



410 S. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956 • Tel: (920) 751-6800 • Fax: (920) 751-6809

March 24, 2026

Mr. Russ Geise
Town of Clayton, Board Chairman
8348 Hickory Avenue
Larsen, WI 54947

Hello Mr. Geise,

The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) Board of Education recently adopted a resolution in support of increased transparency for taxpayers. This resolution passed unanimously.

As you know, all board deliberations and decisions must occur in open session. For that reason, we felt it was important to first align as a board before engaging with our municipal partners. I want to be clear that this was not an oversight, nor an attempt to exclude you from the process, but simply a function of our statutory obligations as a public body.

With that in mind, I am reaching out to share the resolution (attached) and begin a collaborative conversation. In summary, the resolution seeks to provide taxpayers with clearer information about how the portion of their property taxes that is levied by the district is allocated. Specifically, under direction from the State of Wisconsin, a calculated portion of these funds is distributed to independent charter schools and private voucher schools.

Our board views this as a nonpartisan, transparency-focused effort. The goal is not to advocate for or against these programs, but to ensure taxpayers have a clear understanding of how public funds are being allocated. Several districts across the state, including Green Bay, Superior, and Eau Claire, have already partnered with their municipalities on similar efforts, and others are currently exploring implementation.

We recognize there are important logistical considerations to work through, including:

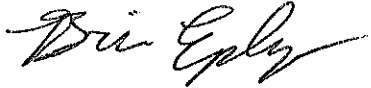
- What specific information should be included on the tax bill
- How that information should be presented or formatted
- Appropriate timing for implementation

One potential approach could be a simple notation such as: "Of the total amount levied by the NJSD, \$XXX is allocated to private school voucher programs." However, we fully expect that questions and considerations will arise, and we value your input in developing a practical and effective solution.

This message is intended as an initial outreach, and we look forward to working with you to determine the best path forward. I will follow up soon to continue the discussion. Please feel free to share this with your board and administrative team, recognizing that this effort is in its early stages and details are still being developed.

On behalf of the NJSD and the Board of Education, thank you for your time and partnership.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Epley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian Epley
President, Board of Education
Neenah Joint School District

jc

enclosure



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RESOLUTION in Support of Full Transparency for Taxpayers

March 3, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Education strongly advocates and supports transparency in all respects regarding taxpayer dollars,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, administration, teachers, staff, parents, and community members of the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) are best served when there is full transparency regarding school funding; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin reduces state aid from the NJSD for students who live in the attendance area but choose to enroll in independent charter schools and private voucher schools, and the NJSD must levy for these funds; and

WHEREAS, the payments for private voucher and independent charter schools rose from \$3,877,146 in the 2024–25 school year to \$4,306,422 in 2025–26, an overall increase of \$429,276. Accordingly, the NJSD is levying \$4,306,422 for the 2025–26 school year to offset the state aid withheld to fund private voucher and independent charter school programs; and

WHEREAS, the increase in voucher, special education, and independent charter school transportation costs for the 2025-26 school year (\$184,000) are taken directly from the NJSD operating budget without any cost to the state-mandated voucher schools; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has already enacted measures requiring that property tax bills include additional information for Wisconsin taxpayers, including details on voter-approved referenda; and

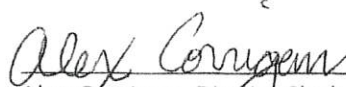
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Neenah Joint School District in partnership with the Town of Clayton, Village of Fox Crossing, City of Neenah, Town of Neenah, and the Town of Vinland in the NJSD attendance area request property tax bills include the amount of the NJSD levy that is for the purpose of capturing the state aid that is withheld from the NJSD to fund voucher and independent charter school payments.

Adopted and recorded March 3, 2026.



Brian Epley, District President

ATTEST:



Alex Corrigan, District Clerk

