

New School Building Pictures



New library – currently rooms 119 and 193.
Below: Librarian Mrs. Lyn Rittgers works with students.



Below and Below Left:
students in the elementary classrooms.





Left: Mr. Gary Stennes in the music room.

Below: New music room, currently rooms 160 and 161. The new room had a raised floor, aiding the students in seeing the instructor.



The kitchen's stove was yet to be installed.

Home Economics room. The room had five kitchen stations, equipped with a stove and sink, currently room 184.

New school building photos courtesy of Northwoods Press





Above Left: Science room, currently room 168.

Above: High School Office.



Left: Stadium seating in the English and social studies rooms.

Below Left: Art room, currently room 176.

Below: Art room.



1988

- Mandatory open enrollment program was approved by Minnesota Legislature. The program was set to begin in Fiscal Year 1990 for districts with more than 1,000 students and in Fiscal Year 1991 for smaller districts such as Nevis.

March 31, 1988

- “Cross Stitchers” stitched NHS over a treble clef on 80 sweatshirts. It was the first time since 1964 that the band had new uniforms.

September 19, 1988

- The school board dedicated the 1988-1989 boys’ and girls’ basketball season in recognition of Mr. Ted Hanson for his many years as a sports fan.
- The school board commended Mr. Ed Ness for compiling a photo album of the school construction project. Many of the pictures in the building section of this book were from the album which is in the superintendent’s office.

October 24, 1988

- The Nevis School Board was to decide on a cooperative agreement between four school districts for spring sports. The softball and baseball teams would field one cooperative team. The golf and track teams would practice together, but each would participate under their own school name. Walker was the site of golf and track. Akeley, Laporte, and Nevis would be the sites for baseball and softball as Walker did not have a field. Costs were prorated based on student enrollment. The emphasis was on feeder programs starting in junior high.

February 27, 1989

- The tennis courts had been in existence since 1973. The fence around the court was made of chicken wire which rusted and fell apart several years ago. After three years of unsuccessful grant writing and one year of seeking local funds to renovate the space, the total cost of approximately \$6,000 was raised. Funding was from Park Rapids American Legion \$2,000, Nevis Fireperson’s Relief Association \$1,220, Nevis City Council \$1,220, Hubbard County Parks and Recreation \$1,000, Park Rapids Eagles Club \$300, Nehumi Study Club \$100, Nevis Study Club \$25, and a Nevis fundraiser \$60.

March 27, 1989

- The school board authorized the school administration to enroll up to thirty non-resident high school students and twenty non-resident elementary students for the fall of 1989. That would allow the students to enroll in Nevis without the need for a tuition agreement, yet no money would follow (free schooling for 50 students). In the fall of 1990 open-enrollment options would include funding.
- The spring sports cooperative between the four schools was in place. The academic standards for eligibility were “lowered” in the co-op where students could have a “D” average and still participate. The Nevis policy stated a “C-” average with no more than three “D’s” and no “F’s”.

April 24, 1989

- Fourteen students accepted the transfer option put in place during the March school board meeting. The school board approved the policy after asking the Akeley School Board to consider a tuition agreement with Nevis instead of Walker-Hackensack that would lead to consolidation of the two districts. Akeley rejected the proposal and continued plans to send its secondary students to Walker-Hackensack next year under a tuition agreement and then consolidate before the 1990-1991 school year when all districts were required to have open enrollment.
- Nevis and Park Rapids had a tuition agreement in place with about one dozen students using the option. The Akeley tuition agreement with Walker-Hackensack was a major discussion as Laporte and Nevis both wanted to be part of the discussion. However, the concern was that the Akeley district not be split into three districts, all students were to go the same direction.
- A discussion was held regarding students that were assigned to detention were given janitorial duties and there was a concern about the students and use of cleaners and chemicals.
- Inadequacy of parking lots was discussed at the school board meeting.
- The school board changed the prom policy from requiring students to ride the school bus to Bemidji, to allow students to drive their own vehicle with prior approval.

May 16, 1989

- The school board accepted the donation of the Pam Lindow trophy case which was installed at the end of the high school hallway. The board provided up to \$645 for the case. In May, the Pam Lindow Scholarship Fund started organizing. The goal for the fund was \$250,000. There were two funds, one permanent where the interest was used for awarding scholarships. The other fund was a current fund for contributions that would be given away that year. With a \$308 donation, a plaque would be put in the cafeteria to list the name of the donor. With a \$3,080 donation, a named scholarship was awarded. Pam Lindow, was a 1986 Nevis School graduate who died in a car accident on December 14, 1988. The scholarship fund was established in her memory. The school board reviewed information about the scholarship for the first time at the February 27, 1989 meeting.



May 1989

- The final graduation ceremony at Akeley High School was held before consolidating with Walker-Hackensack School District.
- Sharing of superintendents with neighboring districts was considered. However, Park Rapids was not interested. Laporte had backed away even though Mr. Dan Brooks, current superintendent, had initially written a letter suggesting the cooperative agreement. Walker and Akeley were currently consolidated. Therefore, Nevis would need to stand on its own.
- Teachers requested to have one member receive an agenda and attend board meetings as a non-voting member.
- Preliminary school board agendas were to be sent to the newspaper prior to each meeting.
- Laporte School District decided to break the cooperative agreement with Akeley School District in football and basketball that had been in place for two years as Akeley was going with Walker-Hackensack next year. The teams had joined together for two football seasons and been called the Heartland Rebels with colors of silver and black. For one season the teams had been together for girls' basketball. As a result, there was no varsity football in Laporte 1989-1990.

July 6, 1989

- All future school board meetings would be held the 4th Monday of the month in the library (currently in the superintendent's office).

August 28, 1989

- The DNR presented a recommendation for a private forest plan for the school forest. The plan was authorized with no fee in exchange for timber.

August 31, 1989

- The newspaper name changed from Nevis, Akeley, Laporte Hubbard County Independent to Northwoods Press.

October 23, 1989

- An analysis of consolidation with a surrounding school was done. Below is the information provided to the public prior to the vote on an excess levy. Without the levy, Nevis would have needed to consolidate as there was a deficit in the fund balance.

Advantages of Consolidation

1. More programs available for students,
2. Combining certain programs and/or administration could save duplication of expenditures,
3. Educational costs spread over larger tax base,
4. One time incentive dollars are available from the state for consolidation.

Disadvantages of Consolidation

1. Loss of control and possibility of partial or complete closing of building,
2. Social problems are more prevalent,
3. Less familiarity in parent-student-teacher relationships,
4. Fewer percentage of participants in extracurricular activities,
5. More travel time,
6. Consolidated school could need to expand its facilities which could lead to bond issues and more tax dollars.

Advantages of Small Schools:

1. Local control of school activities for children,
2. Familiarity of school personnel and curriculum – more individual teacher attention to students,
3. Less transportation time for students and travel time for parents,
4. More controlled/safer environment,
5. Source of economic benefit for local area,
6. More opportunity for a larger percentage of students to participate in extracurricular events,
7. The past student success record of Nevis students on standardized test scores, attendance, and post high school productivity is commendable.

November 7, 1989

- Excess Tax Levy was voted upon. Without the levy, Nevis would need to consolidate. The levy was to remain on the tax rolls until revoked.
287 yes 265 no 572 total ballots

December 12, 1989

- State Department of Education gave approval for the consolidation of Walker-Hackensack District 119 and Akeley District 301. In January 1990, Walker-Hackensack and Akeley School Boards approved the consolidation plan. July 1, 1990 became the official date of consolidation of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District 113 (new number).

December 20, 1989

- A centralized school idea was explored by Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, Laporte, Backus, and Remer. They were thinking of consolidating all the schools.

January 1990

- Nevis Teachers worked 177 days and 430 minutes each day (7 hours 10 minutes) during the 1989-1990 school year. 178 days for the 1990-1991 school year. And, 179 days for the 1992-1993 school year.
- Eligibility rules for students to participate in sports were changed and increased to grades of C or better. The students not meeting that standard would be on academic probation for two weeks during which time the student would need to show improvement in homework, class participation, and willingness to seek extra help. A student not showing progress after the two weeks, could be put on probation for an additional 5 weeks.

April 23, 1990

- Mr. Al Wickman was contacted in regard to spraying the school forest.
- The math department was recognized for their outstanding efforts at the recent math contest.

May 15, 1990

- The spring sports cooperative was created in 1989 involving four school districts: Walker-Hackensack, Akeley, Laporte, and Nevis was dissolved January 1990, with Laporte pulling out. A Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) approval letter of the dissolution of the cooperative was approved at the May meeting.
- Senior citizens were given approval to remove wood from the school forest at their own risk and cost.

May 1990

- Representative Mr. Tony Kinkel gave the graduation commencement address.
- The first scholarships were awarded from the Pam Lindow Scholarship Fund.
- The outdoor volleyball, tennis court, and half basketball court were given a new 10-foot high fence.

August 27, 1990

- Approved the purchase of a computer lunch program.
- Approved the lease of a 26'x56' steel building from Mr. Roger Plumley at a cost of \$2,000 per year.

September 1990

- 18 of 21 possible credits were required to graduate in grades 10-12 with a 7-period day (high school graduation credits changed to include grade 9 in 1993).

September 24, 1990

- Approved paying the entrance fees to the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association to begin the program at Nevis.