



Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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

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

Mike Brutsch	__P__
Bill Buckenroth	__P__
Racheal Chubb	__P__
John Kalisz	__A__
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.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

- A. Review of Special Education plan- Kathy Johnston presented.
- B. Student Representative update- cell phone policy, pep rally, sports teams
- C. WBH update- Josh Noble presented on reading/vocabulary, state assessments, ELA committee, craft fair, open house.
- D. JSHS update- Matt Klafehn presented on student reps, pep rally. Questar students, picture day, open house, cell phone policy, NYC trip.
- E. Athletic update- Corey Brown presented on being short coaches, soccer, season starts, enrollment in sports #'s.
- F. Business Office update- Danielle Brewster presented.
- G. Superintendent update- Superintendent Harper presented on cell phone, regional plan with Questar, literacy.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David McGinnis- open forum, communication, reserves questions.  
Britt Buckenroth- Just food club events.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. Motion to approve the August 13, 2025 Board of Education Meeting minutes

## 5. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board member Buckenroth made the motion to approve items 5A-B. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the 2025-26 District Special Education Plan

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

## 6. FINANCIAL

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

A. Motion to approve the July 2025 extra-curricular report

B. Motion to authorize Superintendent Harper to enter into an agreement with Management Advisory Group

## 7. PERSONNEL

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

A. Motion to appoint mentors

Amanda Starks- Melissa Finocchiarro

Garifalia Hawkins- Sarah Smith

B. Motion to appoint coordinators and advisors

To appoint Bridget LeBarron as ELL coordinator.

Alyssa Winckler and Vicki Ouimet as Drama Club Advisors

Bridget LeBarron as ELL coordinator

C. Motion to appoint coaches

Rick Beauchemin - JV boys Soccer

Tonya Smith - JV Girls Volleyball

D. Motion to approve a contract with Christopher Harper

E. Motion to accept a resignation- [Patricia White resignation.pdf \(34 KB\)](#)

F. Motion to accept a resignation from Danielle Kuffel, effective September 5, 2025.

To whom it may concern,

This email serves to inform you that my last day with New Lebanon CSD will be September 5th. I greatly enjoyed my year working at Walter B Howard. The staff is one of the best teams I've had the pleasure to work with. I wish everyone the best of luck moving forward.

Regards,

Danielle Kuffel

G. Motion to accept a resignation from Jennifer Blodgett, effective August 15, 2025.

Dear Mr. Harper, I am writing to formally resign from my position as the 0.4 Elementary Art Teacher at Walter B. Howard Elementary School, effective August 15, 2025. After six wonderful years with the district, this was not an easy decision. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such dedicated colleagues, inspiring students, and a supportive school community. Walter B. Howard has been a meaningful part of my life, and it is with a heavy heart that I move on. I want to thank you and the entire district for the opportunities I've had to grow as an educator and contribute to the art program. It has been deeply rewarding to witness the curiosity and talent of our students blossom through art. Thank you again for the

opportunity to be part of this school district. I will always look back on my time here with appreciation and pride. With gratitude and warmest regards, Jennifer Blodgett

H. Motion to accept a resignation from Amanda Domey effective August 21, 2025.

Hi Patty Ann: I'm writing to let you know I need to step down from the position in the Kitchen and will not be able to come back in September. Thank you for this opportunity. Let me know if you need a substitute in the future. Thank you, Amanda Domey

I. Motion to accept a resignation from Tylea Gebbie effective September 21, 2025.

J. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant per student IEP- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Anita Posnick as a Teaching Assistant per student IEP, step 2, at a rate of \$20.34 per hour, effective September 1, 2025.

K. Motion to appoint substitutes

TJ Smith- Substitute Laborer- \$16.59 per hour

Jessica Tuthill- Substitute Laborer- \$16.59 per hour

Executive File Attachments

L. Motion to appoint a cook/server-cashier- Michele Melius as a cook/server-cashier, effective September 1, 2025, step 1, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

M. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant per student IEP- Julianne Dolan as a Teaching Assistant, per student IEP, effective September 1, 2025, step 1, at a rate of \$19.91 per hour.

N. Motion to appoint a .4 Art Teacher and Permanent Building Substitute

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Jennifer Touchstone as a .4 Art teacher, step 7, (prorated) and permanent building substitute (\$140/per day, 3 days per week).

O. Motion to hire a long term substitute- Julia Willis as a long term substitute to cover a maternity leave, effective September 1, 2025 with a salary of \$56,957. To cover Katie McKinney.

P. Motion to accept a resignation- Deb Gallucci as a teaching assistant to accept a position as a teacher

Q. Motion to appoint a teacher- RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Nikayla Schlosser is hereby recalled from a preferred eligible list and reappointed to a 1.0 FTE teaching position in the elementary tenure area, effective September 1, 2025, with a carryover of the same seniority, tenure or probationary service credit that she had effective June 30, 2025, and without reduction in salary or increment.

R. Motion to appoint a teacher- Deb Gallucci as a teacher in the elementary education tenure area effective September 1, 2025 Step 3 \$56957.00

S. Motion to appoint a social worker- To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Kari Hendrickson to the School Social Worker tenure area, step 4, with a salary of \$57,990 effective September 15, 2025- September 15, 2029. 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. POLICY**

A. Required annual review of policies [policy 6240.pdf \(44 KB\)](#) [policy 1900.pdf \(226 KB\)](#)

## **9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION**

A. Next Board Meeting Date October 8, 2025

Board member Powers asked why there were so many resignations.

#### **10. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Brutsch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly McGivern*

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Kelly McGivern, District Clerk