

Student fees for the 2025-26 school year were approved by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its June 3 meeting. The meeting also included an overview of the English Language Development Standards, a Social, Emotional and Behavioral curriculum update and details about a virtual option for NJSD students in the upcoming school year.

The school fees will remain unchanged for the upcoming school year. This includes student user fees, student parking fees, activity fees, instrument rentals and student lunch and breakfast prices.

Director of Student Growth and Support Programs Ashley Kolb provided an overview of the English Language Development Standards that support the academic language proficiency for multilingual learners. The standards are built around the four “Big Ideas” that include: equity of opportunity and access, integration of content and language, collaboration among stakeholders and a functional approach to language development.

Kolb and Mental Health Coordinator Mike Altekruze gave a presentation on the Social, Emotional and Behavioral framework, which was developed in response to recent community concerns regarding student safety and belonging. The new curriculum, called “Character Strong,” provides bullying prevention through bystander intervention training, empathy-building activities and inclusive community building across all grade levels. Much of the focus on the presentation surrounded youth risk behavior survey responses and incident data from Neenah Middle School.

The district will be entering into a partnership with Kiel eSchool and Between the Lakes Virtual Academy for the 2025-26 school year. Recent survey of students who open enrolled out of the district found that the absence of a virtual option was 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 activities while also enrolling full or part-time in the virtual courses.

In other action, the Board approved the hire of Kassandra Shipman as principal at Clayton and teaching hires for Stephanie Cowling and Kristi Prey at Coolidge, Keanna Edgerton at the middle school and Nicole Schoenwalder at Spring Road. Educational assistant hires included Katie Diedrich at Tullar and Julie Squier as a multilingual assistant. Resignations were approved for Shawna Smith as a literacy coach, Alyssa Mason and Rebecca Veldhorst as school nurses, Kayla Plante at Horace Mann and Mikayla Kewley at Taft.

It was noted in the superintendent’s report that Neenah High School graduation will be held one week later than originally planned in 2026. The new date is May 27.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 17 at 6 p.m.