



February 15, 2017  
Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education  
JSHS Library at 7:00pm

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

Tim Lambert        \_\_P\_\_  
Mike Bienes        \_\_P\_\_  
Mike Brutsch       \_\_P\_\_  
Raymona Griffin   \_\_P\_\_  
Sharon Putnam     \_\_P\_\_  
Christine Sotek    \_\_P\_\_  
Janet Stone        \_\_A\_\_

**Also in attendance:**

Leslie Whitcomb    \_\_P\_\_  
Matt Klafehn        \_\_P\_\_  
Andrew Kourt       \_\_P\_\_  
Mike Los            \_\_P\_\_  
Josh Noble           \_\_P\_\_

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

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Flaherty stated he thought Board member Brutsch should recuse himself from the Veterans vote because his daughter read a statement at the last meeting. Another member of the public spoke in support of the tax exemption.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

A. Student Representative Report-Dakota Kubli presented information on students in sports going to sectionals, Future Cities, the variety show and a reading contest.

B. Transportation Quarterly update- Patty Gallup presented information on the challenges of driving buses in bad weather, how well the drivers do and protocols.

C. WBH Update- Andrew Kourt presented on 100<sup>th</sup> day activities, mid-year assessments and science professional development.

D. JSHS Update- Matt Klafehn informed the Board of the 2016-17 class Valedictorian (Timothy Lambert, Jr.) and Salutatorian (Megan O'Brien). The academic awards, honor roll incentive (thank you to Bucky's for bagels at cost) and Hang up and Drive assembly were also acknowledged.

E. Athletic Report -Josh Noble presented information on sectionals, athletic banquet, a new pitch count rule for baseball and thanked the transportation department.

F. Business Office/Facilities and Grounds update- Michael Los presented information on the water tank bid and a Utica National dividend refund of \$5500.

#### **4. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

A. Building Level Shared Decision Making Reports- Andrew Kourt and Matt Klafehn presented information on accomplishments by building.

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 4B. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to CSE/CPSE recommendations of program and placement for the following special education students: 092100472, 000002429, 92100131, 092100321, 92100160, 000002075, 083360000, 000002472 and 000002279.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to approve item 5A. Board member Putnam seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the January 25, 2017 Board of Education Meeting minutes.

#### **6. FINANCIAL**

A. 2017-18 Budget Discussion- second presentation of the 2017-18 proposed budget given by Michael Los and Superintendent Whitcomb.

Board member Brutsch made the motion to approve items 6B-D. Board President Lambert seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to approve the December 2016 Treasurer's Report

C. Motion to approve the January 2017 Extra-Curricular Report

D. Motion to award TFR Industries the high school domestic water pressured tank system bid WHEREAS, the New Lebanon Central School District received, accepted and opened bids for the High School Domestic Water Pressured Tank System upgrade on February 8, 2017; and WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was TFR Industries; WHEREAS, the architect has recommended the award of the contract to the above contractor. THEREFORE: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the High School Domestic Water Pressured Tank System bid is awarded to TFR Industries with a base bid of 111,844, resulting in a net contract award of \$111,844.

#### **7. VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION**

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 7A. Board member Putnam seconded. 0 ayes, 5 nays, 1 abstained.

Board member Brutsch stated that he did not need to recuse himself from the vote because his daughter spoke at the last meeting. She is a tax payer and entitled to her opinion. Board member Griffin recused herself due to personal benefit (she is a veteran). Board member Sotek commented on her family connection to veterans and support for veterans. Board Vice President Bienes commented that he supports veterans but disagrees with how it's being handled.

A. Motion to approve the Veterans Tax exemptions

Be it resolved, that the New Lebanon Central School District Board of Education hereby adopts the school tax exemption on the primary residence of eligible veterans residing within the school district who qualify under Real Property Tax Law §458-a (Alternative Veteran's Exemption) or §458-b (Cold War Veteran's Exemption) at the basic maximum levels as follows:  
Alternative Veterans' Exemption:

- 15% of assessed value up to a maximum of \$12,000 for all eligible recipients of the exemption provided for under RPTL §458-a
- Additional 10% of assessed value up to a maximum of \$8,000 exemption for all veterans who served in a "combat zone" as the term is defined under RPTL §458-a
- 50% of disability rating as determined by the Veterans Administration or Department of Defense with a maximum of \$40,000 for all veterans who suffered a "service connected" disability as the term is defined under RPTL §458-a

Cold War Veterans:

- 15% of assessed value up to a maximum of \$12,000 for all eligible recipients of the exemption provided for under RPTL §458-b
- 50% of disability rating as determined by the Veterans Administration or Department of Defense with a maximum of \$40,000 for all veterans who suffered a "service connected" disability as the term is defined under RPTL §458-b

**8. PERSONNEL**

Board member Putnam made the motion to approve items 8A-E. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Andrea Whitbeck, effective approximately March 31, 2017 at a rate of \$228.98 per day, without benefits.

B. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Christopher Bonacquisti to mentor Rachel Woods for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year and the first semester of the 2017-18 school year with a stipend of \$1150.00.

C. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Ellen Winters (currently employed) to the probationary position of Dispatcher effective February 1, 2017 at a rate of \$16.33 per hour.

D. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, the following volunteer coaches for track for the 2016-17 school year:  
Leilani Hover, Corie Noel and Kelsey Norberg.

E. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Whitcomb, Jacqueline Howe (currently employed) as a substitute bus driver at a rate of \$17.09 effective February 16, 2017.

**9. 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.

B. Curriculum Coordinator meetings update given by Superintendent Whitcomb.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation reminder.

## **10. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION**

### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **12. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board President Lambert made the motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular employee at 8:33pm. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 6 ayes, 0 ayes, 0 nays.

B. Board member Putnam made the motion to appoint Superintendent Whitcomb as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board member Sotek seconded. 6 ayes, 0 ayes, 0 nays.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Putnam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 6 ayes, 0 ayes, 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly McGivern*

---

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk