RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting – April 17, 2025

The Northern Local Schools Board of Education met in regular session in the High School Library.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Call to Order - President Dale DeRolph called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Treasurer Jennie Clifton called the roll:

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Sharon Cains	Megan Miller
Dale DeRolph	
Levi Dupler	
Patrick Hogan	

Student Presentation, CDL Simulator Training Program – Mr. Lones and three students currently participating in the CDL program demonstrated the virtual CDL and shared their future plans on how they will use their CDL. The CDL simulator was provided to the district through a grant partnership with Mid-East Vocational School. Mid-East provided Mr. Lones with the training to be able to instruct the class, which is available during the second semester of the school year, to students aged 18 or older. Once the students pass the class and obtain their permit, Mid-East will coordinate in-vehicle training hours with our students.

High School Principal, Lisa Householder, Graduation Pathways – Mrs. Householder presented to the Board the High School plan for Industry Credential Pathways to graduation. The pathways were built based on student surveys and will begin with the 2025-26 school year. Pathways include Health, Business Market & Finance, Manufacturing, Education, Ag/Environmental Science, Hospitality, Construction and Information Technology and involve partnerships with local business and institutions of higher education such as Genesis Healthcare, Zane State College, Performance Training Solutions, and Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committees. With the pathway models, students can have an industry credential in-hand before or upon graduating.

Recommendation for Approval – Mrs. Cains moved to approve the following meeting minutes:

1. Regular Meeting, March 20, 2025

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Gussler presented the Board with a reminder of several upcoming events. May 6th is a Special Election and therefore we will not have students that day. Staff will be reporting for professional development. The FFA Banquet is scheduled for May 13th. Our eighth-grade students will be traveling to Washington DC from May 14th to May 16th, high school graduation is May 18th and the last day for students is May 20th. Staff Appreciation Week is May 5th through the 9th, and as always, we will be honoring all staff during this week.

Our current kindergarten enrollment numbers have continued to decline at Glenford and Somerset. Mrs. Gussler stated that she anticipates getting additional enrollments over the summer, but Glenford is currently at 30 students and Somerset is currently at 32. Thornville kindergarten continues to be steady with 54 enrolled.

Mrs. Gussler announced that Tyler Brown is being recommended for the High School Associate Principal position this evening, and that she is excited about his unique background and experience having served as an assistant principal, technology coordinator, physical education teacher, and intervention specialist. Mrs. Gussler believes that Tyler is the right fit for this role and will be a great addition to the high school leadership team.

Mrs. Gussler also reviewed the Board Policy revisions that are being presented this evening.

Business and Finance

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting general fund revenues and expenditures to date, compared to the estimated projections. 57.1% of property taxes for the fiscal year have been received, 74.6% of estimated State Funding and Casino revenue has been received, Restricted State Grants have far exceeded projections at 206% due to the increased DPIA funding associated with the district's qualification for CEP, and the State share of local property tax has been collected at 53.2%. General fund interest earnings for the year have reached $259,203.67. The 1st half tax collection from Perry County was received on 4/7. The Public Utility collections was significantly higher than past 1st half collections. Mrs. Clifton assumes this is from one or more companies paying a full year of taxes instead of just one-half.

Mrs. Clifton shared that the District Insurance Committee met on April 8th to review final proposals for medical plans, changes, and alternative plan designs. The group spent many hours over the past several months looking at, researching, and asking questions to determine what route to go. The recommendation from the committee was to move our self-insured plan to Anthem, effective 7/1. Anthem had the most competitive overall package for Administrative Service Fees and Stop-Loss coverage. The group also recommended the addition of a slice-option High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA) option. The committee voted unanimously to offer only the new HDHP w/HSA to all new enrollees and new hires effective 7/1/25. All current enrollees will have the option to maintain the current PPO plan, or switch to the HDHP w/HSA.

Mrs. Clifton reported that there were three RFP's released for upcoming projects from the Permanent Improvement Fund; Paving, Sealing & Striping at Glenford, Sealing and Striping at SMS; Boiler Replacement at Glenford; Roof Replacement at Thornville.

Recommendation for Approval – Mr. Hogan moved to approve the following:

1. February Financial Reports — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the March 2025 financial reports, as presented.

2. Budget Adjustments

   Recommend the Board approve the following adjustments:

   Revenue:

Turf Replacement (003-9025)	$1,400.70
Athletic Improvements (003-9026)	$35,000.00
Ricketts/Hughes Scholarship (008-925G)	$1,000.00
Betsy Founds Scholarship (008-924F)	$1,550.00
Somerset American Legion Scholarship (008-925A)	$12,000.00
Moose Scholarship (008-925B)	$42,000.00
L Teeters Scholarship (008-925C)	$175.00
W Winegardner Scholarship (008-925E)	$1,550.00
Richland Circle Farms Scholarship (008-925F)	$1,650.00
OneNet / K-12 Connectivity (451-9225)	$4,955.70
Title I-A (572-9225)	$5,361.50

