

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting – November 20, 2025

The Northern Local Schools Board of Education met in regular session in the Middle 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:

Sharon Cains

Dale DeRolph

Levi Dupler

Patrick Hogan

Members Absent:

Megan Miller

Visitors and Guests – Mr. DeRolph welcomed the following guests; Mrs. Lisa Householder, Mr. Steve Lemon, Mrs. Amy VanBalen, and Mr. David Weals.

Mr. DeRolph also welcomed Xander Ray, who presented the Board with his Eagle Scout project. Xander has designed and received funding to construct two spruce shadow boxes that will be mounted in the high school band room to display band uniforms from 1962. The Board unanimously agreed to approve Xander's project and expressed their appreciation to him.

The Board also welcomed several former employees and their families, who were in attendance to celebrate their retirement at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Each retiree was gifted an embroidered jacket as a token of appreciation for their many years of service and contribution to making the NLSD community "what it is today." Those retirees in attendance were; Jay Hickman, Tyrone Davis, Mark Paxton, Jeff Forgrave, Linda Hines, Scott Johns, Angie Custer, Annabelle Currence, Julie Soloman, and Susan Ballentine. The remainder of our retirees will be in attendance at the December meeting.

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

1. Regular Meeting, October 23, 2025

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. DeRolph, abstain.

Motion carried 3-0.

Mid-East Vocational School Report – Mr. France addressed the Board by stating that being able to serve on the Mid-East Board of Education has been a great learning experience with thirteen partner schools. He added that he prioritized being in attendance at the NLSD Board meetings to fill everyone in on the goings-on at Mid-East. He expressed his thankfulness that Mr. Hogan will be able to continue that line of communication. Mr. France stated that Sheridan students at Mid-East tend to be at the top of their classes and career fields, especially in Diesel Mechanics and other technical fields. He encouraged Board members to continue to increase the partnerships with Mid-East due to the community demands and tax appeal efforts. He reiterated the wonderful experience he has had serving Northern Local Schools.

Mrs. Gussler expressed her gratitude to Mr. France for his many years of service. Mr. DeRolph added his appreciation to Mr. France's dedication, phone calls to discuss various things, and him being a community liaison to the Board.

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

Recommend the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Patrick Hogan as the Northern Local representative of the Mid-East Career & Technical Center Board of Education.

Mrs. Cains seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Hogan, abstain; Mr. DeRolph, aye.

Motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Gussler shared several upcoming events with the Board including the vacation plans, meeting and professional development dates. She asked if the Board would consider changing the December meeting date, due to a conflict with upcoming family obligations. It was agreed that Tuesday, December 16th would work best for everyone.

Mrs. Gussler provided a recap and update on several new, revised, or rescinded policies that are being presented for approval this evening. Mrs. Cains expressed concern over PO 3130; Assignment and Transfer. She voiced her concern about this being used as a form of punishment to staff. Mrs. Gussler assured her that would not be an issue under her leadership, and this is not in conflict with the NLEA and OAPSE contracts, and this has been a practice already in place.

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton presented the Board with summary of the preliminary Financial Health Indicators (FHI) Report for FY25 issued by the Ohio Auditor of State. The report looks at 12 financial areas and ranks each as positive, cautionary or critical. We have 10 areas of positive outlook, 1 cautionary, and 1 critical. The cautionary and critical outlooks in our FHI report are indicative of the other.

- The cautionary outlook is Indicator #2, Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund, which indicates the amount of funds available without restriction for use. If the unassigned balance is declining, or negative, it leaves little room for unexpected expenses, and therefore, a sign of fiscal stress.
- The critical outlook is Indicator #9, General Fund Revenues compared to General Fund Expenses, which indicates if expenses exceed revenue. A declining trend indicates fiscal stress.

Mrs. Clifton discussed that neither of these indicator outlooks should be surprising, as we have had continuing conversations regarding cash balance concerns and deficit spending within the budget preparation and Financial Forecast presentations.

Mrs. Clifton provided an update on pending legislation. HB129, HB309, HB186 and HB335 were scheduled for a possible vote on November 19th and an update will be provided once we have more information. If approved, they are expected to move to the Senate and possibly the Governor by the end of the week. These bills represent some of the most significant changes to the property tax and school funding framework in decades.

