RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting – September 18, 2025

The Northern Local Schools Board of Education met in regular session in the District Office Board Room.

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	
Dale DeRolph	
Levi Dupler	
Patrick Hogan	
Megan Miller	

Public Hearing – Mr. DeRolph provided an opportunity for public input or questions regarding the district's planned use for Federal grant funds.

Visitors and Guests - Mr. DeRolph welcomed the following guests; Mrs. Lisa Householder, Mr. Steve Lemon, Ms. Lori Dupler, Mrs. Amy VanBalen, and Mr. David Couch.

Mr. Couch spoke stating that he will be retiring from the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities at the end of the year and is on his "Farewell Tour" to each school district in the county. He stated in the last few years, the PCBDD has tried to branch out to have a better presence throughout the county and developing partnerships with the districts has helped in assisting with that connection. He expressed appreciation for the NLSD and PCBDD partnership and believes the Leadership Academy that has been in place at the high school has helped his agency provide better services to the young adults that come to them after graduation. Mr. Couch also shared information on the Public Hearing that the PCBDD is required to hold and that there will be an upcoming levy request on the ballot.

Mr. DeRolph stated that he appreciated Mr. Lemon's willingness to run for Board of Education as a write-in candidate. Mr. Lemon stated that he had two questions. His first question was why the district does not charge for admission to baseball and softball games when other districts, such as Meadowbrook and Riverview, charge. Mrs. Gussler stated that historically our district and others in the MVL have not charged for baseball or softball but acknowledged that now that we are funneling all spectators through the main stadium gate, it would be something that is now more doable. Mrs. Gussler stated that she would have the Athletic Director look into what other schools across the league and area are doing and take the suggestion into consideration. Mr. Lemon also asked about the price of water in the concession stand being $3 but that the size of the bottles sold are different, and that there is a lot of "chatter" amongst fans about the price being charged. Mrs. Gussler stated that concessions are ran by the Athletic Boosters and that the district does not have any input on prices charged, and suggested speaking to the Boosters about the concern.

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

1. Regular Meeting, August 21, 2025

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

Mid-East Vocational School Report – Mr. France reported that Mid-East has just around 2,000 students enrolled this year with around 800 at the Zanesville campus and 400 at the Buffalo campus, and there is a waiting list for students to be enrolled if there is an opening mid-year. The focus of the last Mid-East Board meeting was personnel turnover in the Adult Ed program and while that is challenging, there are a lot of instructors available to step in when that occurs. The increase in students brings challenges from a "brick and mortar" perspective and there are plans to improve/expand the kitchen and cafeteria space at Buffalo, and the meeting space at Zanesville. Mr. France also stated that there has been a new upgraded X-Ray machine purchased for the dental lab, two used tractors and a new manure spreader purchased for the Philo vo-ag satellite program due to the losses suffered in the recent barn fire. The Animal Science program received a donation of two bottle fed calves, and the Auto Tech program received a Ford F-250. The expansion projects associated with the CDL program have been completed, and up next is the construction of the new Fire/EMS building, which received acceptable soil testing results and have been approved to move forward. It is expected to be opened for the 2026-27 school year. The HVAC project at Buffalo is complete and Zanesville is set to start their upgrade next.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Gussler shared several upcoming events with the Board including the Hall of Fame Ceremony scheduled for October 10th, parent-teacher conferences scheduled for October 16th, and no school on October 17th.

Mrs. Gussler also shared information from a recent discussion and meeting held with Mr. Sheridan, Superintendent of Mid-East, Clint Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent of Mid-East, representatives from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Mrs. Clifton and herself regarding the possibility of moving the Vo-Ag program from in-house to a satellite program through Mid-East. Currently, we allocate approximately $340,000 per year to operate the Vo-Ag program, which includes salaries, benefits, supplies, materials and equipment. The representatives from ODE said that financially, this would be a good time to make a move for both the district and Mid-East. The district currently receives approximately 35% funding for Vo-Ag, plus $91,000 in supplemental CTE funding. However, with the district being on the funding guarantee, the only loss of revenue for the FTE's associated with the Vo-Ag program would be the supplemental CTE funding, we would not lose any base funding. At the same time, Mid-East currently receives approximately 73% funding for Vo-Ag which would be a significant amount of additional funding based on current enrollment. The savings to the district is estimated to be around $249,000 per year. Mrs. Cains asked if there were other benefits to consider this outside of the financial savings. Mrs. Gussler stated that Mid-East would be able to provide better equipment, and expanded programming to our students. It was further discussed that if this transition is made, the Sheridan FFA would remain with the district, it would not become a part of the Mid-East FFA, and we would maintain local controls of that activity fund. Mr. France added that from the discussions that he has heard, and from the update he has given tonight regarding all of the updates and programs that Mid-East can offer, to him this seems like a win-win. Mrs. Gussler stated that this discussion is in the early stages and there are a lot of details that would need to be worked out before making a recommendation.

