NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 15, 2026

AGENDA

Tax Budget Hearing – 6:15 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order – Pat Hogan, President Pro-Tempore

III. Roll Call

IV. Recognition of Visitors and Public Participation

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

A. Oath of Office

1. Patrick Hogan
2. Steve Lemon
3. David Weals

B. Election of Officers to the Board of Education

1. <u>Elect President of the Board of Education</u>

Recommend the board elect a President to open and preside over the Board of Education meetings.

2. <u>Elect Vice President of the Board of Education</u>

Recommend the board elect a Vice President of the Board of Education.

C. Resolution to Establish Time, Place and Date of Regular Meetings

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code, Section 3313.15 requires that at the time of the organizational meeting each Board of Education shall fix the time for holding its regular meeting, such meetings to be held a minimum of once every two months;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District shall meet on the following dates and time during 2026 in the Northern Local Board Room located at 8700 Sheridan Drive, Thornville, Ohio:

Regular meetings: _____

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that special meetings may be called at the direction of the Board of Education.

D. Appointment of OSBA Legislative Liaison

Recommend the board appoint an Ohio School Boards Association Legislative Liaison for 2026.

E. Appointment of OSBA Student Achievement Liaison

Recommend the board appoint an Ohio School Boards Association Student Achievement Liaison for 2026.

F. Resolution to Establish Service Fund

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code, Section 3315.15 provides for the setting aside from the General Fund a sum not to exceed two dollars for each child enrolled in the district, or twenty thousand dollars, ($20,000), whichever is greater, as the “service fund”; and

Whereas, this money is used for the payment of expenses of the members of the Board of Education or of their official representatives actually incurred in the performance of their duties and in attendance at meetings and conferences as delegates of the Board of Education; Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District acknowledges account number 001-2310-841-0000-000000-000-00-000, "Service Fund", within the 2025-26 appropriations in the amount of $11,000, subject to modification by the Board of Education.

G. Resolution to Authorize Payment of Bills

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay all bills, as they are duly presented, provided funds are available, and to report monthly those bills which have been paid.

H. Resolution to Authorize Tax Advances from County Auditor

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code, Section 321.34 provides for the release of tax advances to a Board of Education; and

Whereas, the County Auditor requires receipt of an authorizing resolutions passed by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Education requesting tax advances; and

Whereas, it is deemed financially advantageous for the Northern Local School District to promptly receive the 2026 tax monies;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District that the Superintendent and Treasurer be authorized to request tax advances for the year 2026.

I. Resolution to Authorize Investments of Interim Funds

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code, Section 135.14 permits its Board of Education to make investments in certificates of deposit of banks, bonds, notes or other obligations to the United States; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District to invest funds not currently needed to meet operating costs in order to earn interest on these funds;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District that the policy for investment of cash not currently needed to meet obligations for short periods of time (less than two years) shall be one in which the cash balance remaining on active deposit as low as is consistent with good business practice and the investment of cash can be made according to the following principles: 1) Safety of principal; 2) Liquidity; and 3) Interest earnings.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to determine the amounts of cash not needed to meet current obligations and to invest in certificates of deposit with interest rates most advantageous to the Board of Education and other such investments under section 135.14 and 135.142 of the Ohio Revised Code.

J. Resolution Authorizing Application for Local, State and Federal Funds

Whereas, Local, State and Federal Funds are made available to Northern Local School District through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), etc.;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Superintendent is authorized and duly directed to make application for Local, State and Federal Grants and create funds as necessary.

K. Authorize Signature on Checks

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to sign all checks drawn on bank accounts of the school district as provided for in Section 3313.08, Ohio Revised Code.

L. Resolution for Waiver of Reading Minutes

Each board member receives a copy of the previous meeting's minutes prior to voting on their acceptance. Accordingly, it is not necessary for the Treasurer to read the minutes of the previous meetings prior to approval by the board. It is recommended that the Board of Education, in accordance with Section 3313.26, Ohio Revised Code, waive the reading of minutes from previous meetings.

