

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Northern Local Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting – August 19, 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:

Dale DeRolph

Levi Dupler

Patrick Hogan

Steve Lemon

David Weals

Members Absent:

Recognition of Visitors and Public Participation – The Board of Education recognized three visitors in attendance, Lisa Householder, Samantha Heidenreich, and Kim Thomas.

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

1. July 15, 2026

Mr. Lemon seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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 highlighted Sheridan's enrollment at Mid-East, which includes 63 students at the Zanesville campus and 7 students at the Buffalo campus. He was also excited to share that Mid-East has begun a new program for estheticians, which is a high demand career. He also updated the Board that Mid-East is diving into the passage rate for the CDL program, in which Sheridan is a partner district. He stated that the pad training is a particular challenge and that they are considering a "boot camp" to assist the CDL program participants in receiving the required pad hours and to gain more experience before taking the exam. Mr. Weals asked if Mid-East had the capacity to support the demand of the CDL program to which Mr. Hogan stated they do. Mr. Hogan also said that Mid-East is considering a revision to the selection criteria for students accepted into the program, which may include a gauge for how determined they are to finish.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Skaggs provided the Board with a copy of his Superintendents Report, which is attached to the official minutes. He also stated that the district's new School Resource Officer, Gabe Poling, is slated to begin his duties August 28th. In the interim, the Perry County Sheriff's Office will have another officer available and on-site each day. In regards to the baseball field renovation project status, Mr. Lemon informed Dr. Skaggs that there is a pile of high-quality topsoil located behind the soccer field that could be utilized. Dr. Skaggs also commented that the Muskingum Valley ESC will be replacing the broken preschool playground equipment that was recently removed, since the preschool is operated by them. Mr. Lemon asked about the bird control remedy at the stadium and high school. Dr. Skaggs relayed that we had received a few quotes, with prices ranging from \$30,000 to \$118,000 and, since that was not a reasonable cost, we are looking into pricing bird netting that we can install in-house. Mr. Lemon commented that Tractor Supply sells nice quality bird netting and that he would be happy to help in the research and pricing. Mr. Lemon also asked Dr. Skaggs if he could look into the sound system problems in the high school commons. Mr. Weals stated that it was very difficult to hear the students performing during the fall play and the speaker at the Groundhog Day breakfast last year. Mr. Lemon suggested that we have a retirement recognition for Mr. Dupler before the September 18th

Varsity football game. Dr. Skaggs agreed, and stated that he would work with Mrs. Clifton and Mrs. Householder to organize that.

Committee Reports – Dr. Skaggs informed the Board that committees are in the process of being formed with committee chairs and members currently being assigned. The following committees will begin meeting soon:

1. Wellness Committee
2. Business Advisory Council
3. Safety Committee
4. Glenford Playground Committee
5. Insurance Committee
6. Audit Committee

Mr. Lemon provided members of the Board an update on some recent legislation changes impacting schools specifically HB455 and SB276. SB276 allows students from another district to participate in a sport at another district if their home district does not offer the sport of their choice. Dr. Skaggs stated that this legislation has been a topic of discussion for several years and that it poses an issue because there is no funding that follows the student in this situation, so non-resident districts are paying for the equipment, salary, etc. for these athletes, who may also be taking a spot away from a resident athlete.

Business and Finance

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Clifton presented the Financial Forecast which is required to be filed with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) no later than August 31st. Mrs. Clifton began by looking at actual numbers from FY25 and FY26, pointing out real property tax collections were down approximately \$170,000 which is from a combination of delinquencies and homeowners not paying full year tax bills in February due to the outstanding calculations of potential credits associated with HB186. Mrs. Clifton also notes that the public utility tax collection in FY26 were approximately \$357,000 less than in FY25 however, FY25 included a significant increase due to what the Perry County Auditor's office believed to be a valuation settlement. Since the information was not concrete, future projections are holding public utility collections steady until there is enough historical data to determine a consistent collection amount. Mrs. Clifton reviewed both the restricted and unrestricted state funding revenue noting that the district has realized a reduction in unrestricted aid from FY25 to FY26 of approximately \$350,000 and another \$390,000 in restricted aid. The overall reduction in revenue from FY25 to FY26 was about \$1.2 million dollars. While we did estimate reduced overall revenue, and planned accordingly, expenses continue to rise. When looking at expenditures between FY25 and FY26, actual salaries were reduced due to the large number of highly experienced retirements. The cost of employee benefits rose significantly as we were required to right-size the self-insurance fund which required a \$980,000 general fund transfer. Overall, spending from FY25 to FY26 increased by approx. \$747,000. When looking ahead into the current fiscal year (FY27) and beyond, Mrs. Clifton stated that tax revenues have been conservatively estimated based on what is believed to be consistent with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflation rate, which was part of HB335 and HB186. She also stated that the State did not update the base cost factors for the funding formula however, they did allow the local capacity inputs to be updated, which causes districts to appear wealthier and therefore they are considered to have a greater local capacity to fund schools. This effectively reduces State funding for Districts. Mrs. Clifton stated that since we are on the guarantee, we will not receive less State funding than what was received in 2021, however the guarantee is never guaranteed, and can change with the next State budget. The next biennial State budget will occur in the spring of 2027, and again in 2029. This alone presents a lot of unknowns in the forecast since we are projecting 4 years ahead. Current FY27 estimated revenues and future projections are based on what we know as of today. For current year (FY27) expenditures and beyond, salary expenses are less than estimated from the September 2025 forecast, largely due to the partnership with Mid-East for vocational agriculture programming and adjustments to staffing levels outlined in the Financial Correction plan with ODE. She noted that the largest negative impact to the forecast outlook is the estimated general fund transfers to the food service fund. Mrs. Clifton stated that she is hopeful the transfer will be lessened as Food Service Director, Lori Larimer, has already identified savings through a purchasing program with Gordon Food Service and working with a new vendor