Mrs. Gussler also informed the Board that the Band Boosters brick patio project funded through fundraising efforts is ready to start installation at the high school. Mr. Factor is gathering quotes for the site prep work. The patio will serve as a performance platform for practices and outdoor concerts. She also stated that the Football Mother Generals have requested that a "Red Rage" banner be purchased and placed on the press box at Paul Culver Stadium. Mrs. Gussler also stated that she and Mrs. Clifton had a great conversation with Mrs. Trisha Moorehead regarding athletic facility plans and specifics regarding the football turf replacement.

<u>Business and Finance</u>

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton presented the Treasurer's Report for data through August 31, 2025. Taxes revenue and state revenue is on target based on estimates for this year, with State Homestead and Rollback payments mostly coming in after the end of the month. Interest earnings for the year are $73,834.79 in all

funds, with $70,535.44 going to the general fund.

Mrs. Clifton reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines projects that are expected to be completed using Permanent Improvement funds for the next five years, such as Glenford playground replacement, boiler replacements at several buildings, completion of the replacement windows at the high school, new kitchen equipment, soccer/track stadium lighting and much more. She also outlined the projects that have been completed using Permanent Improvement funds over the past two years, specifically the larger projects and improvements totaling approximately $1.1 million in FY24 and $1.3 million in FY25. Those completed projects included sewer plant upgrades serving the high school and middle school, gym flooring at the middle school and Somerset, a new roof for Glenford, new asphalt for high school parking lot, new scoreboard in the high school gymnasium, scoreboards for softball and baseball, handicap accessibility and handrails at the softball field and soccer/track stadium, a new maintenance vehicle and 2 new handicap busses. Mrs. Gussler reminded the Board that the Capital Improvement Plan is a living document that changes as the district needs evolve or an emergency arises.

Mrs. Clifton stated that the GAAP Financial Statement prep and FY24 Medicaid audit is underway, both being completed by Julian & Grube. The FY25 Financial audit will be taken back over by the Ohio Auditor of State, with a pre-audit meeting scheduled for September 30, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The Board members and Mrs. Gussler are invited to be present.

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

1. August Financial Reports — Attachment

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

2. Financial Forecast — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the Financial Forecast, as presented.

3. ODEW 2025-26 Grant Application

   Recommend the Board approve the 2025-26 grant application for federal grant funding.

4. Budget Adjustments

   Recommend the Board approve the following budget adjustments:

   Appropriations:

a.)	Middle School Cheerleaders (300-950W)	$1,497.42
b.)	Volleyball (300-950P)	$11,445.50
c.)	eSports (300-951B)	$4,800.00

5. Then & Now Certificates

   Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

a.)	PO# 132895	American Pride, Grounds Parts & Supplies
b.)	PO# 132849	Century Resources, Choir Fundraiser
c.)	PO# 132842	Dartdrones, LLC, Drone Licensing Curriculum
d.)	PO# 132841	Jenna McCandlish, Mileage
e.)	PO# 132949	Johnson Controls, Service Call
f.)	PO# 132956	COTC; CCP Books
g.)	PO# 144156	Makinze Miller; Volleyball Shirts
h.)	PO# 132927	State of Ohio, Elevator Certificates
i.)	PO# 132940	Ref Reps, LLC, Referee License Curriculum
j.)	PO# 132896	Total Service Solutions, Floor Scrubber Repairs
k.)	PO# 132994	Pepsi, MS Concession Stand Product

