Northern Rush County Schools

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Mays Community Academy

Present: Nansi Custer, President; Deanna Disney, Vice President; Marcia Schwering, Treasurer; Shannon Dawson, Secretary; Jason Dwenger, At-Large; Alicia Weatherly, HOS; Donita Davis, Admin Assistant & Tiger Time; Steve Schwering, substitute bus driver; Kevin Davis, Indiana Charters

Absent: Amy Hufford, Health Services; Kathy Foreman, Transportation;

I. President Nansi Custer called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

II. Marcia Schwering moved to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2026 regular meeting, seconded by Jason Dwenger; passed on voice vote

III. Acceptance of Transactions List/Approval of Claims & Payroll: none to approve this month; we'll approve two months' worth at the August meeting

IV. Head of School report – Alicia Weatherly
   a. The Powerschool training trip went well, switched over to the new year
   b. The Grace College summit is this week
   c. Met with the IDOE: learned about the new accountability system for grading schools, received great info on better metrics that will show our growth more accurately
   d. We will be re-examining our own cell phone ban. We've always had one, but the new state law requires accountability
   e. Rush Co Fair and Spiceland Freedom Days booths went well
   f. We had high enrollment for the new year at the annual pool party; Alicia has called our remaining families who have not filled out their paperwork
   g. Regarding the cafeteria, Rosemary Noah is still assisting with our corrective action plan, and we will add her to the payroll for a small stipend for this ongoing support. Angel Young is getting her Servsafe certification and overseeing cafeteria cleaning
   h. Teachers are setting up their classrooms for the new year
   i. Alicia is coordinating curriculum, estimated at $9,000 this year, adjusted up to $13,000. ELA and Math are not needed for 4/5/6, checking into a different science program for K-3
   j. Alicia wants to delegate teachers to create clubs; Indiana Charters can help with some expenses
   k. Current plan has Mr. Turpen taking grades 4/5/6 to the Love Community Center to visit the Smithsonian exhibit
   l. The 9/11 Wall Exhibit is also returning to Rush County in September; we will have our students visit again. Additionally, we have been asked to have students take part in the singing of the National Anthem
   m. Nansi again stressed that teachers need to be making use of our outdoor classrooms
   n. Mr. Josh Gill has accepted the offer to teach ELA; Andrew Turpen is back to teach social studies; Heather England may be taking on both Math and Science

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o. Alissa Switzer has resigned; Alicia has interviewed a former applicant, Jennifer Showalter, who will act as "long-term substitute" for Kindergarten. She will have her professional license by second semester.
p. Alicia is preparing for Professional Development, everyone attending 7/29; Monday 8/3 is the back-to-school picnic; school starts on 8/5
q. Re: Chromebooks – label will have student info on the case, not the device. Heather England is prepping them before Professional Development
r. Alicia presented the Student Technology Device Agreement & Protection Plan. Motion to approve the plan by Jason Dwenger, seconded by Deanna Disney; passed on voice vote.
This is a Board policy that will appear in the student handbook

V. Directors' Reports
a. Tiger Time – Donita says payments on last years accounts continue to come in

VI. Unfinished Business – none

VII. New Business
a. Nansi has signed the audit engagement letter; Alicia will also sign
b. Nansi has signed our e-rate contract for Category I, will engage on Category II
c. Nansi says we need to see our Ecolab contract
d. Plan to purchase AC units from Lowes
e. Motion to appoint Donita Davis as Assistant Head of School by Jason Dwenger, second by Shannon Dawson; passed on voice vote
f. Kevin Davis grant status update: $3.3 million Next Gen SIG; also submitted for the School Facilities Grant, a five-year cohort for charter school facilities. Both should be decided at the end of August/beginning of September
g. Kevin has also aligned our Special Education policies and procedures to state monitoring; the Board will have to formally adopt
h. We have been approved for CEP renewal for free lunch/breakfast for the next 4-5 years
i. Special Education, Title IX, and cell phone policies must all go on our website

VIII. Comment – none

IX. Adjournment – 8:18pm

Nansi Custer 8-19-26
Maria Schweing 8-19-26
Shannon Dawson 8/19/26
Jason Dwenger 8/19/2026
Deanna Disney 8/19/2026