

A virtual option for Neenah Joint School District students in the upcoming school year and the 10-year capital improvement plan update were approved by the Board of Education at its June 17 meeting.

The district will be entering into a partnership with Kiel eSchool and Between the Lakes Virtual Academy for the 2025-26 school year. A recent survey of students who open enrolled out of the district found that the absence of a virtual option was a key factor in their decision and is essential to remain competitive with surrounding school districts. Students will still be considered NJSD students and will be able to participate in extracurricular and other school activities while also enrolling full or part-time in the virtual courses.

The long-term capital improvement plan outlines capital improvement spending through the 2035-36 school year. The plan was not specific to schools and rather targeted amounts to be spent on roofing, parking lots, flooring, furniture and other renovations district-wide over the next decade.

The Board also reviewed a plan to transition operation of the Health and Wellness Center from Prevea to ThedaCare, beginning January 1, 2026. Prevea informed the district it intended to more than double its rates and discontinue \$0 claim submissions to insurance, prompting the change. The transition to ThedaCare is expected to result in minimal change for employees and offer a provider than most employees already use for primary coverage.

A change in private school transportation boundaries with the addition of the non-denominational Valor Classical Christian Academy was also reviewed by the Board. The change has been approved by both Valor and Valley Christian.

In other action, the Board approved teaching hires for Madeline Bittner at Lakeview, Ashley Wing at the middle school, Kaissee Conger, Abbrielle Wingert, Stephanie Hoppe and Mackenzie Truttmann at Tullar and Sabrina Loehrke at the high school. Angela Balensiefen was approved as a district nurse and Amy Joiner was approved for math support. Matthew Piekarski was approved as an educational assistant at the high school.

The Board also approved policies relating to homebound instruction, professional growth requirements, staff use of personal communication devices, volunteers, background checks, continuity of operations and the 2025-26 schedule of fees for outside groups.

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report and a 2024-25 year-end financial report that will be updated again in July. The state runner-up girls track and field team was honored during the superintendent's report.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 22 at 6 p.m.