6. Donations

Recommend the Board approve the following donations:

a.) G&J Pepsi; Canned Pepsi Products for Fall Fest
b.) WINGS/St. Paul Lutheran Church; School Supplies and Tennis Shoes to Glenford
c.) WINGS/St. Paul Lutheran Church; $370.00 in Gift Cards to Glenford to purchase clothing and care items for students.
d.) Michele Antonini; Poster Board and Book Bags to Glenford
e.) Buckeye Lake Moose; School supplies, Book Bag, and Lunch Boxes to Glenford
f.) Spring Hills Community Church; Weekly Backpack Ministry Food Bags to Glenford
g.) Morgan Cattle Company; $250 E-Sports Sponsor
h.) Thornville Lions Club; $250 E-Sports Sponsor
i.) Zane State College; $300 E-Sports Sponsor
j.) Somerset American Legion Post 58; $250 E-Sports Sponsor
k.) Ogden Insurance Agency; $100 to E-Sports
l.) Wichert Insurance Agency; $100 to E-Sports
m.) Park National Bank; $250 E-Sports Sponsor
n.) Michelle Mallet; $50 to E-Sports
o.) Barbara Lawrence; $500 E-Sports Sponsor
p.) Diane Christensen; $1,000 E-Sports Sponsor
q.) Levi Dupler; $100 to FFA as August meeting sponsor
r.) Gary & Carolyn Turnes; $100 to FFA as August meeting sponsor
s.) Kevin & Andrea Emmert; $100 to FFA as September meeting sponsor
t.) Charlie & Michelle Shafer; $100 to FFA as September meeting sponsor

7. Asset Disposal

Recommend the Board approve the following asset disposal:

a. 2016 Dodge Caravan S/N 2C4RDGCG8GR344883

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler; aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mrs. Miller, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 5-0.

Employment

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

1. Maternity Leave

Recommend the Board approve the following maternity leave request:
a) Whitney Snider, 12 weeks, beginning approximately September 29, 2025

2. Classified Employees

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

a) Brandy Chubb Swickard, Bus Driver, Step 3, 5.5 hours per day, effective 9/8/2025

3. Certified Substitutes Attachment

a) MVESC Substitutes, as presented

4. Classified Substitutes

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

a) Wendy Blevins, Cook, effective 8/13/2025
b) Brittany Butcher, Cook, effective 9/1/2025

5. Degree Advancements

Recommend the Board approve the following degree advancement for the 2025-26 school year:

a.) Sarah Smathers, BA5
b.) Meagen Howell, MA
c.) Stephanie Winters, MA+

6. Supplemental Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2025-26 school year:

a.) Alicia Stockler, Saturday School, $75 per session
b.) Mason Purvis, Assistant Coach, 7th Grade Boys Basketball, Step 0
c.) Brady Blattner, Assistant Coach, Varsity Wrestling, Step 0
d.) Katie Huffman, Assistant Coach, Track, Step 4

7. Volunteers

Recommend the Board approve the following volunteers for the 2025-26 school year:

a.) Liz Witt, Gymnastics
b.) Russell Thompson, Softball
c.) Caleb Bennett, Wrestling
d.) Brenda Whetherholt, Thornville Elementary (pending background check)
e.) Jeanette Snider, Glenford Elementary
f.) Dawn Bush, Thornville Elementary
g.) Joe Ball, FFA
h.) Carly Fitz, FFA
i.) Tom Turner, FFA
j.) Dakota Brame, FFA
k.) Jennifer Kilbarger, FFA
l.) Ryan Kilbarger, FFA
m.) Mark Bassinger, FFA
n.) Linda Grum, FFA
o.) Patty Lanning, FFA
p.) Jessie Bennett, FFA
q.) Josh Lutz, FFA
r.) Ethan Grum, FFA
s.) Stacey Melick, FFA
t.) Kevin Emmert, FFA
u.) Ross Emmert, FFA
v.) Mitchell Wyer, FFA
w.) Elizabeth Smith Dumolt, FFA
x.) Candy Black Stonerock, FFA
y.) Trevor Murphy, FFA
z.) Brandon Snider, FFA
aa.) Kim Snider, FFA
bb.) Paula Calendine, FFA
cc.) Stanley Knox, FFA
dd.) Levi Dupler, FFA

ee.) Patrick Hogan, FFA
ff.) Mendy Hupp, FFA
gg.) Toshia Boring, FFA
hh.) Kenny Miller, FFA
ii.) Cassidy Cox, FFA
jj.) Wes Snider, FFA
kk.) Charity Conn, FFA
ll.) Johnathan Conn, FFA
mm.) Jessica Alfman, FFA
nn.) Jason Conrad, FFA
oo.) JB Miller, FFA
pp.) Andrew McCandlish, FFA
qq.) Ray Breagel, FFA
rr.) Dawn Breagel, FFA

