

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
NORTHERN CASS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 97

Northern Cass Library - Rural Hunter, ND  
Monday, January 12, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Brad Bjerke, Sean Jalbert, Penny Johnson, Michael Lovejoy,  
Chris Murch, Todd Olson, Lori Steffes  
Paige Carlson – Business Manager  
Terry Baesler – Superintendent  
Absent: Tess J., Learner Board Member

Meeting called to order by President Murch.

Also present: Crysta Schenck, Elementary Principal; Shallyn Fontana, Assistant Principal; Amber Lockhart, Kerry Carlson and Zach Linn from Essentia Health, Mrs. Wittner and Math Club.

President Murch welcomed member Lovejoy to the board then read the Board Norms.

Jalbert moved to approve the agenda as presented. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*No one in attendance.*

**ACKNOWLEDGING GREATNESS**

Mrs. Wittner presented the Math Club who shared details on their season. Math Club representatives left the meeting at 5:36 PM.

Mr. Baesler presented the consent agenda. Olson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Bjerke seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

**BOARD EDUCATION**

Representatives from Essentia Health joined the meeting to present the agreement proposed for health services. Essentia Health left the meeting at 5:57 PM.

Administrative reports presented by Mrs. Schenck, and Mr. Baesler. Reports are accessible on the Northern Cass School Board website.

**TEACHING, LEARNING, AND LEARNER ACHIEVEMENT**

Mrs. Fontana presented on the MTSS process. Mrs. Fontana left the meeting at 6:12 PM.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board member Olson presented the Building and Grounds committee report.

Board member Johnson presented the Teaching and Learning committee report.

Mrs. Lockhart and Mrs. Wittner left the meeting at 6:13 PM.

Board member Murch presented the Budget and Human Resources committee report.

No meeting held for the Activities committee.

Johnson moved to approve first reading of policy BAA – Employing Board Members. Steffes seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Lovejoy moved to approve the second reading of the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented.

Johnson seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

Mr. Baesler shared the Student First governance training through NDSBA. Discussion was held. No motion was brought to participate this spring.

Johnson moved to approve Essentia Health Services agreement as of January 1, 2026. Olson seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

Mrs. Carlson reminded school board members of the upcoming NDSBA Winter Summit.

Steffes moved to approve the General Fund bills as presented. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed (Yes: Bjerke, Jalbert, Johnson, Lovejoy, Murch, Olson, Steffes).

Jalbert moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed.

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Chris Murch, President

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Paige Carlson, Business Manager