NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 122
102 S. CEDAR RD., NEW LENOX, IL 60451
BOARD OF EDUCATION
STRATEGIC/FINANCIAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2026

A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
President Peltzer called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
President Peltzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call
Members present:
Stephanie Peltzer, David Rush, Nicole DeGrave, Al Haring, Bill Pender, Fay Bowie, Megan Wendtland

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments.

C. SUPERINTENDENT INITIATIVES

Dr. Motsch shared the Meeting Intention: envision the future of NLSD; let everyone participate; listen with an open mind; stay on point and on time; and discuss and identify future action items. She read the District's updated Mission Statement. Dr. Motsch shared the 2025-2026 School Year Highlights: Instructional Excellence, with heavy emphasis on MTSS, instructional strategies, and classroom management; Talent Retention, maintaining high staff retention rates across the District; Strategic Agreements, contract extensions completed for both bargaining units; and Fiscal Innovation, out of the box cost saving measures discovered. She also shared her Superintendent Initiatives for 2026-2027: Continue to focus on student achievement, instructional strategies, and classroom management, and maintain a balanced discussion; Prepare for Full Day K; Hiring administrators for 2027-2028, Superintendent and Nelson Ridge Principal; and Administrator Contracts. Dr. Motsch shared in BoardDocs is the District Improvement Team/Board of Education Goals Update depicting the final evidence of completion for each goal.

D. FACILITY PLANNING

Mr. Sterritt shared updates on the Tyler HVAC project, noting 42% of the project is already completed, and the project will be in full swing starting Friday. The Board will tour and walk Tyler School on June 16th at 5pm before the Board meeting. He added the District is working with the Park District this summer on the Nelson playgrounds. Mr. Sterritt shared for Summer 2027, the Martino roof will be replaced, Cherry Hill will be painted, and parking lot maintenance at Bentley, Tyler, Oakview, Haines, Spencer Crossing, Spencer Pointe, and Spencer Trail. He added they are also working on prioritizing what the next projects will be in the upcoming years. Mr. Sterritt also shared a list of the District's in-house O&M and capital projects for Summer 2026.

Mr. Rob Wroble from Legat presented a PowerPoint on the proposed 2027 Capital Improvements. ICI representatives Jason Wasser and Ken Mcinfurry were also in attendance. Mr. Wroble shared Martino Jr. High will have a roofing replacement with a projected total project cost of $3,715,000. He noted the 31 year old roof is original to when the building was built in 1995 and has far exceeded its life expectancy. He shared Cherry Hill will have interior painting building-wide, projected total project cost of $300,000. He noted the building interior has not been painted since the school opened in 1998, and needs a refresh before being converted to a kindergarten center for the 2027-2028 school year. Mr. Wroble shared at Oster-Oakview there will be a parking lot expansion to add 30+ additional spots for a projected total project cost of $468,300. He added asphalt maintenance will be done at Oakview & Haines ($127,700) Bentley & Tyler ($196,900), and Spencer Campus ($283,200). Mr. Wroble shared the Board will approve the authorization of the 2027 projects to proceed and submission of life safety amendment at the June 16th Board meeting. At the December Board meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the 2027 construction contracts.

E. FINANCIAL PLANNING

Mr. Groos shared information on Summer 2027 Capital Project Funding. He noted the Martino roof replacement would qualify for funding with Life Safety bonds. He shared information on interest rates, and the District's current (2026 Tyler HVAC) and proposed (2027 Martino Roof) debt service payments, He noted current and future HLS bonds may be amortized in 2033 and thereafter in order to minimize the tax impact. Mr. Groos shared the proposed financing timeline for the $4M Life Safety Bonds for the Martino roof project, with Board approval scheduled for the August 2026 Board meeting, and the bond issue closed and invested by the December Board meeting. He added Mrs. Hennessey from Raymond James would present more information on the Life Safety bonds at either the August or September Board meeting. He also explained different options and corresponding pros and cons for financing capital projects, and the importance of planning ahead for future capital projects.

Mr. Groos shared a few examples of significant recent achievements aimed at improving the efficiency of the NLSD122 operating budget. He shared information on the strategic transformation of the NLSD122 Health Insurance Plan, the strategic planning to improve special education funding, the identification and maximization of the District's Facility Energy Efficiency Programs, along with other examples of miscellaneous savings. Mr. Groos shared the initiatives, along with the cumulative impact of numerous cost-saving efforts implemented over prior years, will serve as the primary funding source for Full-Day Kindergarten and help establish a stable financial cushion for the District. He noted these efforts position NLSD122 to maintain sustainable operations

and long-term financial stability in future years. Dr. Motsch commended the Cabinet team on their out of the box cost saving strategies, potentially saving the District $1.5M annually. The Board was appreciative that the cost savings stay away from cuts to the classrooms.

Mr. Groos shared the District's 5-Year Financial Forecast. He shared information on: the District's financial philosophy; the financial plan assumptions, noting CPI has been adjusted; revenue, expenses, fund balances; and Board target parameters. He noted the forecast includes full-day kindergarten, salaries from renegotiated union contracts, and no change in class sizes. Mr. Groos shared through FY32 revenues are greater than expenses, including the Board's targeted $1M surplus. He shared a chart with the revenue budget and forecast itemized account balances; tax levies; department budgets; debt schedule; and an 18 year financial dashboard. He also explained tax abatements, callable bonds, paying off bonds early, and using fund balance reserves to pay for capital projects. He noted the District is in a very good position financially.

Mr. Groos shared information on the District's Construction Management Partnership with ICI. He noted since 2012 ICI has assisted the District in successfully planning and managing approximately $50M in construction, renovation, infrastructure, and capital improvement projects over the past 14 years. He noted we believe the value provided through this partnership significant outweighs the management fees paid. He shared the advantages of using a construction manager include: the value of the construction manager; competitive bidding and cost savings; project oversight, safety, and accountability; operational realities for the District; and long-term partnership and institutional knowledge. He gave several examples of how ICI has protected the District over the past years, and how the ICI and Legat partnership works and what their roles are. Mr. Groos shared the District's investment in professional construction management services has played a critical role in the successful execution of the District's long-term capital improvement program. He added the District using a construction manager helps ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and that District projects are completed correctly, safely, and with long-term durability in mind. He added as the District continues to maintain and improve its facilities, the District believes the longstanding partnership with ICI remains an important component of the NLSD122's ability to successfully deliver complex capital projects in a responsible, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

F. PERSONNEL/STUDENTS

Dr. Bruni shared parent student handbook updates for the 2026-2027 school year, which includes annual revisions and policy alignment updates with no significant content changes. She added the approval of the handbook will be requested at the June Board meeting. Dr. Bruni shared staff retention data for the 2025-2026 school year, noting the overall staff retention rate for certified and non-certified staff is 95%. For certified staff, the main reason people leave is because they retire or are non-renewed. She added the main reason non-certified staff leave is due to retiring or looking for another job. She also provided a historical retention snapshot for the past 5 years. Dr. Bruni shared the FY27 wage rate scale which is set for 12 month support staff outside of the Union contract. She shared: the minimum wage as of January 1, 2026 is $15 (no change); health benefits are consistent with the Union contracts; and starting rates increase at 1/2 of the annual Board approved non-union raise percentage. She shared the 12-month support staff non-union wage rate scale and the temporary/part-time support staff, non-union wage rate scale. Dr. Bruni shared the kindergarten staffing timeline for next year which will be moved up compared to past years: November send out staff intents; December do a follow up survey to all Trail and interested K staff for request details; January staffing moves and assignments; February post positions and interview; March kindergarten staffing is completed.

