



Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education – WBH Library 7:00pm

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch	__P__
Bill Buckenroth	__A__
Racheal Chubb	__A__
John Kalisz	__P__
Rob Long	__P__
Alex Polacinski	__P__
Sharon Powers	__P__

Also in attendance:

Chris Harper	__P__
Matt Klafehn	__P__
Josh Noble	__P__
Carol Strickling	__P__

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Board President Brutsch at 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON CODES OF CONDUCT

A. WBH Student Code of Conduct

B. JSHS Student Code of Conduct

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 2C. Board member Powers seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

C. Motion to close the Public Hearing

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. WBH update- Josh Noble presented on cleaning the building and reconfiguring the library.

B. JSHS update- Matt Klafehn presented on scheduling, 7th grade orientation and Valene Synakowski's new position.

C. Business Office update- Carolann Strickling presented on the continuation of closing out the year, audits, CSEA contractual changes, grant funding and insurance renewals.

D. Superintendent updated on repainting the pool, thanked Glenn Giumarra for helping install new science tables, hectic summer, hiring, time capsule.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 5A. Board member Long seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained. Board member Powers would like it amended to say she and Vice President Kalisz also took oaths at the July meeting.

A. Motion to approve July 8, 2026 Organizational Board of Education Meeting minutes Meeting

6. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 6-G. Board member Powers seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained. A. Motion to certify that the District is in compliance with APPR requirements

B. Motion to approve the 2026-27 Counseling Plan

C. Motion to approve the District Wide Safety Plan

D. Motion to approve the WBH Code of Conduct

E. Motion to approve the JSHS Code of Conduct

F. Motion to approve the Athletic Code of Conduct

G. Motion to approve the continued merger for sports teams with Berlin.

7. FINANCIAL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 7A-F. Board member Polacinski seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained. The board requested Treasurer's reports with more information.

A. Motion to amend rates for the 2026-27 school year

Mileage Reimbursement Rate: (as designated by the IRS)	\$0.76 per mile
Lifeguard Rate:	\$23/hour
Long-term substitute	\$281.19/day

B. Motion to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report

C. Motion to approve May 2026 Treasurer's Report

D. Motion to approve the June 2026 Treasurer's Report

E. Motion to approve budget transfers

F. Motion to approve the 2026-27 Tax Levy

8. PERSONNEL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 8A. Board President Brutsch seconded. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Buckenroth).

A. Motion to appoint advisers and coordinators

Coordinator

Science/Tech 7-12

ELA 7-12

ELA K-6

JSHS Sr. Band/After Hour Duties

JSHS Sr. Choir/After Hour Duties

Advisor

Glenn Giumarra

Amanda Starks

Kelli Heslin

BJ FitzGerald

Valene Synakowski

Math K-6	Michelle Bruns
Science K-6	Chris Bonacquisti
Community Education Coordinator	Michelle Bienes & Britt Buckenroth
WBH Band & Choir/After Hours Duties	Alyssa Winckler
ELL/Foreign Language Coordinator	Bridget LeBarron
DEI Coordinator	TBD
JSHS Academic/Credit Rescue	Amanda Starks

Class/Club Name	Advisor
Class of 2027 (12th)	Britt Buckenroth
Class of 2028 (11th)	Koni Kraft
Class of 2029 (10th)	April Smith
Class of 2030 (9th)	Britt Buckenroth
Class of 2031 (8th)	Melissa Finocchiaro
Class of 2032 (7th)	TBD
JSHS Just Food	Britt Buckenroth
JSHS Archery Club	Andrew Starks
JSHS Fitness Club	TBD
JSHS Literary Arts Club	TBD
JSHS Makerspace	Britt Buckenroth
JSHS Outspoken!	Meaghan Rogers
JSHS Spirit Club	Britt Buckenroth
JSHS Student Leadership Council	Michelle Bienes & Tim Christiansen
JSHS Travel Club Fundraising & Activities	Michelle Bienes, Aaron Kanofsky, Sarah Rob
JSHS Yearbook	Michelle Bienes
JSHS Drama Club	Rob Long
WBH Art Club	Jennifer Touchstone
WBH Board Game Club	David Hawkins
WBH Drama Club	Alyssa Winckler & Vicki Ouimet
WBH Minecraft/Gaming Club	David Hawkins
WBH Science Club	Bridget Rank
WBH Yoga Club	TBD
WBG 6th Grade Advisor	Chris Bonacquisti & Michelle Bruns
Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 8B-P. Board member Powers seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.	
B. Motion to approve coaches for the 2026-27 school year	
Nick VanVoorst- Girls Varsity Volleyball	
Aaron Kanofsky- Girls Varsity Soccer	
Rick Beauchemin- Boys JV Soccer	
Tonya Smith- Girls JV Volleyball	

C. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Rebecca Wallace as a Teaching Assistant (previously a Teacher's Aide), step 1, at a rate of \$21.16, effective September 1, 2026. Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on the employee receiving APPR ratings of H or E in 3 of 4 preceding years (and no I rating in final year) (8 NYCRR § 30-1.3[d]).

D. Motion to appoint a bus aide

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Deloris Laier as a Bus Aide effective August 9, 2026 at a rate of \$17.62 per hour.

Administrative File Attachments

[Deloris Laier.pdf \(214 KB\)](#)

E. Motion to accept a resignation- from Melissa Stevens effective August 31, 2026.

F. Motion to amend an appointment- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Cirstie Moon (call back, credited for two years employed by the district from 9/1/23-6/30/25) to the Elementary Education tenure area, step 4, with a salary of \$59,353, effective September 1, 2026- September 1, 2028. Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on the employee receiving APPR ratings of H or E in 3 of 4 preceding years (and no I rating in final year) (8 NYCRR 30-1.3[d]).

G. Motion to accept a resignation- To accept a resignation from McKenna Crawley effective July 23, 2026.

From: Crawley, McKenna <mcrawley@newlebanoncsd.org>

Date: Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 11:51 AM

Subject: Resignation

To: Josh Noble <jnoble@newlebanoncsd.org>

Hey Josh, I just got off the phone with Mindy about not returning this upcoming school year, so this is my resignation letter to you. Thank you for the opportunity and I truly appreciate the experience.

Thank you

McKenna Crawley

H. Motion to accept a resignation- from Jared DeLuca, effective August 8, 2026.

I. Motion to amend terms and conditions for Siani Amidon as per attached:

J. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Kimberly Eriole as a teaching assistant, step 1, at a rate of \$21.16, effective September 1, 2026.

K. Motion to appoint a Math Teacher- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Paula Butler to the 7-12 Math tenure area (probationary), Step 3, with a salary of \$58,295 per year, effective September 1, 2026 through September 1, 2030. Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on the employee receiving APPR ratings of H or E in 3 of 4 preceding years (and no I rating in final year) (8 NYCRR § 30-1.3[d]).

Administrative File Attachments

L. Motion to appoint an Elementary Teacher- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Leah Meredith to the Elementary tenure area (probationary), Step 3, with a salary of \$58,295 per year, effective September 1, 2026 through September 1, 2030. Eligibility

for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on the employee receiving APPR ratings of H or E in 3 of 4 preceding years (and no I rating in final year) (8 NYCRR § 30-1.3[d]).

Administrative File Attachments

M. Motion to accept a resignation from Valene Synakowski, as a music teacher effective August 23, 2026.

N. Motion to appoint an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Valene Synakowski as Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, for a four-year probationary period commencing on August 24, 2026 and ending on August 23, 2030, in the tenure area of Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, with a salary of \$ \$95,000.

O. Motion to appoint transportation staff

Val Ozga as a substitute bus aide at a rate of \$17.62 per hour

Kristen Bianco as a Substitute Bus Aide at a rate of \$17.62 per hour

Kristen Bianco as a bus driver trainee at a rate of \$16.50 per hour

Administrative File Attachments

P. Motion to approve a MOA with the NLTA

9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Next Board Meeting Date- JSHS- Next meeting will be September 9, 2026 at the JSHS in the Library. Sports scheduling was inquired about as well as bus scheduling.

B. Designation of Board Members for Board Committees

Committee	2026-27 Members
Audit Committee	Committee of the whole
Visitation Committee	Committee of the Whole
Policy Committee	Bill Buckenroth, John Kalisz, Rob Long
Negotiation Committee	Michael Brutsch, Sharon Powers, Racheal Chubb
Facility Committee	Michael Brutsch, John Kalisz, Alex Polacinski

10. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:33pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations and the employment history of a particular employee and negotiations. Board member Powers seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to appoint Superintendent Harper as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Brutsch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Malloy

Kelly Malloy, District Clerk