supported the conversion. They are looking to Newberry as an example.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Everyone expressed heartfelt appreciation to Amber for stepping in as principal designee for this meeting!

Derek Danne: He expressed that it is “great that so many teachers are coming forth”! He also encouraged us to focus on the consumers – FAQs need to be ready, robust, and transparent to have questions answered on the website.

Chuck Clemons: He suggested that staff check if any more Monday meeting conflicts are anticipated to arise for the remainder of the year. Also, he suggested that the principal prepare a welcome letter, to be signed by members of the board, to give to teachers when they come aboard.

Leslie Hayes Morrison: She clarified the meeting changes, in February and March, from the 3rd Monday to the 4th Monday, due to holidays/ spring break. She reviewed for parents the proposed after care schedule, and emphasized that the enrollment window opens on 2/1/26 – on the website next week. She also mentioned that we need to start with ADA compliance on the website. (Derek Danne confirmed that we already have ADA compliance to plug in.)

It was also announced that the NCS community event at the Municipal Building is scheduled for 2/3/26 from 6:00-8:00pm. There will be a presentation and opportunity for people to ask questions and get excited!

ADJOURNMENT at: 7:41pm, by: Derek Danne Chair

Made by: Leslie McGehee; **Second by:** Leslie Hayes Morrison;

Discussion: None; **Vote:** Passed unanimously