Title II-A (590-9225)	$1,540.69
Title IV-A (584-9225)	$2,349.61

Appropriations:

MS Cheer (300-950W)	$500.00
Ricketts/Hughes Scholarship (008-925G)	$1,000.00
HS Boys Baseball (300-950U)	$4,480.00
Drama Club (200-913H)	$354.70
OneNet / K-12 Connectivity (451-9225)	$4,955.70
Bontrager Scholarship (008-923B)	$544.31
Betsy Founds Scholarship (008-924F)	$1,550.00
Somerset American Legion Scholarship (008-925A)	$12,000.00
Moose Scholarship (008-925B)	$42,000.00
L Teeters Scholarship (008-925C)	$175.00
W Winegardner Scholarship (008-925E)	$1,550.00
Richland Circle Farms Scholarship (008-925F)	$1,650.00

3. Donations

Recommend the Board acknowledge the following donations:

a. Jennifer Kilbarger; Munsell Soil Color Book to High School Vo-Ag
b. Cathy Ankrum; Clothing to Glenford Elementary
c. Perry County EMA; Gowns & Aprons to Glenford Elementary
d. Somerset Town Christmas; Clothing to Somerset Elementary
e. Custom Ag Solutions; $100 Shirt Sponsor to High School FFA
f. Kilbarger Farms; $100 Shirt Sponsor to High School FFA
g. The Lozier Family; $100 Shirt Sponsor to High School FFA
h. Hill Real Estate, Kelli Poling; $100 Shirt Sponsor to High School FFA
i. Custom Ag Solutions; $200 March Meeting Sponsor to High School FFA
j. Kevin & Andrea Emmert; $100 April Meeting Sponsor to High School FFA

4. Then & Now Certificates

Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

a.) PO#131883, Matheny Motor Truck Co., Bus/Vehicle Parts
b.) PO#131867, NASSP, NHS Membership Renewal
c.) PO#131878, SkEYEwatch, Bus Cameras
d.) PO#131889, Frank Beickelman, Holy Trinity Professional Development (Aux. Funds)

5. Anthem Medical and Prescription Drug Plan — Attachment

Recommend the Board accept the proposal from Anthem Blue Cross / Blue Shield for the medical and prescription drug plans for the 2025-26 plan year, as presented.

6. Delta Dental Renewal — Attachment

Recommend the Board accept the renewal rates from META/Delta Dental for the dental insurance plan for the 2025-26 plan year, as presented.

7. VSP Renewal — Attachment

Recommend the Board accept the two-year renewal rates from VSP for the vision plan for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 plan years, as presented.

8. Mutual of Omaha Basic Life & Voluntary Insurance Plans — Attachment

   Recommend the Board accept the renewal rates from Mutual of Omaha for the Basic Life/ADD and voluntary insurance plans, as presented.

9. Student Accident Insurance Program — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve participation in the Ohio Student Accident Insurance Program for the 2025-26 school year, as presented.

10. 2025-2026 Licking Regional Education Service Center Agreement — Attachment

    Recommend the Board approve the 2025-2026 General Services Agreement with the Licking County Regional Education Service Center, as presented.

11. Depository Agreement with North Valley Bank — Attachment

    Recommend the Board approve a four-year depository agreement with North Valley Bank from May 30, 2025 to May 30, 2029, as presented.

12. Resolution to Transfer Auxiliary Fund Assets

    WHEREAS, the Northern Local School District Board of Education ("District") previously received auxiliary service funds, pursuant to R.C. 3317.024, from the Ohio Department of Education of Workforce for the purpose of supporting the education of students attending Holy Trinity School ("Holy Trinity"), a chartered nonpublic school located within the District's jurisdiction;

    WHEREAS, the District has spent those auxiliary service funds in a manner consistent with R.C. 3317.06;

    WHEREAS, portions of those auxiliary service funds were spent to purchase secular textbooks, secular digital textbooks, and other reusable assets and supplies for use by Holy Trinity students;

    WHEREAS, Holy Trinity has recently elected to receive its auxiliary service funds directly from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce pursuant to R.C. 3317.024(E)(2), rather than using the District as an intermediary;

    WHEREAS, the District no longer has an educational need for the assets and supplies; and

    WHEREAS, the District wishes to transfer ownership of those assets and supplies to Holy Trinity.

    NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District hereby grants the assets and supplies identified in the attachment hereto to Holy Trinity and/or its appropriate governing entity.

    BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is directed and authorized to take all necessary steps to finalize the transfer of all such assets to Holy Trinity and/or its appropriate governing entity.

13. Asset Disposal

Recommend the Board approve the disposal of the following assets:
a.) IMAC A1311; obsolete
b.) IMAC 20/2.4; obsolete
c.) IMAC A1311; obsolete
d.) IMAC A1311; obsolete
e.) IMAC A1311; obsolete

Mrs. Cains seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Hogan; aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 4-0.

