



Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School
Board of Education – WBH Library 7pm

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch	__P__
Bill Buckenroth	__P__
Racheal Chubb	__P__
John Kalisz	__P__
Rob Long	__P__
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 7:01pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board member Long made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:02pm for the purpose of discussing the budget. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to enter into public session at 7:20pm.

2. BUDGET DISCUSSION

A. Budget Discussion- [25-26 NL Budget revote.pptx \(2,357 KB\)](#) The board decided to put the revote to the community at 9%, cutting 6 teaching positions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tistrya Houghling- music program, mental health services, substitutes @ wbh, the cutting of 6 teaching positions and larger class sizes.

Nancy Stock- tax payer, 1974 graduate, consolidate to one building, grant program for housing, 15% tax increase not feasible, there are other options, recognize we have lots of building space.

Cadence Ward- please support sports or students will lose sense of identity, support teachers and connectivity. Would we cut the Memorial Day assembly, senior banquet?

David McGuinnes- Can we not eliminate teachers? Share with Berlin other services, superintendent and admin? Not a lot of fat to cut, 15% for limited income people is too much.

Kristen Bianco- contained classrooms, special education, need all teachers

Schuyler Gail- how do we keep kids from going to other schools if we take things away? How to make district equitable? Coach a team if you voted no, build relationship with kids.

Beth LaGrange- went to school here. Is 9% a done deal? Can we fundraise? PTA help? Need to plan for the future or we fail the kids.

Jameson Ward- If the budget revote doesn't pass and we cut PE, music, sports, mental health, no one will want to be here.

Board President Brutsch commented on: property evaluations, questar evaluations, low costs, pay is at the bottom of the list of schools \$ per student. If we share a superintendent, busing, special education services it becomes a tug-of-war and we will lose because we're small.

Maintenance and bus bonding keeps payments level. 70% of the budget goes to students/instruction, 30% to administration. We get aid back on bonded items. Budget work starts in January, no one comes. We've thought about revenue ideas, are using consortiums to save money, we need to think outside the box, we are a community.

Phil Ward- There is a community feeling here, sports, tech, band "extras" kept him going, cutting budget gives bare bones education.

Amy Gravina- 6 teacher cuts is a lot and hopes information on them will be forthcoming.

Dennis Burek- communication for a second vote, do a 7% increase, what are dire dynamics of losing \$, share more with the community, be upfront.

Lisa Kreutziger- As tax collector, she knows there were errors in the past, there was a lack of information, didn't receive any information, people didn't know the increase was happening, "no" votes were due to a lack of information, more information is better.

Hailey Guido- bare bones education is bad, she plays the flute and is doing track, she can't do those if we're bare bones.

Michelle Corsey- How do we conserve resources? Transportation? Sports? Elementary and HS schedules the same?

Becky McLaughlin- loves sending her son here, she went here, taxes are worth the education, if we cut teachers how do we show kids how to do better, fundamentals are essential. How do we make the budget pass?

4. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 4A. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski)

A. Motion to approve CSE/CPSE recommendations of programs and placements

5. FINANCIAL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve items 5A-D. Board member Powers seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski)

A. Motion to approve the April 2025 grades 6-12 Extra-Curricular Accounts report

B. Motion to accept donations

C. Motion to authorize Superintendent Harper to enter into an agreement

To authorize Superintendent Harper to enter into an agreement with the Columbia County Sheriff's office for a SRO as per attached:

D. Motion to approve a bond resolution WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the New Lebanon Central School District, New York (the "District"), at the annual District meeting of such voters duly held on the 20th day of May, 2025, duly approved a proposition authorizing the purchase of school buses, at a maximum cost of \$297,000, expenditure of such sum for such purpose, the

levy of the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, the issuance of bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$297,000 and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS: Section 1. The District shall purchase school buses, as more particularly described in Section 3 hereof, and as generally outlined to and considered by the voters of the District at the annual District meeting held on May 20, 2025. Section 2. In order to finance the class of objects or purposes described herein, the District is hereby authorized to issue its serial general obligation bonds (the "Bonds") in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$297,000 pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York. Section 3. The class of objects or purposes to be financed pursuant to this Resolution (the "Purpose") is the purchase of school buses. Section 4. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) the maximum cost of the Purpose, as estimated by the Board of Education, is \$297,000 (b) no money has heretofore been authorized to be applied to the payment of the cost of the Purpose, and (c) the District plans to finance the cost of the Purpose entirely from aid received from the State of New York and funds raised by the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes hereinafter referred to. Section 5. It is hereby determined that the Purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 29 of Paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of the Purpose is five (5) years. Section 6. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer. Section 7. The power to further authorize the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including renewal notes, and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including the consolidation with other issues and the use of substantially level or declining debt service in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Local Finance Law, subject to the provisions of this Resolution and the Local Finance Law, and to sell and deliver the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to attest any Bonds and bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Resolution, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to affix to such Bonds and bond anticipation notes the corporate seal of the District. Section 8. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds and bond anticipation notes as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall be levied annually on all taxable real property of the District, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable, taking into account aid received from the State of New York with respect to the Purpose. Section 9. This Resolution shall constitute the declaration of the District's "official intent" to reimburse expenditures authorized by Section 1 with proceeds of the Bonds and notes, as required by United States Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. Section 10. This Resolution, or a summary thereof, shall be published by the District Clerk together with a notice in substantially

the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of said Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the District. The validity of the Bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this Resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

6. PERSONNEL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve items 6A-B. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski)

A. Motion to appoint substitutes

Stephen Clarson	Substitute Teacher/TA	\$110 per day
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B. Motion to appoint summer school teachers and aides -To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following summer program teachers, aides and substitutes:

SPED ESY: Teacher - Melonie Cousin, Aide - Joe DeSena, Aide - TBD

Summer Reading Camp: Teacher - Melissa Stevens, Chris Bonacquisti

7. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Discussion of Budget Hearing Date- June 4th, 7pm WBH.

8. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Brutsch made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:35pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular employee and legal matters. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski)

Board President Brutsch made the motion to appoint Superintendent Harper as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski).

9. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Brutsch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Vice President Kalisz seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk