



Wednesday, October 8, 2025

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

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch	__A__
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 Vice President Kalisz at 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED)

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve item 2A. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve an amendment to the District Wide Safety Plan

Desha's Law- On July 24, 2025, Governor Hochul signed Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A), This law mandates that school safety plans include a comprehensive cardiac emergency response plan. The plan must outline procedures and designate appropriate personnel to respond to sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies occurring on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. In addition to Desha's Law, the use of on-site Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is required under the New York State Education Department Commissioner's Regulation CRR 136.4. Heart attacks and sudden cardiac arrest are two different conditions. A heart attack is a circulation problem that occurs when blood flow to the heart is reduced or blocked. Sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical problem that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating and the heart can't pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs. Cardiac arrest causes a person to lose consciousness and pulse. The AED Program has been developed to ensure a prompt, efficient, and effective response to sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies in a school setting and outlines the emergency procedures to improve survival outcomes through early recognition and rapid response. A designated group of school staff will be trained in CPR and AED use, and AEDs shall be clearly marked, accessible, and maintained with guidelines set by the American Heart Association. The district will also incorporate the AED Program protocols for responding to sudden cardiac arrest into the 2025–2026 Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. Bonadio Group Audit update

B. School Board recognition week-October 13-17, 2025

On behalf of the New Lebanon Central School District community, Superintendent Harper will express appreciation for the volunteer service performed by the Board of Education.

C. Student Representative update- Lance Schroder & Cadence Ward (absent) homecoming games, dance, open house, chili dinner, field trip to Broadway, pep rally, residential structures class, student rep emails.

D. WBH update-Josh Noble presented on open house, clubs starting, author visit, trunk or treat, parade, Veterans Day assembly, PD, fire safety.

E. JSHS update- Matt Klafehn presented on cell phone policy, principals collaborative meeting, residential structures class volunteers, career fair, field trips, LVPS volunteer drive, Halloween dance, parent teacher conferences.

F. Athletic update- Corey Brown presented on fall wind-down, varsity sectionals, modified update, girls winter sports needs coaches, safety audit, fields, wifi for fields, patrol vs, Wasseren leagues.

G. Business Office update- Danielle Brewster presented on breakfast & lunch numbers, up 285 meals so far compared to last year, cafeteria fund balance, an additional cook is needed. Financial planners will be at the November meeting.

H. Superintendent update- Superintendent Harper presented on the need for better wifi on fields and in buildings for safety, federal shutdown effects, thanked board member Powers for help with LVCC donation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve item 5A. Board member Powers seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the September 10, 2025 Board of Education Meeting minutes

6. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve items 6A-C. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

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

B. Motion to approve the Travel Club trip

C. Motion to approve a contract with Outdoor Classroom

7. FINANCIAL

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve items 7A-K. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the first quarter Internal Claims Audit report

B. Motion to approve financial statements

C. Motion to approve a contract with Twin Counties as per attached:

- D. Motion to approve a contract with the Sheriff's Office
- E. Motion to declare items excess
- Algebra 2: Holt McDougal; 2012; Number of Textbooks 56
- F. Motion to approve the July 2025 Treasurer's report
- G. Motion to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's report
- H. Motion to approve the August 2025 extra-curricular report
- I. Motion to approve budget transfers
- J. Motion to approve overpaid tax reimbursements
- K. Motion to accept a donation

8. PERSONNEL

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve items 8A-N. Board member Polacinski seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

- A. Motion to appoint mentors

Julia Willis - 4th Grade Teacher - Mentor - Laura Jubie

Deb Gallucci - PK Teacher - Mentor - Hillary Watts

Laurent McEvilly - SPED Teacher - Kathleen Bove

Jessica Richard - SPED Teacher - Bridget Rank

Jennifer Touchstone - Art Teacher - Vicki Ouimet

- B. Motion to appoint student representatives

To appoint Cadence Ward and Lance Schroeder as student representatives to the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year.

- C. Motion to appoint advisers/coordinators

Val Synakowski- Fitness Club Adviser

Melissa Finocchiaro- Class of 2031 Adviser

Meaghan Rogers- Outspoken Adviser, Drama Club Adviser

- D. Motion to accept a resignation from Brianna Shuhart, effective September 2, 2025.

E. Motion to appoint a Teacher Aide per student IEP- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Kadie (Ertel) Acosta as a Teacher Aide, per student IEP, step 6, at a rate of \$18.26 per hour, effective September 23, 2025 (previously employed).

F. Motion to appoint a Teacher Aide per student IEP- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Ashlie Forquer as a Teacher Aide, per student IEP, step 1, at a rate of \$16.37 per hour, effective September 23, 2025 (previously employed).

G. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant per student IEP- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Chelsea Welch as a Teaching Assistant, per student IEP, step 7, at a rate of \$22.57 per hour, effective September 29, 2025 (previously employed).

- H. Motion to appoint substitutes

Kevin Saunders- Substitute Teacher/TA- \$120 per day

Erinn Kennedy- Substitute Teacher/TA- \$120 per day

Peter Minacci- Substitute laborer- \$16.59 per hour

I. Motion to appoint a laborer- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Don Kipp as a laborer, effective September 2, 2025, step 17, at a rate of \$24.74 per hour.

J. Motion to accept a resignation- To accept a resignation from Donna Covert effective February 1, 2026.

K. Motion to accept a resignation- To accept a resignation from Colleen McCagg effective October 17, 2025.

L. Motion to amend a rate- To amend the lifeguard rate to \$23.00 per hour.

M. Motion to reappoint a bus driver- To reappoint Hattie Leonard as a bus driver, effective October 6, 2025 at a rate of \$31.07 per hour.

N. Motion to accept a resignation- RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Benjamin Long from his position as a teacher in the tenure area of Science, retroactive to September 19, 2025; RESOLVED, upon recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board hereby approves a confidential separation agreement between the District and Employee # 87.

9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Next Board Meeting Date November 12, 2025

Board Vice President Kalisz wanted the public to know that the board is not opposed to the PILOT/Tilden project, but there are questions regarding tax impacts, affects to the tax cap, amount of tax to be collected. This could become a precedent setting with payment in lieu of taxes. He asked that the financial planners project what the PILOT program could do to the district.

10. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk