RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting – October 23, 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 – Vice-President Patrick Hogan 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	

Visitors and Guests - Mr. Hogan welcomed the following guests; Mrs. Lisa Householder, Mr. Steve Lemon, Mrs. Amy VanBalen, Ms. Daria Carr, Mr. David Weals, Mrs. Diana Weals, Ms. Lea Anne Broseus, and Mr. Cody Ramey.

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

1. Regular Meeting, September 18, 2025

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

Mid-East Vocational School Report – Mr. France started by thanking Mr. Hogan for attending the last Mid-East Board meeting. The Food Nutrition program provided food samples of ramen bowls, orange chicken, teriyaki chicken and BBQ chicken to the Board and visitors.

Mr. France reported that Mr. Clint Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent at Mid-East provided the Board with a presentation on the State Report Card, reporting that they received a 5-Star Outstanding rating and that nine programs received top federal ratings as well. He also reported that while that was great news, they did receive a 3-Star rating in the academic's area, which indicates room for growth, but also reported on the success that almost 60% of Mid-East students move on to secondary education or join an apprenticeship after graduation.

The Mid-East Treasurer's report indicated a significant increase in property and liability insurance premiums and therefore they will be going out to the market for bids, and like most Ohio school Districts, there are weaknesses beginning to appear in the Financial Forecast as soon as FY29. The Board also received the 5-year capital plan presentation which included the new Fire and EMS program building which is now under construction.

Mr. France told the Board that like Sheridan, Mid-East has a Hall of Fame ceremony each year to recognize graduates of Mid-East who have been successful in their career path. This year, Mid-East Law Enforcement program graduate, Board President, and Cambridge Chief of Police, Mr. David Peoples was inducted.

Mr. France also shared the sad news of the passing of a Mid-East student from John Glenn High School this past month.

Finally, Mr. France invited anyone attending the OSBA conference in November to watch the student presentations from both the Zanesville and Buffalo campuses.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Gussler shared several upcoming events with the Board including the schedules for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving celebrations.

Mrs. Gussler also stated that the District is following news regarding Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)

proposals from OHSAA and there is an emergency vote scheduled to take place soon. She stated that she has had conversations with SHS Principal, Mrs. Householder and Athletic Director, Mr. Dupler, and they agree that we should be opposed to NIL for high school athletes and will be submitting our vote as such. She will keep everyone updated on the outcomes.

Mrs. Gussler then shared that all transportation staff received threat detection and deterrent training and that all staff were successful in detecting threats in the exercises. Ms. Broseus, who is a bus driver, was in attendance at the meeting and stated that it was a very good training.

Mrs. Gussler informed the Board that the district Calendar Committee has developed two options for next school year's calendar and that the selected calendar will be ready for a first reading at the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton presented the Board with a legislative update surrounding a few of the bills related to property tax reform that is working through the Ohio House and Senate. HB186 addresses property tax credits and 20-mill floor. It has passed the House and is heading the Senate. HB186 caps property tax growth for districts at the 20-mill floor to the rate of inflation using the GDP deflator. It also applies a retro-active credit for taxpayers in a reappraisal / update county for 2023 and 2024, and provides a partial backfill to schools, which is to be funded by cancelling the sales tax holiday in August 2026. The simulations of HB186 provided show that Northern Local Schools are estimated to lose between $2.13M and $2.96M in revenue over 3-years. Additionally, while districts will have revenues capped, the State Funding Formula will still be based on full property valuation, making the district appear wealthier and further reducing the state share of aid, creating a double-loss of revenue. Mrs. Clifton reported that K-12 Business Consulting has reviewed the calculation provided in the simulations and noted some errors, especially for districts that span multiple counties such as Northern Local, so the actual losses are not able to be determined yet. Mrs. Clifton reported that changes pertaining to the 20-mill floor were anticipated and therefore tax revenue growth in the Financial Forecast were conservative which could lessen the impact on the forecast. However, couple this anticipated loss with the loss of unrestricted state funding from FY24 to FY26, which was a loss of approx. $1.75M, the overall financial picture of the district is looking very weak.

HB335 addresses limits on inside millage, capping growth to inflation using the GDP deflator. This also applies to inside permanent improvement fund millage, which Northern Local has 2-mills. Since there is not a retro-active credit within this bill, the district would not "lose" revenue, but anticipated growth of revenue will be significantly impacted.

HB129 pertains to fixed-sum and emergency levies, and does not have an impact on our district because we do not have these levy types currently. However, this legislation will change how these levies work moving forward.