whose prices for plasticware and other non-perishable items are lower than what we have paid in the past. Mrs. Clifton stated that she and Dr. Skaggs have already had several discussions on areas within the district that need to be explored for additional potential savings such as the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which provides free breakfast and lunch for all students, not just those who are qualified, that costs the general fund money, open enrollment policies, and additional potential partnerships with Mid-East. Mr. Hogan asked if Mrs. Clifton could provide the Board with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation, to which she stated she would add it to the Board folder as well as include it with the Financial Forecast on the Treasurer's page of the website.

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

1. Financial Forecast Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the Financial Forecast, as presented.

2. July Financial Reports Attachment

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

3. Budget Adjustments

Recommend the Board approve the following budget adjustments:

Revenue:

a.)	FY27 Title I-A (572-9229)	\$398,775.81
b.)	FY27 Title II-A (590-9227)	\$68,958.54
c.)	FY27 Title IV-A (584-9227)	\$31,455.98
d.)	FY27 IDEA-B (516-9227)	\$530,489.25
e.)	FY27 Supplemental School Improvement (536-9227)	\$150,000
f.)	FY27 Expanding Opportunities for Every Child (572-9230)	\$66,978.35
g.)	FY27 Somerset STARS	\$150,000
h.)	Middle School Cheerleaders (300-950W)	\$1,294.35

Appropriations:

a.)	FY27 Title I-A (572-9229)	\$398,775.81
b.)	FY27 Title II-A (590-9227)	\$68,958.54
c.)	FY27 Title IV-A (584-9227)	\$31,455.98
d.)	FY27 IDEA-B (516-9227)	\$530,489.25
e.)	FY27 Supplemental School Improvement (536-9227)	\$150,000
f.)	FY27 Expanding Opportunities for Every Child (572-9230)	\$66,978.35
g.)	FY27 Somerset STARS	\$150,000
h.)	Middle School Cheerleaders (300-950W)	\$3,004.35

4. Then & Now Certificates

Recommend the Board approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

a.)	PO# 134676; Accurate Mechanical; Kitchen Equipment Repairs, \$704.88
b.)	PO# 134715; Northern Perry Water; High School Water, \$137.50
c.)	PO# 134777; Blooms on Broadway, Funeral Flower Arrangement, \$75.00
d.)	PO# 134691; Bob Sumeral Tire, Tires, \$607.00
e.)	PO# 134707; META Solutions, Phone Services, \$2,973.02
f.)	PO# 134707; META Solutions, Phone Services, \$2,971.80
g.)	PO# 134625; Veritiv, Custodial Supplies, \$16.50
h.)	PO# 134717; AEP, Thornville Electricity, \$10,682.47
i.)	PO# 134793; American Pride, Grounds Supplies, \$426.13
j.)	PO# 134382; Buckeye Print Company, Football Team Shirts, \$2,026.00
k.)	PO# 146343; XTek, High School Door Repairs, \$275.00

5. Miller Bus Service Agreement Attachment

Recommend the Board approve an agreement with Miller Bus Service to provide transportation for the 8th Grade Washington DC trip from May 19th to May 21st, 2027, as presented.

6. META Bus Bid Participation Resolution Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the resolution to authorize META Solutions to advertise and receive bids for school buses and/or passenger vans, as presented.

7. TIPS Joint Purchasing Program Agreement Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the resolution to participate in the TIPS joint purchasing program and authorize the Capitol Aluminum & Glass estimate through TIPS for the current phase of the high school window replacement project, as presented.

8. Title I Non-Public School Program Agreement Attachment

Recommend the Board approve a Title I Non-Public School Program Agreement with Granville Village Exempted Schools for services provided at Granville Christian Academy for the 2026-27 school year, as presented.

