



Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education
JSHS-Library at 7:00pm

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Regular Board of Education Meeting was held in the Library at the JSHS. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lambert at 7:12pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Tim Lambert
Mike Bienes
Tracy Bingham
Martha Esposito
Sharon Putnam
Christine Sotek
Monique Wood
Galen Martin

Also in attendance:

Leslie Whitcomb
Matt Klafehn
Andrew Kourt
Mike Los
Rick Arket

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Non-Action

A. Gary Flaherty, Director of Veterans of Columbia County referenced a letter he sent to the Board on the veteran's tax exemption. He stated that there is misinformation regarding the impact on non-veterans. He offered to answer questions, stated the number of veterans will be decreasing over time and said veterans are not asking for a "freebie". He talked about the difficulty for veterans getting assistance for PTSD and that the cost to non-veterans is very small. He has found no one opposing the veteran's exemption.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

Non-Action

- A. Student Representative Report given by Galen Martin. Galen was absent.
B. WBH update given by Andrew Kourt. The monthly habit is "Seek first to understand, then to be understood". He reported on the success of the winter carnival and February's Valentine's dance. Honor roll assembly is also this month. Third and fourth graders will have personal best awards after the break. Fifth and sixth graders health curriculum will include growing to maturity, followed by parent information night.
C. JSHS update given by Matt Klafehn. The Power of Peace two day workshop was held this month. It has different students participate yearly with the goal of all or most students eventually participating. The all county jazz and pop festival was recently held. He is proud of the music program. The junior high awards were this morning. The morning award schedule seems to be more convenient for parents. The drama performance will be on February 27th. Mrs. Allard, Mrs. Dickson and Mrs. Squier will be presenting at the state's social studies conference on inquiry based research. He updated the board on

the safety committee and drills. The class of 2015 valedictorian is Lauren Stone and the Salutatorian is Haley Gubitzi.

D. Athletic report given by Rick Arket. Students have entered into the final week of the winter season. Multiple teams are planning on competing in sectionals. Swim sectionals are February 13 at Shenendehowa. Boys' volleyball opening round sectional game is scheduled for February 23. Girls' basketball sectionals begin on February 25. The winter banquet is February 24. The spring season begins March 9.

E. Business Office/Facilities and Grounds update given by Michael Los. He shared the fiscal stress test results: we were deemed to have no indicators of financial stress. Guidance has finally been received on the tax freeze.

F. Special Education update given by Jennifer Morris. Jennifer was absent.

4. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Non-Action

A. Counseling and Psychology program update given by Meghan Pepe and Patricia White.

B. PE/Health Instruction update given by Tim Christiansen.

C. Building Level Shared Decision Making reports shared by Andrew Kourt and Matt Klafehn. WBH meets monthly with teachers, parents, TAs and school nurse. He is proud to say he has 3 parent representatives this school year. The committee prioritized their focus for the year on student wellness. They also developed monthly healthy habits. The school nurse creates a monthly healthy kids bulletin board.

Action

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 4D. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

D. Motion to approve CSE/CPSE recommendations of program and placement for the following special education students: 083360000, 092100387.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Wood made the motion to approve items 5A-B. Board member Sotek seconded with amendment to 5A minutes regarding misnaming of Board President. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the January 21, 2015 Public Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes.

B. Motion to approve the February 4, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting minutes.

6. FINANCIAL

Non-Action

Second presentation of 2015-16 proposed budget was given by Michael Los.

Action

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to approve items 6A-C. Board member Esposito seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to approve the Grades 6-12 Extra-Curricular Accounts Report dated December 1 - December 31, 2014 as submitted by Sarah Roblez, Extra-Curricular Treasurer.

C. Motion to approve the December 2014 Treasurer's Report.

7. PERSONNEL

Action

Board member Sotek made the motion to approve items 7A-D. Board member Wood seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, the following substitutes, effective February 12, 2015 as per below:

Stacey Hopkins	Uncertified substitute teacher	\$85 per day
Stacey Hopkins	Substitute teaching assistant	\$14.81 per hour
Stacey Hopkins	Substitute clerical	\$15.21 per hour
Hannah Hogan	Uncertified substitute teacher	\$85 per day
Hannah Hogan	Substitute teaching assistant	\$14.81 per hour

B. Motion to accept a resignation from Stacey Hopkins, JSHS clerk/typist.

C. Motion to appoint upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Brittany Grattan to the position of clerk/typist, Step 1, effective February 12, 2015 at a rate of \$15.21 per hour.

D. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, the following volunteers:

Corie Noel	Track volunteer
Leilani Hover	Track volunteer

8. SUPERINTENDENT

A. Collaboration with the Town of New Lebanon. On behalf of the District, Superintendent Whitcomb would like to thank the Town of New Lebanon for authorizing the New Lebanon highway department to sand the driveways at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School, the bus garage and the New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School.

9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

Non-Action

Superintendent Whitcomb shared the summer retreat options. Superintendent Whitcomb will arrange to have staff from NYSSBA facilitate the retreat.

Action

Board member Wood made the motion to approve item 9A. Board President Lambert seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to change the April 8, 2015 Board of Education date to April 21, as April 8th falls during spring recess.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Board member Wood made the motion to enter into executive session at 9:04pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations and the employment history of a particular employee. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Board member Esposito made the motion to appoint Superintendent Whitcomb as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board member Wood seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm. Board member Wood seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk