

Newberry Community School

Board Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2026
6:30 PM

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

AGENDA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Others present: Principal/ Lacy Roberts; Parent Representative/ Leslie Hayes-Morrison; Attorney/ Shawn Arnold

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda as distributed

Made by:Chuck Clemons; **Second by:**Leslie McGehee; **Discussion:** none **Vote:**5/5/ Passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve consent agenda

Made by:Leslie Hayes-Morrisin; **Second by:**Chuck Clemons; **Discussion:**none; **Vote:**5/5Passed unanimously

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. 2/23/2026 Regular Meeting
 - b. 2/27/2026 Special Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT TO 2 MINUTES): No public comments were made at this time

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Enrollment Update:** presented by Lacy Roberts/ Principal

Lacy reported that of 475 students enrolled, 380 have accepted. Based on the number of students who have accepted there are currently, per grade level: (K)64, (1)84, (2)92, (3)78, (4)62. Efforts are continuing to reach parents about accepting their seats continue via phone calls, texts, and emails. Only 7 have declined so far; others have just not yet responded. We will need to look at staffing – and commit to an enrollment and staff number by about June 1st. It is hoped that once a set enrollment number is reached, we can have a waiting list to pull from when vacancies occur. Lacy has about 80 staff applicants to choose from to meet needs.

2. **Public Comment Policy:** presented by Derek Danne/ Chair & Lacy Roberts/ Principal

The policy was introduced and then Lacy Roberts read it aloud in full. It was also available & distributed. A question about a deputy presence was brought up. Having one on site is very costly, and so far has not been needed. Shawn Arnold also clarified that the definitions characterizing disallowed speech/ behavior are required as written

Motion to approve the public comment policy

Made by:Leslie McGehee; **Second by:**Chuck Clemons; **Discussion:** none; **Vote:**5/5 Passed unanimously

3. Employee Salary Schedule: presented by:Lacy Roberts/ Principal

Lacy will meet with SFS to change budget to fit the actual number of students . There should be a brand new budget in April based on real numbers of students. She stated that she believes a total of 520 students enrolled, plus a waiting list of some students, is doable. It was pointed out by a board member, and it was agreed upon, that the highest percentage of a budget typically goes for personnel. It was recommended that we keep flexibility of salaries for career service employees for as long as possible, until we have more information. Lacy will get “hard” numbers for big expenditures soon (ie bus transportation/ Tomahawk, food service, IT/ Emeral Data, portable rent, etc.). With the E-Rate application in, there’s a possibility some required things/ equipment may be reimbursed as much as 70%. It was also requested that Lacy , when developing the budget with SFS, also include amount of cash available in 3 and 6 months. It was also mentioned that in the original budget, some items are no longer applicable (ie cost for library books, kitchen equipment, etc.).

FINANCE REPORT : presented by Leslie Hayes-Morrison/ Treasurer

(p.1-Balance sheet) As of February 28, 2026, NCS had \$138,000.00 in cash available in the checking account, with 0.00 in accounts payable. Year to date surplus is \$140,000.00.

(p.2 overall) NCS anticipated bringing in debt of 1.65 from the loan, currently received draws of \$300,000.00. Of that, NCS has spent \$242,000.00 in operational costs – primarily administrative costs and legal support. NCS has received reimbursement of \$82,500.00 in legal fees.

To show support for NCS and the school’s mission, School Financial Services is donating services for the start-up period to allow the school to focus spending on preparing for the new school year.

(general notes) Revisions to current draft budget show the school in a deficit for the 5 year outlook. Lacy is working diligently with our budget department and is prepared to have discussions with the board on next steps.

LEGAL UPDATE: presented by Shawn Arnold/ attorney

Shawn Arnold reported that there is support for charter schools in the Florida Senate and House, citing a bill and anticipated funding. There are some charter school initiatives in the works. He is working on issues including bus & portable contracts.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Derek Danne: The next NCS board meeting will revert to the regular “3rd Monday” schedule on April 20th, in the city commission room in the new Newberry City Hall building.

Chuck Clemons: Expressed willingness to knock on doors to confirm acceptance of enrolled students. We may need to have to go to some homes.

Leslie McGehee: Asked about Kindergarten Round-up (We are waiting for the district to announce the date so that we can coordinate with them.)

Leslie Hayes-Morrison: Asked about recruiting students- any additional means being used? (Calling & texting is currently used) Can we put literature about NCS in the public library? She also asked about the possibility of contributing a gift basket to NES teachers for Teacher Appreciation week.

Lacy Roberts: Lacy will set up a booth with information at the Newberry Spring Festival & NES Carnival. She will also be attending the “Reignite the Light” event.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Derek Danne at 7:08 PM