Employment

Recommendation for Approval – Mr. Dupler moved to approve the following:

1. Retirements

Recommend the Board accept the following retirements:
a.) Jeff Forgrave, Teacher, effective August 8, 2025
b.) Julie Solomon, Bus Driver, effective June 30, 2025
c.) Angela Gussler, Superintendent, effective July 31, 2025
d.) Sharon Wise, Bus Driver, effective June 1, 2025

2. Resignations

Recommend the Board accept the following resignations:
a) Kahley Wilkins, Teacher, effective April 7, 2025
b) Laura Klotz, Transportation Secretary, effective March 21, 2025

3. Administrator Contract

Recommend the Board approve the following administrative contract: Attachment
a.) Tyler Brown, High School Associate Principal, effective 8/1/2025

4. Long-Term Substitute

Recommend the Board approve the following limited long-term substitute employee for the 2025-26 school year:
a) Becky Spicer, Intervention Specialist, Bachelors, Step 0

5. Certified Substitutes Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following certified substitutes for the 2024-25 school year:
b) MVESC Substitutes, as presented

6. Classified Hours Per Day

Recommend the Board approve the following increase in hours per day:
a) Mary Pritt, Assistant Cook, from 4.5 to 7 hours per day, effective 4/7/2025

7. Classified Substitutes

Recommend the Board approve the following classified substitute for the 2024-25 school year:

b) Deidra Headlee, Substitute Aide, April 3, 2025
c) Darrin Blosser, Substitute Vehicle Transporter, effective April 3, 2025

8. Supplemental Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following supplemental for the 2025-26 school year:
a) Katie Huffman, Year 1 Mentor

9. Certified Contract Renewal

Recommend the Board approve the following certified contract renewal:

One Year Contract (Second):

a) Kathryn Stepanovich

10. Classified Contract Renewals

Recommend the Board approve the following classified contract correction for 2025-26 school year:

Two Year Contract:

a) Isaiah Peck
b) Marilyn Winegardner

11. Volunteers

Recommend the Board approve the following volunteer for the 2025-26 school year:
a. Kelley Murphy and Jax, Therapy Dog

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 4-0.

Curriculum & Instruction

Recommendation for Approval – Mrs. Cains moved to approve the following:

1. Class of 2025 Graduates — Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the Class of 2025 graduates, as presented.

2. Memorandum of Understanding with Columbus State Community College — Attachment

Recommend the Board approve a. memorandum of understanding with Columbus State Community College for College Credit Plus Tuition, Fees, and Data Sharing, as presented.

3. Memorandum of Understanding with Rhodes State College — Attachment

Recommend the Board approve a memorandum of understanding with Rhodes State College for College Credit Plus Tuition, Fees, and Data Sharing, as presented.

4. Memorandum of Understanding with Hocking College — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve a memorandum of understanding with Hocking College for College Credit Plus Tuition, Fees, and Data Sharing, as presented.

5. Revisions to the 2025-26 High School Curriculum Guide — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve revisions to the 2025-26 High School Curriculum Guide, as presented.

6. 2025-26 Athletic Coach Handbook — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the 2025-26 Athletic Coach Handbook, as presented.

7. 2025-26 Student Code of Conduct — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the 2025-26 Student Code of Conduct, as presented.

8. IXL Learning, Inc. Agreement — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve a technology service provider agreement with IXL Learning, Inc., as presented.

9. Overdrive, Inc. Agreement — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve a technology service provider agreement with Overdrive, Inc., as presented.

10. Field Trips

    Recommend the Board approve the following field trips for the 2024 25 school year:

a.)	April 14, 2025	Somerset 4th Grade to General Assembly & Somerset Park
b.)	May 1, 2025	Somerset 1st Grade to Dawes Arboretum
c.)	May 8, 2025	Somerset 5th Grade to Somerset Park
d.)	May 12, 2025	High School Ag Students to Circle M Meats, Jackson, Ohio

    Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
    Roll call: Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
    Motion carried 4-0.

Board Policy & Procedure

Recommendation for Approval – Mr. Hogan moved to approve the following:

1. Board Policies – First Reading

   Recommend the Board approve the following Board Policies upon First Reading:

   a) PO# 1613; Student Supervision and Welfare
   b) PO# 3213; Student Supervision and Welfare
   c) PO# 4213; Student Supervision and Welfare
   d) PO# 1422.01; Drug-Free Workplace

e) PO# 2340; Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips
f) PO# 2431; Interscholastic Athletics
g) PO# 5113; Inter-District Open Enrollment
h) PO# 5120; Assignment Within District
i) PO# 5350; Student Heath, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention
j) PO# 5460; Graduation Requirements
k) PO# 5751; Parental Status of Students
l) PO# 5780.01; Parents' Bill of Rights
m) PO# 6151; Insufficient Funds Checks
n) PO# 7421; Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms and Changing Rooms
o) PO# 7440.01; Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
p) PO# 8142; Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services
q) PO# 8452; Automated External Defibrillators ("AED") and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment – Mr. Hogan moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.

President DeRolph declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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President

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Treasurer