RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting – July 15, 2026

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:
Dale DeRolph	
Levi Dupler	
Patrick Hogan	
Steve Lemon	
David Weals	

Recognition of Visitors and Public Participation – The Board of Education recognized three visitors in attendance, specifically Luke Gussler, Samantha Heidenreich, Jessica Phillips.

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

1. June 24, 2026
2. June 30, 2026
3. July 1, 2026
4. July 9, 2026

Mr. Dupler seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Lemon, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Weals, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 5-0.

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

1. June 17, 2026

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

Mid-East Career & Technology Centers Report – Mr. Hogan sent a comprehensive Mid-East Career & Technology Centers report to the Board in advance of the meeting, which will be attached to the official minutes. He also stated that he had asked Mr. Sheridan about the 25 students that disenrolled from Mid-East last year, and that Mr. Sheridan stated that was about the average with most students returning to their home school primarily for sports. Mr. Weals asked if students attending Mid-East could still participate in sports at their home school, to which Mr. Hogan replied they could.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Gussler provided an update on some facility concerns identified by Mr. Lemon last month. She stated that Mr. Factor was meeting today with a fencing contractor to begin obtaining quotes to secure the retaining pond area behind the softball and baseball fields, and for fence to secure the area around the septic tank at Glenford. The potholes at Somerset will be addressed prior to school beginning, and equipment is being rented to move gravel to repair the drop-off around the middle school basketball courts. Mr. Dupler asked if the middle school repairs included any repairs to the preschool playground. He stated that one of the large pieces of preschool playground equipment was broken and needed removed or replaced. Mrs. Gussler stated that it was not included and there has been discussion on placing preschool classrooms back at the elementaries since that is a more appropriate environment than being at the middle school. She stated that is

a conversation for Dr. Skaggs to continue.

Discussion Items – Mrs. Gussler and Mrs. Clifton updated the Board on three discussion items:

1. Glenford Playground Replacement – Mrs. Clifton stated that 4 quotes from 3 vendors have been received with a variety of designs and options. Since this is a summer 2027 project, she will be working with Dr. Skaggs on how to proceed but that a committee will likely be formed to gather input from Glenford parents and teachers.
2. Baseball Field Renovation – Mrs. Gussler stated that we were first made aware in March of the issues with the baseball field and Mr. Factor has been working to get quotes. Mrs. Clifton stated that as of now, she is only aware of one quote being received, but a minimum of three are needed. She also stated that Mr. Factor has said he was having trouble getting companies interested in completing the work. Mr. Lemon expressed concern over not having a plan in place as the ideal time to get sod down is quickly approaching.
3. High School Chiller Repair / Replacement – Mrs. Clifton informed the Board that our liability insurance company determined that the repair would be covered, which will only cost the District its deductible of $25,000. Mrs. Clifton also stated that Johnson Controls informed her that the three middle school air handlers should be installed within the next three weeks and that the delay was due to Trane sending an incorrect unit. The Thornville chiller is also down due to a suspected lightning strike, and that as soon as an inspection report is received, a claim will be filed for that. Mr. Lemon asked about a timeframe for the high school chiller repair. Mrs. Clifton stated that she did not know since the repair was just authorized on Friday, but she would get with Mr. Factor to find out.

Business and Finance

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton also shared that she is working on the August forecast, which will be presented next month. She stated that she spoke to County Auditor Householder today and that the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) certified that Perry County and Northern Local Schools were not subject to any tax credits from HB186. However, because of the delay in getting the certification from ODT, second-half tax bills were delayed so our August forecast will still only reflect estimates for the full year collections in FY27 versus actual tax settlements for the first half of FY27. She also shared that a comparison of our June #2 state foundation payment to the July #1 state foundation payment indicated that our base funding from the formula shows a reduction of approximately $1.475 million, which is offset by the temporary transition guarantee. However, if the guarantee were to be phased out or eliminated, we would face a significant state funding cut. She also indicated that the state share percentage for the district decreased from 31.6% in FY26 to 24.8% in FY27 which indicates that the state formula shows our community share of school funding should be more.

Mrs. Clifton then presented the Board with the monthly financial reports for June, which was also fiscal year-end. She summarized general fund revenue with property tax collections slightly above estimated at 112.4%, but unrestricted state funding was lower than anticipated at 98%, as was restricted state funding at 86.8%. With 100% of the fiscal year complete our current general fund expenditures ended at 96.9% of estimated. Interest earnings for all funds for the fiscal year have reached $382,942.36. Mrs. Clifton stated that due to conservative revenue projections, specifically in property tax collections, and diligent review of expenditures during FY26, our deficit spending was significantly reduced and therefore the ending cash balance was much better than originally expected. And, although deficit spending is still a red flag for fiscal stress, we are making progress and moving in the right direction.

The ending cash balance of the permanent improvement fund was $1,911,623.32, with outstanding purchase orders totaling $1,029,315.89, leaving an unencumbered balance of $882,307.43. Mrs. Gussler stated that is much lower than we like, however it is indicative of all the large projects that are currently happening around the District.

Mr. Hogan asked if Mrs. Clifton could provide a list of supervisors and which department budgets they manage, to which she replied she could. Mr. Hogan then asked if there was a way to present budget to actual by department, or if supervisors could present on their budget to the Board. Mrs. Clifton stated that there isn't a canned report to provide that information, but it could be created and updated manually. She also stated that supervisors have had ongoing education over the past few years on their budgets, reading reports, and proper processes. She felt that more training is needed for a full understanding before asking for them to come before the Board.