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

1. October Financial Reports Attachment
Recommend the Board approve the October 2025 financial reports, as presented.
2. Tax Rate Resolution – 2025 Collections
Recommend the Board approve a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, certifying them to the County Auditor.
3. Establish Student Activity Account
Recommend the Board approve the establishment of a Student Activity account for Bowling (300-951C)

4. Budget Adjustments

Recommend the Board approve the following budget adjustments:

Revenue:

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| a.) | Bowling (300-951C) | \$7,000.00 |
| b.) | FY26 K-12 Connectivity Grant (451-9226) | \$5,000.00 |
| c.) | FY26 OSLN STEM Grant (019-9026) | \$5,000.00 |
| d.) | FY26 South Central Power STEM Grant (019-9126) | \$7,000.00 |
| e.) | MS Honor Society (200-937J) | \$2,500.00 |

Appropriations:

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| a.) | Bowling (300-951C) | \$7,000.00 |
| b.) | FY26 K-12 Connectivity Grant (451-9226) | \$5,000.00 |
| c.) | FY26 OSLN STEM Grant (019-9026) | \$5,000.00 |
| d.) | FY26 South Central Power STEM Grant (019-9126) | \$7,000.00 |
| e.) | MS Honor Society (200-937J) | \$1,206.68 |

5. Then & Now Certificates

Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

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|-----|------------|---|
| a.) | PO# 133195 | Blooms on Broadway, Flower Arrangements |
| b.) | PO# 133238 | Columbus City Schools, NCH Student Tutoring |
| c.) | PO# 132859 | Crooksville High School, Cross Country Invitational Fees |
| d.) | PO# 133156 | District 12 Volleyball Coaches Association, Membership Fees |
| e.) | PO# 133182 | SkEYEWATCH, Inc, Bus/Van Camera Equipment |
| f.) | PO# 133048 | Adrenaline Fundraising, Volleyball Fundraiser |
| g.) | PO# 133243 | APG Media, Advertising |
| h.) | PO# 133265 | Healthy Roster, Athletic Trainer Software |
| i.) | PO# 133295 | SkEYEWATCH, Inc, Bus/Van Camera Equipment Installation |
| j.) | PO# 133271 | Transportation Accessories, Parts & Supplies |
| k.) | PO# 133338 | Katie Watkins, Mileage |
| l.) | PO# 133355 | Kim Thomas, Mileage |
| m.) | PO# 133282 | SignWorx, Baseball Fence Banners |

6. S Wright Consulting Contract

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve a contract with S Wright Consulting for FY26 21st Century Grant Evaluation Services

7. 2025-26 Statements of Intent & Purpose

Attachment

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

8. Donations

Recommend the Board approve the following donations:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| a.) | NAPA / Phil Harlan; \$2500 in tools to the HS Ag Department |
| b.) | Somerset American Legion; \$500 to Sheridan Wrestling |
| c.) | Bridget Moore; \$100 to FFA, October meeting sponsor |
| d.) | Krista Lozier; \$100 to FFA, October meeting sponsor |
| e.) | Sherry & Derek White: \$100 to FFA, November meeting sponsor |
| f.) | Kaity Bales: \$100 to FFA, November meeting sponsor |
| g.) | Wiseman Auctions & Real Estate: \$100 to FFA, Harvest for Hope 5K concessions sponsor |

9. Asset Disposal

Recommend the Board approve the following asset disposals:

- a.) 2011 Ford F-350 XL 4WD with 8' Meyers Snow Plow
VIN#1FTRF3B6XBEB66637
- b.) SHS McCall Refrigerator Model 2-2045C, S/N S-789647
- c.) SMS True Refrigerator Model TS-53-4-G-4-PT, S/N 1-3549925
Somerset Oven, Model SGM-100, S/N 9911CJ0096

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler; aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.

Motion carried 4-0.

Employment

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

1. FMLA

Recommend the Board approve the following FMLA request:

- a) Mason Conrad, 2 weeks of paternity leave beginning approx. November 26th

2. Resignation

Recommend the Board approve the following resignation:

- a) Samantha Johnson, Bus Driver, effective end of the day November 5, 2025

3. Classified Employees

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

- a) Brittany Phillis, Assistant Cook, 2.5 hours per day, Step 0, effective October 24, 2025

4. Certified Substitutes

Attachment

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

- a) MVESC Substitutes, as presented
- b) Afton Powell, Long-term Substitute Teacher, BA, Step 0, effective January 5, 2026

5. Classified Substitutes

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

- a) Gary Blevins, Vehicle Transporter, effective November 1, 2025
- b) Deidra Headlee, Educational Assistant, effective November 7, 2025
- c) Deidra Headlee, Secretary
- d) Deidra Headlee, Cook
- e) Kalani Maynard, Educational Assistant, pending successful background check
- f) Kalani Maynard, Secretary, pending successful background check

6. Volunteers

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

- a.) Karissa Carpenter, Softball
- b.) Hunter McCartney, Boys Basketball

Mrs. Cains seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Hogan, aye; Mrs. Cains, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.

