



14665 State Route 22  
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Regular Meeting  
December 14, 2011

The regular meeting was held at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Wood at 7:01 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members: Wood, Sowalski, Gavrity, Kroboth, Bingham, Sotek, and Bienes. Superintendent McGraw, Leslie Whitcomb, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Matthew Klafehn, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Becky Marzeski, WBH Elementary Principal, Tamara Thorpe-Odom, Director of Special Education, and Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Business Administrator

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the public.

<p><b>Public Comment</b> Alissa Ross spoke about contracting with Questar for bussing. She stated that she is concerned about it.</p> <p><b>Curriculum and Instruction</b> <b><u>Non-Action Items</u></b> Michelle Schrader, WBH Elementary Art teacher spoke about a Kids Safe Online poster contest. The following students were present, Lucy Burgess, Tyler Price, Kyle Patch, Ashlie Tynan, Brandon Dupa, and Taylor Robertson.</p> <p>Kelsey Norberg, Computer Science/Technology Teacher, and Tim Lambert, student, spoke to the Board about a Toys for Tots project that they have been working on.</p> <p><b>Acknowledgments/Administrative Comments</b> The District awarded a diploma to James Poulton, Veteran of the Vietnam War era, as part of New York State Operation Recognition Program. Members of his family as well as Gary Flaherty, Director of Veterans Services for Columbia County, Senator Steve McLaughlin, and a representative from Congressman Gibson’s office were in attendance.</p> <p>Tamara Thorpe-Odom, Director of Special Education, notified the Board that training has been provided to enhance learning with technology. Training for administrators and clerical staff has been provided on prior written notice and new special education mandates. Mrs. Thorpe-Odom attended a Special Education Coalition at Shenendehowa where the focus was on co-teaching, inclusion, meeting AYP, along with implementing mandates for APPR. This coalition will help to provide tools, strategies, and resources to support teachers, students, and administration.</p> <p>Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Business Administrator, notified the Board that she has been working on preparing next year’s budget. She also notified the Board that Green Fiber, the company that provides a recycling dumpster, decided to pull out of New Lebanon.</p> <p>Becky Marzeski, Walter B. Howard Elementary Principal, notified the Board that the Winter Art and Music festival took place on Tuesday evening. One piece of every K-6</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p><b>Curriculum and Instruction</b></p> <p><b>Acknowledgments/ Administrative Comments</b></p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

student's art work was on display. Students in grades 4-6 chorus and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band performed for a full house. Report cards were updated and issued last Friday. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll assembly will take place tomorrow morning and ten Honor Roll students and sixteen High Honor Roll students will be recognized.

Mathew Klafehn, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, notified the Board that for the second year, under the direction of Coach Tom Maxwell, the Girls Varsity Basketball team will be participating in a scrimmage and offensive clinic at West Canada High School in Central New York. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 28 over the holiday break. Last year's event was well received by our players, as they learned a great deal and built relationships with players from West Canada High School. Also, over the break, the team will be going to the SUNY Albany campus to watch the Women's team practice and to meet with the Great Danes players and coaches. The Boys Varsity Basketball team will be competing at home on Wednesday, December 28 at noon. The Boys Varsity Volleyball season is also underway. As a means of accommodating younger students with the desire to play volleyball, but who are not size and age appropriate to be members of the Varsity team, we have decided to allow seventh and eighth grade students to be non-roster players. While they are not eligible to compete in official matches, Mr. Brown, the coach, is working with these students during practice so that they may receive the skill building exercises necessary to be successful at the Varsity level. This, in essence, has become our feeder program. We have scheduled an unofficial 25 point match with the young players from Maple Hill, which will take place on Friday immediately following the official contest between the two schools. This will resemble the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter in the modified basketball contests and will provide our young athletes with some game experience.

### **Minutes**

#### **Action Item**

Board Member Bienes made a motion to approve items a-b as a block. Seconded by Board Member Wood. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. Review and approval of the November 16, 2011 minutes.
- b. Review and approval of the November 30, 2011 minutes.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

#### **Non-Action Items**

A class and club officers report was reviewed with the Board.

### **Acknowledgments/Administrative Comments**

Leslie Whitcomb, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, notified the Board that the high school choir performed on December 16 in Chatham with the Hendrick Hudson Men's choir. This was a charity concert and our students will be donating their portion of the voluntary contributions to the Darcy/Crawley Fund. The choir was invited based on their reputation for quality performances. On December 14, Mr. Jason and Ms. Norberg took students on a field trip to three Nanotech facilities. These students were able to see both applied and theoretical applications of Nanotechnology. The Winter Concert and Art show will be on December 22. Fifteen week progress reports will be distributed on December 23. Ms. Daus has been providing her students with real-world applications for their learning. The Home and Careers classes are presenting a mini career fair during lunch. Her sports and entertainment marketing students ran a "knock out" competition during half time at a home varsity basketball game last week. The website update has been completed and is now live.