M. Resolution to Appoint Superintendent of Schools as Purchasing Agent

Be it resolved that the Superintendent of Schools or Superintendent's designee be appointed to serve as purchasing agent for the Board of Education on behalf of the school district.

N. Resolution Listing Legal Counsel

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code, Section 3313.35 outlines authority for boards of education to hire legal counsel; and

Whereas, from time to time it is necessary for boards of education to engage legal counsel to represent the school system;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the firm of Scott Scriven LLP be names as legal counsel;

Now, therefore it be further resolved that the Superintendent, Treasurer and School Board President are authorized to obtain legal counsel.

O. Resolution Authorizing Superintendent to Make Offers of Employment Pending Board Ratification

Whereas, on occasion it becomes necessary for the Superintendent to make employment decisions during periods when this Board is not in session;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the board authorizes the Superintendent to make offers of employment directly to candidates for either teaching or nonteaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptable of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to successful background checks and receipt of necessary documentation, and a subsequent vote of ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer. Nothing in this resolution shall require the Board to employ or continue to employ an individual who has not provided a criminal record check satisfactory to the Board or who has not satisfied any other prerequisite to employment created by law of Board policy.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of the Board.

P. Resolution Authorizing Superintendent to Accept Resignations

Whereas, on occasion it becomes necessary for the Superintendent, on behalf of the Board, to accept resignations that have been submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the board authorizes the Superintendent to accept resignations that have been submitted subject to ratification by the Board. Upon ratification by the Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of the Board.

Q. Resolution to Continue Audit Committee

Be it resolved that all duly elected members of the Board of Education shall continue to serve as the School District's Audit Committee.

R. Resolution to Appoint the Board Designee as Public Records Training Designee

Be it resolved that Jennie Clifton, Treasurer, be authorized to represent the Board of Education as their public records training attendee for the 2026 year as required by House Bill 9.

S. Resolution to Appoint the District's Title IX Coordinator

The Board of Education appoints and affirms that the Curriculum Director, Amy VanBalen, shall serve as the School District's Title IX Coordinator.

T. Designation of Official Newspaper

Be it resolved that the Perry County Tribune will be the official newspaper for the Northern Local School District, for the publication of those notices required by law to be made in a newspaper.

REGULAR BUSINESS

V. Minutes

A. Board Meeting Minutes — Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following Board meeting minutes:

1. December 16, 2025

VI. Mid-East Vocational School Report – Pat Hogan

VII. Superintendent's Report – Angela Gussler

VIII. Business and Finance

A. Treasurer's Presentation – Jennie Clifton

B. Recommendation for Approval

1. December Financial Reports — Attachment

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

2. Resolution to Approve Tax Budget — Attachment

Whereas, Section 5705.28(e) of the Ohio Revised Code provides for the adoption of the tax budget on or before January 15th; and

Whereas, the Treasurer has prepared the tax budget according to the guidelines from the State and County Auditors and the Ohio Department of Education; and

Whereas, the Board of Education has conducted a public hearing on the proposed budget in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Sections 5705.28, 5705.29 and 5705.30;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Northern Local School District adopt the 2026-27 tax budget and direct the Treasurer to submit the tax budget document to the County Auditor by January 20, 2026.

3. Then and Now Certificates

Recommend the Board approve the following Then and Now Certificates:

a.) PO #133628, Dush Graphix & Custom T's, Boys Basketball Apparel
b.) PO #133631, G&J Pepsi, MH Classroom Sales
c.) PO #133609, Johnson Controls, HVAC Parts & Supplies
d.) PO #133601, Ohio FFA Association, FFA Membership Dues
e.) PO #133611, Perry County Chamber of Commerce, 2026 Membership Dues
f.) PO #133657, Nate's Lock & Key, Lock Service
g.) PO #133630, Infinity Fundraising, Fundraiser Prizes

4. Budget Adjustments

Recommend the Board approve the following adjustments:

Appropriations:

Boys Basketball (300-950L)	$2,059.00
FY26 Title I-A (572-9227)	$62,027.72
FY26 IDEA-B (516-9226)	$55,242.26
FY26 Title II-A (590-9226)	$1,805.55
FY26 Title IV-A (584-9226)	$217.01

