



Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education – JSHS Library 7:00pm

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Bill Buckenroth	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Racheal Chubb	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
John Kalisz	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Rob Long	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Alex Polacinski	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Sharon Powers	<u> </u> P <u> </u>

Also in attendance:

Chris Harper	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Matt Klafehn	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Josh Noble	<u> </u> P <u> </u>
Carol Strickling	<u> </u> A <u> </u>
Val Synakowski	<u> </u> P <u> </u>

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. Student Representative update- senior pancakes & painting (parking spots), new teachers are well liked so far, chili dinner at open house, spirit club, pep rally, homecoming, scheduling issues (extra study halls)

B. WBH update- Josh Noble presented on strong start to year, pre-k orientation.

C. JSHS update-Matt Klafehn presented on start of school, good energy, new teacher orientation, open house.

D. Athletic update- Val Synakowski presented on learning the ropes, communication, soccer tournament, booster club involvement, wifi extenders?

E. Business Office update-Carol Strickling absent.

F. Superintendent update

Superintendent Harper presented on his opening day speech, 20+ year employee certificates and historical society/time capsule meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 4A. Board member Powers seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the August 12, 2026 Board of Education Meeting minutes

5. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 5A-B. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the 2026-27 District Special Education Plan

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

6. FINANCIAL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 6A. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to declare items excess

ISBN: 0-07-826609-2 Understanding Business and Personal Law, Glencoe, 11th Edition (28 textbooks)

ISBN: 13:978-0-07-868829-4 Accounting, Glencoe, First-Year Course (14 textbooks_
Reason - Obsolete

7. PERSONNEL

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 7A, C-O. Board member Buckenroth seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to approve item 7B. Board member Powers seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Buckenroth).

A. Motion to appoint a Social Studies teacher

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Jordan Donohue Haidari to the 7-12 Social Studies tenure area (probationary), Step 4, with a salary of \$59,353 per year, effective September 1, 2026 through September 1, 2030. 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]).

Administrative File Attachments

B. Motion to appoint mentors

George Heath- Valene Synakowski (no stipend)

Paula Butler- Britt Buckenroth

Jordan Haidari- Aaron Kanofsky

Angelina Zoeller- Glenn Giumarra

Sydney Rogers- Kara Sokolowski

Christa Follett- Amanda Starks

Leah Meredith- Bridget Rank

C. Motion to appoint substitutes

Lauren Jenner- Substitute Teacher/TA \$120 per day

Eileen Evans- Substitute Teacher/TA \$120 per day

Kathleen Bove- Substitute Teacher/TA \$155 per day

D. Motion to appoint a music teacher

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, George Heath to the music tenure area, (probationary), Step 15, with a salary of \$74,396 per year, effective September 1, 2026 through September 1, 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]).

E. Motion to appoint club advisers

Jordan Haidari - Class of 2032 advisor

Melissa Finocchiaro - Literary Arts Club advisor

F. Motion to terminate an employee

To terminate James Avallon as a laborer effective September 1, 2026.

G. Motion to appoint a laborer

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, Josh Helleskov as a laborer, step 15, at a rate of \$24.81, effective September 3, 2026.

H. Motion to amend an appointment

To amend George Heath to replace Val Synakowski as JSHS Sr. Choir/After Hour Duties.

I. Motion to appoint a Teaching Assistant

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Netanya Hernandez as a Teaching Assistant, in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, step 1, at a rate of \$21.16, effective September 10, 2026- September 10, 2030. 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]).

J. Motion to abolish a position-To abolish a cleaning position effective September 7, 2026.

K. Motion to appoint a laborer

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Teresa Green as a laborer (previously a cleaner), effective September 8, 2026, step 7, at a rate of \$21.09 per hour.

L. Motion to appoint a laborer

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Peter Minacci as a full time laborer (currently part time) effective September 8, 2026.

M. Motion to appoint a bus aide substitute

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mary Groves as a substitute bus aide, effective September 10, 2026, step 1, at a rate of \$17.62 per hour.

Subject

N. Motion to appoint a volunteer

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Karyn Seymour as a volunteer for the Girls Varsity Soccer team.

O. Motion to appoint a part time Human Resources assistant

To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Ashley Morin as a part time human resources assistant, effective September 14, 2026 at a rate of \$20 per hour.

Administrative File Attachments

[Ashley Morin.pdf \(290 KB\)](#)

8. POLICY

A. Required annual review of policies

Annual review of attached policies. No changes have been made.

[policy 6240.pdf \(44 KB\)](#)- [policy 1900.pdf \(226 KB\)](#)

9. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Next Board Meeting Date October 14, 2026

Mike and John attended a NL community forum, where the budget was discussed, mergers were asked about. We should look into having the board attend a community forum to discuss next years budget. What are the logistics?

10. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:29pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations and the employment history of a particular employee and negotiations. Board member Powers seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to appoint Superintendent Harper as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Brutsch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Board Vice President Kalisz seconded. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Malloy

Kelly Malloy, District Clerk