**Minutes**

**Class and Club Officers  
Report**

**Acknowledgments/  
Administrative  
Comments**

**Curriculum and Instruction****Action Items**

Board Member Kroboth made a motion to approve items a-b as a block. Seconded by Board Member Sotek. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. To approve a Spanish travel club trip in year 2014. –Leslie Whitcomb and Kara Siciliano
- b. To approve CSE/CPSE recommendations of programs and placements for the following special education student:  
090340000

**Financial****Non-Action Items**

Carrie Nyc-Chevrier presented Structures of School Finance, Tax Cap. She and Superintendent McGraw led a discussion on budget goals.

**Action Items**

Board Member Sotek made a motion to approve items a-k as a block. Seconded by Board Member Wood. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. To approve the October, 2011 Treasurer's report.
- b. To approve balance transfers totaling \$43,596.
- c. To accept the donation of 65 books from Townsend Press to support the Jr./Sr. High School Library.
- d. To approve the donation of 32 books to the Jr./Sr. High School Library as per list.
- e. To approve the Walter B. Howard Elementary School Extra-Curricular Accounts dated October 30, 2011 as submitted by Lisa Kreutziger, Extra-Curricular Accounts Treasurer.
- f. To approve the Jr./Sr. High School Extra-Curricular Accounts dated October 1-31, 2011 as submitted by Sarah Roblez, Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer.
- g. To approve Superintendent McGraw to initiate the application process that will enable New Lebanon Central School District to enroll foreign students on a tuition basis and to further authorize the application fee of \$1700 and a \$650 fee for a site visit.
- h. To approve the District membership in the Statewide School Finance Consortium Membership.
- i. To accept the donation of two flutes from Sara Weeks to support the music program.
- j. To accept the donation of 2 ½ cases of construction paper from David Pierce, All Metals Machine.
- k. To approve excessing approximately 35 Jr./Sr. High School library books.

**Personnel****Action Items**

Board Member Wood made a motion to approve items a-f with the deletion of item e. Seconded by Board Member Sowalski. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the New Lebanon Central School District accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to terminate the employment of Sandra Dunham, due to her absence from her duties for a period of at least one (1) year, pursuant to Civil Service Law section 71, effective November 21, 2011.
- b. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint Tamara Metzler to the position of bus aide at a rate of \$11.48 per hour, effective November 28, 2011.

**Spanish Travel Club Trip 2014**

**CSE/CPSE Programs and Placements**

**Structures of School Finance, Tax Cap Presentation**

**October, 2011 Treasurer's Report**

**Balance Transfers**

**Accepted Donations**

**WBH Elementary Extra-Curricular Accounts 10/30/11**

**Jr./Sr. High School Extra-Curricular Accounts, 10/1-10/31/11**

**Foreign Student Application Fee Approval**

**Statewide School Finance Membership**

**Accepted Donations**

**Excessed Library Books**

**Sandra Dunham, Termination**

**Tamara Metzler, Bus Aide**

- c. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint the following substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year.

Name	Certified or Uncertified	Position	Rate
Martha Esposito	Certified	Substitute Teacher	\$80.00 per day
	Certified	Substitute Teaching Assistant	\$13.96 per hour
Stephanie Walter	Certified	Substitute Teaching Assistant	\$13.96 per hour

- d. To accept the resignation of Susan Mitchell, bus driver, for purpose of retirement, effective December 31, 2011.

- e. ~~DELETE: Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint Thomas Laier to a 7-12 English tenure area position (permanent substitute) from December 12, 2011, through March 23, 2012 at a per diem rate of \$207.00 (without benefits). Mr. Laier has a Masters and has English 7-12 Permanent certification. (application to BOE members)~~

- f. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint the following as advisors of the sports club for students in grades 3-6.

Advisor	Stipend
Joe Diccio	No stipend
Karl Erickson	No stipend

**Committee Meetings**

**Non-Action Item**

There will be a facilities committee meeting on January 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Open Discussion**

**Non-Action Item**

Questar III Saturday morning workshop series:

- January 7, 2012, 9:00-1:00. Topic: Instructional Programming – Special Education Learning

Superintendent McGraw asked if the Board would be interested in a proposed joint school board meeting with Chatham Central School District and New Lebanon Central School District. The proposed date is January 25 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose is to discuss the draft of the grant for a feasibility study.

Board Member Sowalski requested that the topic of single bell be on an upcoming Board agenda. He also discussed the excessing of uniforms and suggested recognizing athletes that scored 1000 points.

Board Member Bingham expressed that she felt that the choir sounded amazing.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Executive Session**

Board Member Wood made a motion to enter executive session to discuss employment matters related to a particular person or corporation and pending litigation at 8:48 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Sowalski. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Clerk Pro-Tem**

Board Member Wood made a motion to appoint Superintendent McGraw as Clerk Pro-Tem. Seconded by Board Member Sowalski. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Martha Esposito,  
Substitute Teacher and  
Teaching Assistant**

**Stephanie Walter,  
Substitute Teaching  
Assistant**

**Susan Mitchell,  
Resignation**

**Delete Item e.**

**Joe Diccio & Karl  
Erickson, Sports Club  
Advisors**

**Facilities Committee  
Meeting January 4, 2012**

**Board Open Discussion**

**Public Comment**

**Executive Session**

**Clerk Pro-Tem**

**Adjournment**

Board Member Kroboth made a motion to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Bingham. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

\_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully submitted,  
Krista Giangrossi, Deputy District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Adjournment**

\_\_\_\_\_