



Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Public Forum and Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education – JSJS Library 6:30pm

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch __P__
Bill Buckenroth __P__
Racheal Chubb __A__
John Kalisz __P__
Rob Long __P__ 6:40pm
Alex Polacinski __P__
Sharon Powers __P__

Also in attendance:

Chris Harper __P__
Matt Klafehn __P__
Josh Noble __P__
Danielle Brewster __P__
Corey Brown __P__

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Board President Brutsch at 6:30pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON THE BUDGET

Open public forum to discuss early budget planning for the 2026–27 school year. Community members are welcome to attend, ask questions, and share suggestions. At this stage, any answers will be based on projections. Exact numbers will not be available until April.

Nancy Stock- Her taxes up \$450, wants out of NY, what do things cost for the district and what can be adjusted- fuel? Electricity? What can we get rid of? She single-handedly got the 15% tax increase to a 9% increase based on on-line vocalness. Make a one page-succinct document for the public and disseminate it in segments. There were 1100 kids in the district in the 1970s, would like see a consolidation to one building.

Steve Powers- Town assessor Kim sent and email to the board regarding seniors crying to her. He would like the seniors to get a tax exemption, it would generate good will. Can we live stream meetings like the town? They only pay \$250 per month.

Dennis Burek- We need more state aid with a correct formula, asked for elaboration on foundation aid. Superintendent Harper and Danielle Brewster let him know they have met with politicians and asked for help in changing the formula, that it doesn't work for our district. With state mandates, we can only do so much. Capital projects do not raise taxes.

Chris Patterson asked when the tax situation would look better (7-8 years was reply), and said that many people can't get out to hear information.

Susan Tipograph- Need to engage the public, people want their voices heard, can we be the squeaky wheel with politicians? What can the community do besides write checks?

Liz Brutsch- Commended the board for getting the information out to the community, being a friend and sharing information. It's up to the community members to share information.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. Technology Update- Dallas Carr presented on being safety-focused, cameras, servers, long term tech plan, Bluebook, e-rate.

B. Student Representative update- senior citizen choir luncheon & \$500 donation, winter concert, spirit week, thanksgiving dinner, turkey trot, Charlie's Pantry, sports, shop class (making tables for science) and holiday movie.

C. WBH update- Josh Noble presented on craft fair, winter concert, faculty meeting, senior citizens coming in as class readers and pen pals and SGI.

D. JSHS update- Matt Klafehn presented on thanksgiving dinner, kudos to Britt Buckenroth, choir- tips hat to Val Synakowski "ambassador", winter concert, \$500 donation from senior citizens from the craft fair proceeds to the choir program, tech class and new psychologist.

E. Athletic update Corey Brown presented on scholar athletes, winter start of sports, he is section 2 bridge representative.

F. Business Office update- Danielle Brewster presented on budget development documents to staff.

G. Superintendent update- Superintendent Harper presented on budget, detailed financial plans, donations, concerts, craft fair, culinary workshop grant and community ed winter walking at WBH.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 4A. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the November 12, 2025 Board of Education meeting minutes

5. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 4A. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve CSE recommendations of programs and placements

6. FINANCIAL

A. Budget Discussion and Review

1. New Lebanon CSD will maintain a balanced budget while supporting academic excellence and expanding resources for students and staff.

2. Increase fiscal awareness among all stakeholders through communication and professional development.

3. Stay within the tax cap and meet state mandated requirements.

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item B-G. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to approve the October 2025 grades 6-12 extra-curricular accounts report

- C. Motion to approve budget transfers
- D. Motion to approve the 2026-27 Budget Calendar
- E. Motion to approve the October 2025 Treasurer's Report
- F. Motion to approve overpaid tax reimbursements
- G. Motion to declare items excess- Van # 144 & 145 (scheduled for replacement)

7. PERSONNEL

~~A. Motion to extend a maternity leave To extend the maternity leave for Jenna Jacobson until June 26, 2026--Tabled~~

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 7B-E. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to amend an appointment- To amend the appointment of Don Kipp from full time laborer to part time laborer, two days per week, 8 hours per day, effective December 11, 2025- October 2026, at which time he will have the option to be reinstated to a full time laborer position.

C. Motion to create and appoint a position- To create and appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Peter Minacci as a temporary, part time laborer, three days per week, 8 hours per day, step 1, at a rate of \$16.59 per hour, effective December 11, 2025- October 2026, at which time the position will be abolished.

D. Motion to appoint an Art teacher- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Carly Lynch as an Art teacher, step 1, with a salary of \$54,945, effective January 26, 2026- January 26, 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]).

E. Motion to amend an appointment- To amend the appointment of McKenna Crawley from Teacher Aide to Teaching Assistant, effective December 11, 2025, step 1, at a rate of \$19.91 per hour. 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]).

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Tipograph commented the choir is great.

Nancy Stock commented- tell the people what programs are being taught, why are there so many special education students?

Steve Powers asked if the board should send a member to act as a liaison to the town board?

Board said no, they are a separate entity from the town and do not want to get involved in town politics.

9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

Steve Powers asked about the senior citizens tax relief. Income based? Discussion followed regarding how it would affect the other towns in the district? Is there a deadline?

10. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:10pm for the purpose of discussing legal matters and the employment history of a particular employee and legal matters. Board member Powers seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to appoint Superintendent Harper as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Brutsch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk