



Wednesday, March 11, 2015  
Policy Committee Meeting- WBH Library at 5:30pm and  
Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education  
WBH-Library at 7:00pm

**1. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 5:30PM IN THE LIBRARY**

**2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Regular Board of Education Meeting was held in the Library at WBH. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lambert at 7:04pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)**

Tim Lambert	<u>  X  </u>
Mike Bienes	<u>  X  </u>
Tracy Bingham	<u>  X  </u>
Martha Esposito	<u>  X  </u>
Sharon Putnam	<u>  X  </u>
Christine Sotek	<u>  X  </u>
Monique Wood	<u>  X  </u>
Galen Martin	<u>  A  </u>

**Also in attendance:**

Leslie Whitcomb	<u>  X  </u>
Matt Klafehn	<u>  X  </u>
Andrew Kourt	<u>  X  </u>
Mike Los	<u>  X  </u>
Rick Arket	<u>  X  </u>
Jennifer Morris	<u>  X  </u>

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Non-Action

A. A letter was handed to the Board. Karl Erikson addressed the Board regarding his support of the youth basketball program and the need for more support for the program. He said he cannot continue to handle it independently and would like to step away from it. He does not want to go forward as the sole lead of the program. He would like to continue as the Varsity basketball coach.

**4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

Non-Action

A. Student Representative Report given by Galen Martin. Galen was absent but wrote an update to the board that was read by Superintendent Whitcomb.

B. WBH update given by Andrew Kourt. The habit of the month is Synergize/working together. They are reviewing healthy eating habits. The next community event will be a family movie night this Friday. The new science lab is in use. He gave an update on professional development including coaches working with teachers and new techniques.

C. JSBS update given by Matt Klafehn. Seventh grader Lydia Loverin is the regional spelling bee champion for the second time in two years. Lydia will go on to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., at the end of May that will be televised on ESPN. Future Cities was invited to the Senate Chamber to receive a resolution from Senator Marchione- the date is to be determined. Students

enrolled in Advanced Foods went to Lenox, MA on Friday to visit Josh Needleman, a graduate of New Lebanon and owner of Chocolate Springs Café. Sixth grade visits are coming up. March is "Observe a Colleague Month". At the March faculty meeting they discussed academic vocabulary, e-doctrina pilot. Marlana Ehlers and Annika Nelson will be featured in the Questar art exhibit at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy. Other students work will be on display at the Women's Club art show.

D. Athletic report given by Rick Arket. All spring teams have begun practice. The game schedule has been posted on the athletics eBoard, with the first game scheduled 3 weeks from today. He recognized both Swim and Girls Varsity Basketball teams for earning scholar athlete distinction. Each team had a cohort of players with a 90 or above average for quarter 2. He thanked coaches Christiansen, Hassenpflug, and Maxwell for their emphasis on and prioritization of academics. The Girls Basketball team was also voted the recipient of the CHVL league sportsmanship award. He provided information on a policy change made by State Ed. regarding selection/classification guidelines and will post information regarding the new procedures on the athletics eBoard this summer.

E. Business Office/Facilities and Grounds update given by Michael Los. Optical vote scanning machines may be used for the budget vote this year. He met with representatives from the County Board of Elections in Chatham. Lever machines are being phased out. New machines will be run by certified poll workers. Other districts are not as lucky with working with their Board of Elections as we have been so far.

F. Special Education update given by Jennifer Morris. Jennifer introduced herself to the Board. She shared that her transition into the district went well. Everyone was very welcoming. She informed them of the professional development provided to the special education teachers on the NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential option for students with disabilities. The CSE is conducting transition meetings for identified students going from grade 6 to grade 7. Annual reviews have started and are going well. The special education office is continually working on compliance requirements.

## **5. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

### Non-Action

- A. K-12 Music program update given by Scott Thompson, Val Synakowski and Kelsey Boyce.
- B. Plans for the Class of 2015 senior trip presented by Mary Beth Liles.

### Action

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to approve item 5C-D. Board member Wood seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

C. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, the senior trip to Virginia Beach, Va., from June 12, 2015- June 16, 2015 and chaperones as per attached.

D. Motion to approve the 2015-16 district calendar and Board of Education meeting dates.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Wood made the motion to approve items 6A. Board member Sotek seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the February 11, 2015 Regular Board of Education meeting minutes.

## **7. FINANCIAL**

### Non-Action

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

### Action

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 7B-E. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to approve the Notice of Hearing and Elections.

C. Motion to approve the January 2015 Treasurer's report.

D. Motion to approve the grades 6-12 Extra-Curricular Accounts report dated January 1, 2015 - January 31, 2015 as submitted by Sarah Roblez, JSHS Extra-curricular Accounts Treasurer.

E. Motion to declare items excess.

## **8. PERSONNEL**

### Action

Board member Bingham made the motion to approve item 8A. Board member Wood seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained.

A. Motion to accept a resignation from Cheryl Bickford, Bus Driver, effective February 13, 2015.

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to approve items 8B-G. Board member Bingham seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to accept a resignation from Kim Trombley, teaching assistant, effective February 23, 2015.

C. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Alicia Woodbury (currently employed), to the probationary position of Teaching Assistant, effective March 12, 2015, Step 1, at a rate of \$14.81 per hour.

D. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Brooke Dickson (currently employed) as a volunteer coach for girls modified softball for the 2014-15 school year.

E. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Stacey Hopkins as a substitute cook/server cashier, effective March 12, 2015 at a rate of \$11.04 per hour.

F. Motion to accept a resignation from Patricia Pierce, cook/server cashier, effective March 11, 2015.

G. Motion to accept a resignation from Fred Boughton, Laborer, effective March 27, 2015.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Progress report on goals given by Superintendent Whitcomb. She highlighted reallocating reading teachers at WBH and the positive affect they have had on students working towards reading on or above grade level.

B. NYSED Educator Evaluation Data presented by Superintendent Whitcomb.

Board member Putnam made the motion to approve item 9C. Board member Wood seconded.

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

C. Motion to authorize Board President Lambert to sign two copies of a Fund Surplus Agreement and Release related to the Questar III OPEB accrual liquidation schedule.

## **10. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION**

### Non-Action

Board member Wood asked to revisit the Veteran's Tax Exemption next year and asked how we can help find a volunteer for youth basketball to help Karl Erickson. The Board decided that future discussion on these topics is needed.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Susan Condron discussed an issue with her daughter's bus driver getting stuck and being towed as well as submitted a petition in the driver's support. She believes the rules were not known and that drivers should know of policies. Mark Condron towed the bus in question. He said he saw the bus in the bank, and defended the towing saying the driver "had nothing to do with it". He would like the district to look at how things are done. Helen Carlone said what happened that day is what is representative of

community (working together). A termination or resignation over this damages the sense of community. Citizens don't know the rules and laws, they just want to help. Her bus run is now fluctuating in time, being later than normal, has two bus drivers instead of one and has no rapport with either of the new drivers.

## **12. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Board President Lambert made the motion to enter into executive session at 8:55pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular employee. Board member Bingham seconded.

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Board member Wood made the motion to appoint Superintendent Whitcomb as Clerk Pro-Tem.

Board member Putnam seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Wood made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22pm. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly McGivern*

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Kelly McGivern, District Clerk