HB309 has passed the house and was scheduled for sponsor hearings in the Senate this week. This bill grants authority to County Budget Commissions to reduce collection on voter-approved levies if it is deemed that collections are unnecessary or excessive. This undermines the decision of local voters and elected school boards.

SB93 is scheduled for first hearings this week and proposes a centralized school funding plan of a guaranteed 20-mill property tax and a 1.75% sales tax increase which would replace all school property taxes in the State of Ohio. A summary of the hearings and additional details should be available this weekend.
Mrs. Clifton presented the Treasurer's Report for data through September 30, 2025. Taxes revenue and state revenue is on target based on estimates for this year. Interest earnings for the year are $114,921.49 in all funds, with $110,081.82 going to the general fund. General Fund expenditures are also on target, with 25.6% of the budget being expended, and 25% of the year being complete.

Mrs. Clifton stated that she and Mrs. Brown, Transportation Manager, quickly moved on applying for the $10M Bus Safety Grant that the Governor announced. The requested amount was approx. $125,000 to install LED "School Bus" lighting on the front and back of each bus, LED "Stop" arms on the front and back of each bus, lighted cross-over mirrors for each bus, and crossing arms for each bus. Priority funding will be for newer busses with a longer life expectancy. However, the total award is determined by the total applications so we are

hopeful that we may receive enough funding to install all safety features on our entire fleet.

Mrs. Clifton reported that she and Payroll Clerk, Olivia Severance, have volunteered to be part of a focus group with the State Software Development Team to develop a software product that will integrate employee absence entries in Employee Self Service (ESS) with substitute calling capabilities, creating a more efficient process for staff.

Finally, Mrs. Clifton informed the Board that the district received a rebate payment from our PNC Visa PCard program in the amount of $577.38 for our FY25 credit card activity which was deposited to the general fund on 10/7/2025.

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

1. September Financial Reports — Attachment

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

2. Budget Adjustments

   Recommend the Board approve the following budget adjustments:

   Revenue:

a.)	FY25 21st Century Learning (509-9125)	$5,252.75
b.)	FY25 21st Century Learning (509-9225)	($5,252.75)
c.)	FY25 Title IDEA-B (516-9225)	($11,318.25)
d.)	FY25 School Improvement (536-9225)	$1,020.60
e.)	FY25 Title I-A (572-9225)	($62,605.73)
f.)	FY25 Title I-A Expanding Opportunities (572-9226)	$759.00
g.)	FY25 Title IV-A Student Support (584-9225)	($172.11)
h.)	FY25 Title II-A (590-9225)	($429.70)
i.)	MS Band (300-944J)	$300.00
j.)	MS Student Council (200-961J)	$1,300.00

   Appropriations:

a.)	FY25 21st Century Learning (509-9125)	$5,252.75
b.)	FY25 21st Century Learning (509-9225)	($5,252.75)
c.)	FY25 Title IDEA-B (516-9225)	($11,318.25)
d.)	FY25 School Improvement (536-9225)	$1,020.60
e.)	FY25 Title I-A (572-9225)	($62,605.73)
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g.)	FY25 Title IV-A Student Support (584-9225)	($172.11)
h.)	FY25 Title II-A (590-9225)	($429.70)
i.)	MS Band (300-944J)	$300.00
j.)	MS Student Council (200-961J)	$1,300.00

3. Then & Now Certificates

   Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

a.)	PO# 132995	Perry County Library, Lost Book
b.)	PO# 133063	Accurate Mechanical, Cafeteria Equipment Repairs
c.)	PO# 132959	Elizabeth Hoover, Mileage
d.)	PO# 133115	Emily Heath, Mileage
e.)	PO# 132960	Hunter McCartney, Mileage
f.)	PO# 132936	Lance Dupler, Mileage
g.)	PO# 133124	Aqua Science, Water Treatment
h.)	PO# 133134	Deb Masterson, Mileage

i.) PO# 133110 Jack Holland, Mileage
j.) PO# 133046 Pioneer Manufacturing, Field Paint
k.) PO# 133135 Facts Education, Holy Trinity Parent Alert Module
l.) PO# 133002 Katom Restaurant Supply, Cafeteria Equipment
m.) PO# 132612 Ohio Treasurer of State, Radio Inspection & Service
n.) PO# 133144 Multi-County JDC, Tuition
o.) PO# 133141 Perry County Transit, Student Transportation
p.) PO# 133184 MVESC, STARS Program Fees 2024-25

4. Reach Educational Services, LLC

   Recommend the Board approve a contract for a student placement with Reach Educational Services, LLC effective October 13, 2025

5. Auditor of State Engagement

   Recommend the Board approve the audit engagement with the Ohio Auditor of State for the fiscal year 2025 financial audit.

6. 2025-26 Statements of Intent & Purpose Attachment

   Recommend the Board the 2025-26 Student Activity and Support Fund Statements of Intent & Purpose, as presented.

7. Donations

   Recommend the Board approve the following donations:
   a.) Buckeye Lake Fraternal Order of Eagles; $4,500 to SMS Washington DC Trip Scholarships
   b.) Somerset Alumni; $974 to Somerset Elementary Support Fund
   c.) Frank Correll; Winter Jackets, to Glenford Elementary

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

Employment

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

1. Medical Leave of Absence

   Recommend the Board approve the following medical leave request:
   a) Morga Myers, beginning October 1, 2025 for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year

2. Retirement

   Recommend the Board approve the following retirement:
   a) Nicci Fisher, Teacher, effective January 1, 2026

3. Resignation

   Recommend the Board approve the following resignation:
   a) Morgan Boch, Long-term Substitute Teacher, effective September 26, 2025

4. Classified Employees

   Recommend the Board approve the following classified employees for the 2025-26 school year:
   a) Brittany Butcher, Vehicle Transporter, 5.75 hours per day, Step 1, effective October 1, 2025
   b) Gracie Barcus, One-On-One Attendant, 7 hours per day, Step 0, October 6, 2025
   c) Brittany Sigler, Assistant Cook, 2.5 hours per day, Step 0, effective September 30, 2025

5. Certified Substitutes — Attachment

   a) MVESC Substitutes, as presented
   b) Trent Smith, Substitute Teacher, effective September 1, 2025
   c) Afton Powell, Substitute Teacher, effective October 6, 2025
   d) Amy Koehler, Long-term Substitute Teacher, BA, Step 0, effective October 21, 2025

6. Classified Substitutes

   Recommend the Board approve the following classified substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:
   a) Megan Murray, Cook, effective October 3, 2025
   b) Abigail Smith, One-On-One Attendant, effective October 17, 2025
   c) Melissa Filkins, Cook, effective October 17, 2025
   d) Kaylie Altman, Cook, effective October 13, 2025
   e) Brittany Phillis, Cook, effective October 7, 2025
   f) Martin Irwin, Custodian, effective October 24, 2025
   g) Angela Longnecker, Educational Assistant

7. High School Math Tutors

   Recommend the Board approve the following High School Math Tutors for the 2025-26 school year, paid through the Supplemental School Improvement Grant, at a rate of $30 per hour:
   a.) Katie Huffman
   b.) Adam Huffman
   c.) Grace Conrad
   d.) Kirk Washburn
   e.) John Covey
   f.) Mike Midkiff

8. High School ELA Tutors

   Recommend the Board approve the following High School ELA Tutors for the 2025-26 school year, paid through the Supplemental School Improvement Grant, at a rate of $30 per hour:
   a.) Mary Peresta
   b.) Audra Wills

9. Transition Days

   Recommend the Board approve five (5) transition days for Lori Dupler, at her daily rate.

10. Volunteers

    Recommend the Board approve the following volunteers for the 2025-26 school year:
    a.) Leisha Hickman, Thornville Elementary

b.) Chris Cashdollar, Band
c.) Jordan McCallum, Band
d.) John Pennybacker, Band
e.) Jared Warthman, Band
f.) Cynthia West, Band
g.) Joe West, Band
h.) Adam Huffman, Assistant Track Coach
i.) Brenda Whetherholt, Thornville Elementary
j.) Susan Noll, Somerset Elementary, pending successful background checks
k.) Thomas Diehl, Somerset Elementary, pending successful background checks
l.) Elizabeth Kuhn, Glenford Elementary, pending successful background checks
m.) Beverly Johnson, Glenford Elementary, pending successful background checks
n.) Jordan Preston, Glenford Elementary, pending successful background checks

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

Curriculum & Instruction

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

1. Field Trips

Recommend the Board approve the following field trips for the 2025-26 school year:
a.) October 15, 2025; Glenford Kindergarten and Cross-Categorial Class to Dupler's Pumpkin Patch
b.) October 20, 2025; SHS Seniors to Ohio University
c.) October 20, 2025; Glenford 1st Grade to Wilson's Garden Center
d.) October 23, 2025; SHS Students to Carpenters Union Open House
e.) November 14, 2025; SHS Students to Muskingum University
f.) December 8, 2025; SHS Student Council Adopt-A-Child Shopping Trip

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

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

Vice President Hogan declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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President

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Treasurer