



Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education  
Jr/Sr High School Library 7:00pm

## **1. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:45PM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

The Regular Board of Education Meeting was held at the Jr/Sr High School in the library. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lambert at 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Tim Lambert, Board President; Michael Bienes, Board Vice President; Sharon Putnam, Board Member; Christine Sotek, Board Member; Martha Esposito, Board Member

**Absent:** Monique Wood, Board Member; Tracy Bingham, Board Member

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **4. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

#### **Non-Action**

A. CTE/Tech Valley Presentation. High school students shared their experiences at Questar's Career and Technical Education center (Brianna Springstead) and at Tech Valley High School (Erin Wilder, Arianna Burns and Mackenzie Stone) with the board.

B. Building level shared decision making reports presented by Leslie Whitcomb and Matthew Klafehn. The JSHS is emphasizing communication and safety. They are currently planning a dinner for current international student's host families and those interested in learning more about becoming a host family. Host representatives set up a table during the winter concert for the purposes of acquiring names of interested parties. They were very pleased to have Board Vice President Bienes join the last meeting. SDM was also involved in a debriefing on the lockdown drills and assisted in making recommendations for enhancing the safety of our students and faculty.

WBH is building a sense of community with monthly events. Their goal is to provide one family fun event per month. So far, they have met that goal for October (trunk or treat), December (story and crafts night) and January (movie afternoon). They plan on partnering with the PTA on a

father/daughter - mother/son dance in March. The hope is that these events will become yearly traditions at WBH.

### **Action**

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve items 4C-D. Board member Putnam seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

C. Motion to approve policies 5670, 6551, 7240.

D. Motion to approve CSE recommendations of program and placements for the following special education students: 092100337, 092100338.

## **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

### **Non-Action**

A. Student representative Usman Sadiq was not in attendance, no update given.

B. Business Office/Facilities and Grounds update presented by Michael Los. The board was informed that the lights at the WBH elementary parking lot were installed and functioning well.

C. WBH update given by Leslie Whitcomb. Distance learning fieldtrips continue with grades 5 and 6 Math and Art from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Space and the Solar System for grade 2 from the North Central Ohio elementary school. At this time, they have either completed or scheduled a distance learning experience for each grade. First round elementary principal interviews will be Monday, February 24. The second honor roll assembly had more honorees than first quarter. WBH continues to recognize things that are valued in the classroom. The goal is ongoing recognition at various levels of academic and social behaviors that are valued. Faculty continues to explore the effects of poverty on learning and brain function through discussions of chapters from Teaching with Poverty in Mind by Eric Jensen.

Texts are being reviewed for ELA and they are evaluating the need for texts versus black-line masters that will allow students to mark up the copies of the selections they read. They are partnering with WMHT (public TV station) to bring a series of parenting and family fun events to parents of K-2 students. There is currently a parent/child dance scheduled for Friday night.

D. Jr/Sr High School update presented by Matthew Klafehn. Regents Exams were administered the final week in January. Sophomore Shannon Argentina McDonald won honorable mention and a cash prize from the Columbia-Greene Community College juried art show. Students will now have access to the student portal through our student management system. This will enable students to see the same information that their parents are able to view on the parent portal. The Arts in Education Broadway trip to NYC was rescheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, due to inclement weather. Teachers spent the half day on January 24<sup>th</sup> commencing work on developing mid-year benchmark assessments for the 2014-15 school year. Connor Feathers has

been named as New Lebanon's 2014 Valedictorian. Ryan Etue has been named as Salutatorian for the class of 2014.

E. Athletic report given by Rick Arket. The winter regular season ends today with the boys' volleyball team competing at Chatham. Evan Burgess and Zach Shepard are competing at the section II swimming championships at Shenendehowa Friday, February 14. The girls' basketball opening round sectional game will take place at North Warren High School on Tuesday, February 18 at 6 pm. Boys' volleyball opening round is scheduled for February 25.

F. Special Education update presented by Tamara Thorpe-Odom. Annual Reviews have begun in the Elementary and JSHS. In March, embedded staff developer Penny Axlerod will continue to foster initiatives of differentiation, co-teaching, and collaborative instructional planning. Special Education staff attended the TCI de-escalation training. They are continuing with their book study on Explicit Instruction written by Anita Archer. Shannon Manning will be joining the CSE department as an administrative intern. Shannon currently serves as a Beginnings Special Education teacher in the districts CPSE program.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

### **Action**

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

C. Motion to approve the January 22, 2014 Regular Board of Education meeting minutes.

## **7. Financial**

### **Non-Action**

A. Second presentation of the 2014-15 proposed budget.

### **Action**

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 7B. Board Member Esposito seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion approve the grades 6-12 Extra-Curricular Accounts report dated January 1, 2014 - January 31, 2014 as submitted by Sarah Roblez, Jr/Sr High School Extra-curricular Accounts Treasurer.

## **8. PERSONNEL**

### **Action**

Board Vice President Bienes made the motion to approve items 8A-B. Board member Putnam seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, Patricia Gallup to the position of Supervisor of Transportation effective July 1, 2014 at a salary of \$54,000 for the 2014-15 school year.

B. Motion to appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, Dotan Schips as a long term substitute teacher in the English tenure area at Step 2, with a prorated salary of \$44,623, effective February 10, 2014

through June 26, 2014. Mr. Schips holds an initial certificate in English Language Arts 7-12.

### **9. SUPERINTENDENT**

A. The Board discussed the Union Free School memorial project.

B. On behalf of the District, Superintendent McGraw thanked the Town of New Lebanon for authorizing the New Lebanon Town highway department to sand the driveways at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School, the bus garage and the Jr/Sr High School.

### **10. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION**

Board Vice President Bienes asked about the communication committee update, Superintendent McGraw updated the board.

### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Brutsch asked if Leslie Whitcomb had been appointed to the position of Superintendent for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. He also asked about the delay with the cupola and the Historical Society's response.

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

#### **Action**

A. Board President Lambert made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular employee. Board member Sotek seconded the motion. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Board President Lambert made the motion to appoint Superintendent McGraw as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Action**

A. Board member Putnam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm. Board Vice President Bienes seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

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Kelly McGivern, District Clerk