Revenues:

Boys Basketball (300-950L)	$2,059.00
FY26 Title I-A (572-9227)	$62,027.72
FY26 IDEA-B (516-9226)	$55,242.26
FY26 Title II-A (590-9226)	$1,805.55
FY26 Title IV-A (584-9226)	$217.01

5. Donations

Recommend the Board accept the following donations:

a.) Bike Buckeye Lake Christmas Drive; 10 Bikes to SHS Students
b.) Bike Buckeye Lake Christmas Drive; 8 Bikes to Glenford Students
c.) Bike Buckeye Lake Christmas Drive; 8 Bikes to Somerset Students
d.) Stephanie Aldridge-Moore; Toys, Food, and Turkeys for SHS Families in Need
e.) Richland Township; Toys, Food, and Turkeys for SHS Families in Need
f.) Rushville Marathon; Toys, Food, and Turkeys for SHS Families in Need
g.) JuJu Tattoo; Food for SHS Families in Need
h.) ReadyEddie; Food for SHS Families in Need
i.) Jamie Gioffre; Food for SHS Families in Need
j.) I Support the Girls Organization, Chuck Byers; Hygiene Kits, Socks and Underwear to SHS
k.) B&K Drive Thru; 5 Turkeys for SHS Families in Need
l.) Annie Clouse; Clothing and $200 for the SHS Clothes Closet
m.) Hopewell United Methodist Church; Hats, Gloves & Mittens to Glenford
n.) Faith Fellowship Church; Clothing and Deodorant to Glenford

6. Establishment of Student Activity Account

Recommend the Board approve the establishment of a student activity account for Girls Golf (300-950F)

7. Student Activity Account Transfer

Recommend the Board approve a transfer of $1,402.00 from the Boys Golf (300-950G) student activity account to the Girls Golf (300-950F) student activity account.

8. 2025-26 Statement of Intent & Purpose — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the 2025-26 Student Activity Statement of Intent & Purpose, as presented

9. 2025-26 Title 1 Reading Intervention Services Agreement — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve an agreement with the ESC for 2025-26 Reading Intervention Services at Holy Trinity, to be paid from the FY26 Non-Public Title 1 funding allocation, as presented.

IX. Employment

A. Recommendation for Approval

1. Administrator Contract Expiration Notices

   Recommend the Board authorize and direct the Treasurer to notify the following administrators in writing that his/her contract expires on the date indicated, and that he/she may request a meeting with the Board of Education to discuss the Board's reasons for renewal or non-renewal of his/her contract in accordance with State law":
   a) Angela Gussler, Superintendent; July 31, 2026
   b) Chris Hill, Technology Coordinator; July 31, 2026
   c) Lisa Householder, Principal; July 31, 2026
   d) Mike Rodich, Assistant Principal; July 31, 2026
   e) Lori Tussing, Principal; July 31, 2026

2. Certified Substitutes — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the following certified substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:
   a) MVESC substitutes, as presented

3. Classified Employee

   Recommend the Board approve the following classified employee for the 2025-26 school year:
   a.) Gary Blevins, Vehicle Transporter, 5.75 hours per day, Step 0, effective January 5, 2026

4. Classified Substitutes

   Recommend the Board approve the following classified substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:
   a.) Sarah Harper, Cook, pending successful background check results, January 16, 2026

5. Volunteers

   Recommend the Board approve the following volunteers:
   a.) Terrence Talbot, Wrestling
   b.) Louis Goebel, Wrestling

X. Curriculum & Instruction

A. Recommendation for Approval:

1. 2026-27 School Calendar – Final Reading — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the final reading of the 2026-27 School Calendar

XI. Executive Session

Discussion in executive session is permitted only for the following specified purposes:

1. The appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee or student unless the employee or official or student requests a public hearing.
2. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding.
3. Conferences with the board's attorney to discuss matters, which are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
4. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining / sessions with employees.
5. Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.
6. Details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols.
7. To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiate with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance.

XVI. Adjournment