Motion carried 4-0.

Curriculum & Instruction

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

1. 2026-27 School Calendar Attachment

Recommend the Board approve upon first-reading the 2026-27 School Calendar, as presented.

2. Late Start

Recommend the Board approve a 2-hour delay on January 30, 2026 for teacher professional development

3. Field Trips

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

- a.) November 17, 2025 – SHS to Genesis Healthcare Systems
- b.) November 25, 2025 – SHS Honors English 10 Students to Wesley Woods Retirement Community
- c.) December 2, 2025 – Glenford 3rd Grade to Conn's Potato Chip Factory
- d.) December 5, 2025 – SHS Juniors to Ohio University
- e.) December 12, 2025 – SHS Freshman Academy Students to Perry County Dog Shelter
- f.) December 12, 2025 – SHS Drama Club to Preschool Classrooms
- g.) December 15, 2025 – SHS to Genesis Hospital
- h.) December 16, 2025 – SHS Freshman Academy Students to Somerset Altercare
- i.) December 17, 2025 - SHS Freshman Academy Students to Perry County Dog Shelter
- j.) December 18, 2025 – SHS Freshman Academy Students to Perry County Dog Shelter
- k.) March 3, 2026 – SHS Students to THK Manufacturing
- l.) March 9, 2026 – SHS Students to the Ohio Supreme Court
- m.) March 18, 2026 – Glenford 2nd grade and cross category classroom to the Works

4. Early Graduation Approval

Recommend the Board approve the following students for early graduation:

- b) Bayleigh Baughman
- c) Rylie Bonkowski
- d) Hannah Canty
- e) Boston Casto
- f) Lillianna Dunkle
- g) Jordan Dyer
- h) Nicholas Emmert
- i) Zachary Gibbens
- j) Camryn Graves
- k) Emilee Gray
- l) Michael Hopkins
- m) Jett Johnson
- n) Larkin Johnson
- o) Danielle Kellough
- p) Ella King

- q) Elizabeth Lanning
- r) Cole Large
- s) Abbigail Mason
- t) Miquel Mendoza
- u) Isabel Morris
- v) Harper Powell
- w) Kaden Ray
- x) Journey Reichley
- y) Landon Rexroad
- z) Zachary Riffle
- aa) Logan Rose
- bb) Sulyvan Schmitt
- cc) Cruz Short
- dd) Nathan Stuck
- ee) Reese Thieken
- ff) Luke Tooill
- gg) Joshlynn Triner

Mrs. Cains seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Dupler, aye; Mrs. Cains, 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 Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following Board policies upon first reading:

- a.) PO# 2266; Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities
- b.) PO# 2430.02; Participation of Community/Stem School Students in Extracurricular Activities
- c.) PO# 3130; Assignment and Transfer
- d.) PO# 5130; Withdrawal from School
- e.) PO# 5136; Personal Communication Devices
- f.) PO# 5410; Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement, and Retention
- g.) PO# 6830; Audit
- h.) PO# 8300; Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan
- i.) PO# 8305; Information Security
- j.) PO# 8400; School Safety
- k.) PO# 8462; Student Abuse and Neglect
- l.) PO# 1422; Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-harassment Nondiscrimination
- m.) PO# 1623; Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment
- n.) PO# 2260; Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity
- o.) PO# 2260.01; Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability
- p.) PO# 3122; Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-harassment Nondiscrimination
- q.) PO# 4123; Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment

- r.) PO# 3123; Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment
- s.) PO# 4122; Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-harassment Nondiscrimination
- t.) PO# 7540.02; Digital Content and Accessibility

2. Board Policies – Rescission, First Reading

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the rescission of the following Board Policies upon first reading:

- a.) PO# 1662; Anti-harassment
- b.) PO# 1422.02; Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
- c.) PO# 3122.02; Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
- d.) PO# 3362; Anti-harassment
- e.) PO# 4122.02; Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee
- f.) PO# 4362; Anti-harassment

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:

President

Treasurer