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

Curriculum & Instruction

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

1. Field Trips

Recommend the Board approve the following field trips for the 2025-26 school year:

a.)	October 7, 2025	Juniors to Ohio State University
b.)	October 24, 2025	Juniors to Otterbein University
c.)	October 29, 2025	Freshman to Hocking College
d.)	Date TBD	FFA to County Forestry Competition
e.)	Date TBD	FFA to Farm Science Review
f.)	September 18, 2025	FFA to District Forestry Competition
g.)	September 24, 2025	FFA to District Soils Competition
h.)	September 27, 2025	FFA to State Forestry Competition
i.)	October 10, 2025	FFA to State Soils Competition
j.)	October 14, 2025	FFA to District 8 Ag Olympics
k.)	October 23, 2025	FFA to Sub-District Job Interviews
l.)	Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2025	FFA to National FFA Convention
m.)	November 4, 2025	FFA to District Job Interviews
n.)	Date TBD	FFA to Leadership Night
o.)	November 17, 2025	FFA to Sub-District Parliamentary Procedures
p.)	Date TBD	FFA to Public Speaking Workshop
q.)	December 5, 2025	FFA to State Job Interviews
r.)	December 6, 2025	FFA to State Novice Parliamentary Procedures
s.)	December 13, 2025	FFA to State Advanced Parliamentary Procedures
t.)	January 8, 2026	FFA to District Food Sciences
u.)	January 17/18, 2026	FFA to Connect/I Am Leadership Conference
v.)	January 24, 2026	FFA to State Food Sciences
w.)	February 12, 2026	FFA to Sub-District Public Speaking
x.)	Date TBD	FFA to Drop the Mic Public Speaking Invitational
y.)	February 19, 2026	FFA to District Public Speaking
z.)	Date TBD	FFA to Buckeye Meats Invitational
aa.)	Date TBD	FFA to District Ag Power Diagnostics

bb.)	Date TBD	FFA to Mt. Gilead Invitational
cc.)	Date TBD	FFA to ATI Livestock Invitational
dd.)	February 24, 2026	FFA to District Ag Sales
ee.)	March 6, 2026	FFA to State Ag Power Diagnostics
ff.)	March 7, 2026	FFA to State Public Speaking & Marysville Invitational
gg.)	March 10, 2026	FFA to State Ag Sales
hh.)	March 11, 2026	FFA to District Ag Mechanic Skills
ii.)	March 13, 2026	FFA to Southeast Invitational
jj.)	Date TBD	FFA to Miami Trace Invitational
kk.)	Date TBD	FFA to Ashland Invitational
ll.)	March 26, 2026	FFA to State Ag Mechanic Skills
mm.)	March 28, 2026	FFA to State Livestock, Equine
nn.)	April 8, 2026	FFA to District Outdoor Power
oo.)	April 11, 2026	FFA to State Wildlife
pp.)	April 13, 2026	FFA to State Floriculture
qq.)	April 14, 2026	FFA to State Animal Behavior
rr.)	April 15, 2026	FFA to State Vet Science
ss.)	Date TBD	FFA to Fundraiser Incentive Trip
tt.)	Date TBD	FFA to Tri-County Envirothon
uu.)	April 23, 2026	FFA to State Outdoor Power
vv.)	Date TBD	FFA to Area 3 Envirothon
ww.)	Date TBD	FFA to Kindergarten Farm Day
xx.)	April 24/25, 2026	FFA to State Livestock, Meats & Ag Issues
yy.)	April 30, 2026	FFA to State Convention
zz.)	Date TBD	FFA to Meat Science Field Trip
aaa.)	May 26-28, 2026	FFA to Officer Training
bbb.)	Date TBD	FFA to FFA Camp
ccc.)	Date TBD	FFA to State Envirothon

2. Agreement with Ohio School for the Deaf — Attachment
   Recommend the Board approve an agreement with Ohio School for the Deaf to provide outreach services for a NLSD resident student attending Holy Trinity (no charge to District), as presented.

3. Careers in My Community Program
   Recommend the Board approve Mid-East Career and Technology Center to provide the Careers in My Community Program at Glenford Elementary.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mrs. Miller, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye;; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 5-0.

Board Policy & Procedure

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

1. Board Policies – Final Reading — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the following Board policies upon First Reading:
   a.) PO# 2464; Gifted Education and Identification
   b.) PO# 5410; Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement, and Retention

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mrs. Miller, aye; Mr.

DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 5-0.

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

President DeRolph declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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President

_____
Treasurer