G. PROGRAM PLANNING

1. Curriculum & Instructional Technology

Dr. Cucci shared next year teachers will be working on implementing curriculum for: myView ELA (1-5); enVision Math (K); myView Social Studies (1-3); TCI Social Studies (4-6); and Health World (7-8). She added next year we will also be reviewing curriculum for adoption in: Science (K-8); myView ELA (K); Science (K); Social Studies (K); and LW Spanish (7-8). She shared next year professional development will focus on: Artificial Intelligence; T3: Active Engagement; Curriculum Committees; and New Lenox University. Dr. Cucci shared during the upcoming year how we will be creating conditions for full day kindergarten success: curriculum review; class setup and materials; full day schedules; importance of play; active engagement; and professional development. Dr. Cucci shared District Assessment Updates: report card updates and the student evaluation committee. For the primary report card, updates will include: broader categories for ELA; consistent language for grades 1-3; updated teacher rubrics and grading guidelines; and parent report card descriptors. She added next year we will be developing a new report card for full-day kindergarten. She shared the Student Evaluation Committee recommended for next year updating 6th-8th grading guidelines with the rationales of: expectation to take greater ownership for students' learning; and reinforce responsibility, accountability and readiness for high school expectations. Dr. Cucci shared the TerraNova Scores for 2025-2026, noting the many improvements in scores from 2025 to 2026 in both ELA and Math. She added more detailed information is in BoardDocs.

2. Special Education

Mrs. Novotny shared an update on the Embrace Implementation and transition from EasyIEP. She shared the January/February 2026 accomplishments and feedback, and Spring accomplishments. She noted: the Embrace system setup is completed; staff, student, and building data upload is finished; a staff training was held on April 24th; student setup directions have been created and updated; and case managers are initiating student setup. She shared the next steps include: complete case manager student setup; finalize the data upload; update the IEP system guidance for 2026-2027; and schedule training for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Novotny shared her rationale for hiring a Special Education Supervisor for the next school year. She shared the District's history of employing a Lead BCBA since 2014, adding the Lead BCBA has recently resigned and the position is a hard to fill position. She noted a Special Education Supervisor is included in the cost for the 2027-2028 implementation of full day kindergarten, with the Supervisor overseeing the Excel program along with other duties. Mrs. Novotny shared the

recommendation is: to post and hire a Special Education Supervisor for 2026-2027; have the Special Education Supervisor fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the Lead BCBA; and re-evaluate the BCBA caseload and staffing needs during the full day kindergarten staffing timeline.

3. Technology

Mr. White shared the 5-Year Plan and Projects/initiatives. He added the detailed plan is in BoardDocs. He noted 2026 projects include: A/V System Upgrades; Network Segmentation; iPad 1/2 Fleet Refresh; CyberSecurity Roadmap; Classroom Device Charging; and Embrace Implementation. He shared summer help is here and have started their many projects. He added 2027 projects will include: Full Day Kindergarten Equipment Expansion; Server Replacements; Website & Comms System; SIEM System; Staff Computer Replacements; and SOPPA DPAs Audit. Mr. White shared information on CyberSecurity, noting we take a layered approach which includes: Network; Application; Information Governance; Cloud; Endpoint; and Infrastructure. He explained CyberNut Phishing Training for the staff, and shared it is going very well with a healthy competition going on among the buildings. Mr. White shared findings from the 2025 Enterprise Risk Assessment & CyberSec Improvements Roadmap. He noted 42 specific priority improvements were recommended and added he has scheduled work over the 2026-2027 school year on top priority labeled improvements. Mr. White noted his department is fully staffed as of today.

H. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE PLANNING

Dr. Motsch shared she and Mr. Groos contacted our attorneys about the Lincoln Prairie property tax abatement proposal. The District's attorney recommended the District adopt a Board policy. The attorney drafted a policy to set parameters for current and future property tax abatement proposals that follow the same process that was used to approve the prior property tax abatement agreement. The Board was in consensus with approving the proposed policy with one minor language change. The policy will be on the agenda for approval at the June 16th Board meeting. Dr. Motsch will notify the reps from the Lincoln Prairie organization about their next steps after the policy is approved.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjourn the Meeting
Motion to Adjourn the Meeting
Motion by David Rush, second by Bill Pender.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Stephanie Peltzer, David Rush, Nicole DeGrave, Al Haring, Bill Pender, Fay Bowie, Megan Wendtland

The Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LeAnne Soltys, Recording Secretary

Approved by,

Stephanie Peltzer, Board President

Nicole DeGrave, Board Secretary