

# Newberry Community School

## Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026 6:30 PM

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

**CALL TO ORDER** by Derek Danne/ Chair at: 6:33 pm

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL: Board 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/ Lacy Roberts; Parent Representative/ Leslie Hayes-Morrison; Assistant Principal/ Devin Colley; Attorney/ Shawn Arnold

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion** to approve agenda as distributed

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

**Discussion:** none **Vote:**Passed unanimously

**CONSENT AGENDA : Motion** to approve consent agenda

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

**Discussion:**none **Vote:** Passed unanimously

1. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting (1/26/26)
2. Panther PAWS Program – “per week” was added to clarify
3. Raptor Visitor Mgmt and Alert System
4. SWI Contract for school pictures

**PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT TO 2 MINUTES):** None

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Lacy updated the board regarding current total enrollment (427), as well as enrollment by grade levels (K=77, Gr.1=91, Gr.2=103, Gr.3=89, Gr.4=67). 353 of those students currently attend NES. Lacy also informed the board about advertising for enrollment via the banner (which was taken down due to wind damage), signs (at Easton, at Champions park, in neighborhoods, at businesses who allow them), and social media. Greenfield has also been supportive and shares NCS information. Public informational meetings at the Municipal building and the MLK center were also held.

**2. Approval of enrollment agreement: Presented by:Derek Danne**

Agreement will be sent to district to approve on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It has been reviewed by attorney, Shawn Arnold. It sets expectations , priorities, and focus - with families as partners.

**Motion** to approve enrollment agreement

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

**Discussion:** none **Vote:**Passed unanimously

**3. Transportation Presentation by vendor :Daniel Bostic/ Tomahawk Transportation**

Mr. Bostic provided information about himself/ his background, the company and its experience, as well as their priorities as transportation service providers. He also described what transportation services they will provide to NCS regarding routes, maintenance schedules, training, providing experienced/ trained drivers, management, and back-ups in case of mechanical issues. Lacy reported that it would be a two year contract, with a fuel escalation clause to adjust for significant fuel cost changes. She also reported that the company offers great field trip prices, and that references from other schools they serve were great. The city has provided a location for bus parking, when not in use. Lacy continues to investigate options for wheelchair transport. A concern about the amount of time spent on the bus was voiced. The longest bus ride (the most rural, highest route)is about one hour. The pros and cons of using an app for parents to monitor a bus's location in real time was discussed. At this time, no aides will be on the buses.

**Motion** to enter into negotiations with Tomahawk Transportation

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

**Discussion:** none **Vote:** Passed unanimously

**4. HR Policies Update: Presented by:Lacy Roberts/ Principal**

Lacy will meet again with Dallas Lee (City) to blend NCS and City policies, to present at a future meeting NCS board Workshop scheduled for 3/5/26 at 6:00, at LRSB: Chuck Clemons will not be able to attend. Lacy will give information to him to review after the workshop. Lacy will give copies of policies to review ahead, if possible.

**5. Bank Change: Presented by:Lacy Roberts/ Principal**

Ameris Bank, vs. previously used Millenium Bank, will now handle all banking for NCS. SFS recommended Ameris, one of only a few that are qualified. It is local (only 12 minutes to Trenton). SFS will give Lacy a check to deposit in the new account.

**Motion** to approve a bank change as recommended by the Principal, and authorize the Chair to sign any resolution required by the institution

**Made by:**\_Chuck Clemons; **Second by:**Leslie Hayes-Morrison

**Discussion:** none **Vote:**Passed unanimously

**6. Settlement Agreement with School Board of Alachua County : Presented by:Shawn Arnold/ Attorney & Lacy Roberts/ Principal**

After negotiations, a settlement (considered reasonable) was reached for \$82,500.00, for attorney fees related to the appeal. Lacy received and deposited the check.

**Motion** to approve the settlement

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

**Discussion:** none **Vote:**Passed unanimously

**7. Technology: Cost and Instructional Impact of Laptops vs. Desktops: Presented by:Derek Danne/ Chair**

Of greatest importance: knowing/ finding out where we stand with computer equipment; and considering laptops to allow more flexibility of use. Derek recommended getting NCS teacher input regarding what technology would work best to support teachers – to focus on teacher needs.

Lacy will be meeting with Eric May/ Emerald Data to find out what is needed and what will stay. She suggested some possible options for replacing and upgrading over time. She also reported the need to spend money on the infrastructure for everything to run off of. Eric will also bring a plan to buy vs. rent some equipment. Reliability of the internet service was also questioned. It was reported that Erate is part of our internet service.

**8. Location of Future Board Meetings (NCS vs. City Hall): Presented by:Leslie Hayes-Morrison & Lacy Roberts/ Principal**

City Hall is now set up for meetings, however, the school is not currently an option. Live streaming was addressed again. The extra cost, per meeting, would be \$250.00. For any recording of meetings, we'd need to investigate possibilities for storage of those videos, which is possibly required for archiving. Shawn Arnold will check on it, and possibly look into what other charter schools are doing. Additional ideas for using Zoom to facilitate participation, for those unable to attend in person, were discussed.

**FINANCE REPORT : Presented by:Leslie Hayes-Morrison/ Treasurer**

Leslie (H-M) shared the highlights of the financial report:

(p.1-Balance sheet) As of January 31, 2026, NCS had \$91,000 in cash available in the checking account, with 5,000 in accounts payable. Year to date surplus is \$88,000.

(p.2-Overall) NCS anticipated bringing in debt of 1.65 from the loan, currently received draws of \$300,000. Of that \$300,000, NCS has spent \$211,00 in operational costs – primarily administrative costs and legal support.

To show support for NCS and the school's mission, School Financial Services (SFS) is donating services for the set-up period to allow the school to focus spending on preparing for the new school year>

**LEGAL UPDATE:** Presented by:Shawn Arnold/ Attorney

1.Library books, kitchen equipment, and PE equipment will stay for NCS. Discussion was held regarding a transfer agreement with the district, and a policy for disposal of anything not wanted. Shawn Arnold will arrange for a walk- through in June to decide what stays/ goes.

**BOARD COMMENTS :**

DD: Derek will be out before the 3/23 meeting. Chuck Clemons agreed to substitute as Chair for him at that meeting.

CC: Chuck suggested we engage in an enquiry of grant opportunities – a “grant map” to support Lacy. We need to bring grant money in as financial support for the school. He emphasized that he supported getting a grant writer to help with this. He also commented that enrollment was going splendidly.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** by Derek Danne/ Chair at:7:41pm\_