Mr. Lemon asked what would happen with the snow plow, salt spreader, and old mowers now that we have a new grounds contract in place. Mrs. Gussler stated that we would want to keep the snow plow and salt spreader so that areas could be addressed if there was snow fall during the day, or areas that needed additional attention in between the grounds company's regular removal times. Mrs. Clifton stated that she and Dr. Skaggs would discuss what to do with the old mowers, but if they were to be disposed of, they would come before the Board for approval and then go out for sealed bids.

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

1. June Financial Reports — Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the June 2026 financial reports, as presented.

2. Then & Now Certificates

   Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:
   a.) PO# 134464; Accurate Mechanical; Kitchen Equipment Repairs, $626.80
   b.) PO# 134375; Transportation Accessories; Parts & Supplies, $373.08
   c.) PO# 134486; Scholastic Book Fairs, Somerset Book Fair, $2,758.12
   d.) PO# 134490; Portrait EFX, Glenford Yearbooks, $1,535.00
   e.) PO# 134484; Riverside Insights, Testing Supplies, $72.50
   f.) PO# 134494; EMS Linq, Inc, SNAF Website & Menus, $1,024.43
   g.) PO# 134509; NAPA, Parts & Supplies, $530.18
   h.) PO# 134514; Terminix, Pest Control, $90.12
   i.) PO# 134467; Cedarville University, CCP Books & Materials, $69.95

3. Athletic Admissions

   Recommend the Board approve the following athletic admission prices for the 2026-27 school year:

   Athletic Tickets:
   a.) Adults, High School Events - $7.00
   b.) Adults, Middle School Events - $5.00
   c.) Students, High School Events - $5.00
   d.) Students, Middle School Events - $3.00

   Athletic Passes:
   a.) Adult All-Season Pass - $100.00
   b.) Adult All-Season Pass w/reserved FB Red Seat - $150.00
   c.) Adult All-Season Pass w/reserved FB Bench Seat - $135.00
   d.) Student All-Season Pass - $50.00
   e.) Student All-Season Pass w/reserved FB Red Seat - $100.00
   f.) Student All-Season Pass w/reserved FB Bench Seat - $85.00
   g.) Football Only Pass w/ reserved FB Red Seat - $75.00
   h.) Football Only Pass w/ reserved Bench Seat - $60.00

4. Perry County Board of DD Agreement Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the Interagency agreement with the Perry County Board of DD for the 2026-27 school year, as presented.

5. Muskingum Valley ESC Program of Service Operational Agreement Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve the Program of Service Operational Agreement with the Muskingum Valley ESC for the 2026-27 school year, as presented.

6. Muskingum Valley ESC Drivers Education Stipend Agreement Attachment

   Recommend the Board approve a Driver's Education Site Coordinator stipend agreement with the Muskingum Valley ESC for the 2026-27 school year, as presented.

7. Donations

   Recommend the Board approve the following donations:
   a.) Somerset American Legion; 4' x 6' American flag to Somerset Elementary
   b.) Somerset American Legion; 4' x 6' American flag to Glenford Elementary

6. OSBA Business Meeting Delegate & Alternate

   Recommend the Board appoint an OSBA Business Meeting delegate and alternate to represent the NLSD Board of Education at the OSBA Capital Conference November 15 - 17, 2026:

   Delegate: Mr. Weals

   Alternate: Mr. Lemon

   Mr. Lemon seconded the motion.

   Roll call: Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Lemon, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. Weals, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
   Motion carried 5-0.

Employment

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

1. Classified Retirement

   Recommend the Board accept the following classified retirement:
   a.) Tracy Hammond, Custodian, effective 12/31/2026
   b.) Danny Hupp, Bus Driver, effective 7/31/2026

2. Certified Resignations

   Recommend the Board accept the following certified resignation:
   a.) Gretchen Combs, Special Education Director, effective 7/31/2026
   b.) Melissa Thompson, Teacher, effective 7/5/2026

3. Certified Employee Contracts

   Recommend the Board approve the following certified employee contracts for the 2026-27 school year, pending certification, as presented:
   a.) Elizabeth Gibson, Teacher, BA, Step 0

4. Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract

   Recommend the Board approve the following limited long-term substitute teacher contract for the 2026-27 school year, pending certification, as presented:

a.) Jensen Wolfe, Intervention Specialist, BA, Step 0

5. Sheridan Connections Stipend

Recommend the Board approve the following stipend for the 2026-27 school year:
a.) Amy VanBalen, Sheridan Connections Coordinator, $5,000

6. Degree Advancements

Recommend the Board approve the following degree advancements for the 2026-27 school year, as presented:
a.) Rebecca Spicer, MA
b.) Tiffany Hupp, MA

7. Classified Substitute

Recommend the Board approve the following classified substitute for the 2026-27 school year, as presented:
a.) Mike Wilson, Van Driver

8. Volunteers

Recommend the Board approve the following volunteers for the 2026-27 school year:
a.) Chris Cashdollar, Band
b.) Shay Taylor, Football

Mr. Weals seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Lemon, aye; Mr. Weals, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.
Motion carried 5-0.

Curriculum & Instruction

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

1. Student Handbooks Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following student handbooks for the 2026-27 school year:
a.) Sheridan High School
b.) Sheridan Middle School

Mr. Lemon seconded the motion.
Roll call: Mr. Weals, aye; Mr. Lemon, aye; Mr. Dupler, aye; Mr. Hogan, 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; Mr. Lemon, aye; Mr. Weals, aye; Mr. DeRolph, aye.

President DeRolph declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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President

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Treasurer