9. Donations

Recommend the Board approve the following donations:

- a.) OHSAA; \$1,250 to the Athletic Fund
- b.) VMark Property Services; Tree Trimming & Curb Cleaning at SHS & SMS
- c.) VMark Property Services; Mowing & Trimming of Sheridan Road (West Side) to St. Rt. 13 and Sheridan Road (East Side) to bridge.
- d.) VMark Property Services; Mowing & Trimming of Overgrown Property Fence Lines, Ditches, Sidewalks; & Playgrounds
- e.) VMark Property Services; Post-Game Stadium Cleaning for 2026 Varsity & JV Football Games
- f.) Cheryl Salyers; School Supplies to Glenford

10. Asset Disposal

Recommend the Board approve the following asset disposals:

- a.) A01132289; 20" Single Pad Champion Floor Scrubber and Charger, Broken
- b.) A01132290; 13" Dual Pad Champion Floor Scrubber, Broken

11. Adult Meal Prices

Recommend the Board approve the following prices for adult meals for the 2026-27 school year, as follows:

- a.) Adult Meal - \$4.00
- b.) Adult Ala Carte Entrée Only - \$2.00
- c.) Adult Side Item Only - \$1.50

Mr. Weals seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Employment

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

1. FMLA

Recommend the Board accept the following FMLA request:

- a.) Taylor Icenhower, 6 weeks, beginning approx. September 23, 2026

2. Certified Resignation

Recommend the Board accept the following certified resignation:

- a.) Amy Bowers, Teacher, effective end of the 2025-26 school year

3. Classified Resignation

Recommend the Board accept the following classified resignation:

- a.) Dale Factor, Maintenance Director, effective July 31, 2026

4. Administrator Contract

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following administrator contract, effective August 17, 2026, as presented:

- a.) Brian Thomas, Director of Operations, 3-year contract

5. Certified Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following long-term substitute teacher contracts for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Jessemily Egerton, BA, Step 0

6. Certified Teacher Contract Corrections

Recommend the Board approve the following certified teacher contract corrections for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Amy Koehler, from 1-year contract to 1-year long-term substitute contract, BA, 0
b.) Emmalee King, from 1-year contract to 1-year long-term substitute contract, BA, 0, pending certification

7. Certified Employee Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following certified employee contracts for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Memphis Cutshall, Teacher, BA, Step 0
b.) Cindy Smith, Intervention Specialist, MA+, Step 10, (0.79 FTE / 145 days)

8. Classified Employee Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following classified employee contracts for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Krista Lozier, Cook, 2.5 hours per day, Step 0
b.) Rachael Frost, Cook, 2.5 hours per day, Step 0
c.) Amy Brunton, One-On-One Attendant, 7 hours per day, Step 10

9. Non-Certified Employee Contract

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following non-certified contract for the 2026-27 school year, funded through the Expanding Opportunities for Every Child grant, as presented:

- a.) Andrea Emmert, Workforce Development Coordinator

10. Supplemental Contracts

Recommend the Board approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Jensen Wolfe, Middle School Girls Track Coach, Step 0
- b.) Sequoia Hamilton, Flag Corp Advisor, Step 1

11. Certified Substitutes

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the following certified substitutes for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Jenny Mohler
- b.) MVESC Substitute List

12. Classified Substitutes

Recommend the Board approve the following classified substitutes for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Vanessa Rupert, Cook
- b.) Tamatha Coleman, Cook

13. Student Athletic Event Workers

Recommend the Board approve payment for Student Athletic Event workers at the current minimum wage rate for the 2026-27 school year.

14. Work Study Student Workers

Recommend the Board approve payment for Work Study students at the current minimum wage rate for the 2026-27 school year.

15. Volunteers

Recommend the Board approve the following volunteers for the 2026-27 school year:

- a.) Jensen Wolfe, Cross Country
- b.) Andrea Luke, Middle School Cheer
- c.) Sharon Cains, Somerset Elementary
- d.) Marilyn Downour, Grandparents Program

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.

Curriculum & Instruction

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

1. Field Trips

Recommend the Board approve the following field trips:

- a.) October 17 – 19, 2026; FFA Livestock Judging Team to the American Royal in Kansas City, MO
- b.) October 2, 2026; Sheridan 8th Grade Students to Mid-East CTC
- c.) September 24 and 25, 2026; Sheridan 7th Grade Students to Jonathan Creek

2. Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, as presented.

3. Bus Routes for the 2026-27 School Year

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve the 2026-27 school year bus routes, as presented.

4. Memorandum of Understanding with Future Plans, Inc.

Attachment

Recommend the Board approve a memorandum of understanding with Future Plans, Inc. to provide support in the delivery of career assessment, coaching, and related career-connected learning services for students, for the 2026-27 school year, as presented.

Mr. Lemon seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

Mr. Weals moved to enter Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee, and details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols.

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.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

Before adjournment, Mr. Lemon asked if it was possible to get a regular update for the board that indicates an outlook of expected action, projects, or large expenses within the next 30 to 60 days so that members are prepared and are aware of such events. Both Dr. Skaggs and Mrs. Clifton stated that they will be working on this. Mr. Lemon also asked about administrators giving presentations at board meetings. Dr. Skaggs stated that there will be presentations and next month Amy VanBalén will be presenting the Report Card update.

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:

President

Treasurer