

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of CONNEAUT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Conneaut Area City Schools Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at Conneaut High School. The Regular meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. McKee called the roll. The roll call vote is as follows: Mrs. Armeni - present, Mr. Brecht - present, Mr. Coltman present, Mr. Nesbitt- present and Mrs. Norton-present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Nesbitt.

Agenda Modifications: None

Presentations: Mr. James Kennedy, Principal at Conneaut Middle School presented to the board. The August open house was a success with positive interaction between students, staff, and families. Mr. Kennedy noted that the new school year was off to a great start. He specifically highlighted the increase in choir, band, and athletic numbers this school year. Starting in the 2026-2027 SY, 7th and 8th grade students are required to received 60 hours of career tech coursework. This new requirement made it necessary for some scheduling creativity. Several teachers stepped up to the plate to make this happen. In addition to the existing Tech I & Tech II CTE courses taught by Ms. Weagraff, Mr. VanSlyke is teaching Engineering Logic & Physics. Mr. Lytle has a Home Repair & Maintenance class. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Armeni have courses focusing on Allied Health and Mrs. Kennedy reimagined her Art I and Art II courses to align with CTE requirements. It is anticipated that in the 2027-2028 SY there will be a CTE Career Exploration requirement for 6th grade students as well.

Senate Bill 19 introduced the requirement for Math Intervention for any student that scores below proficient on state tests. This school year any student that scores below proficient on state tests will receive interventions in both ELA and Math. This intervention is intended to help close the gap on test scores.

The Ohio state report card was released on September 15. Conneaut Middle School scored 4 stars and was one of the highest performing middle schools in the county.

Public Participation: Dani Weiser-Cline from the Ashtabula Area Child Advocacy Center presented on the Safe Kids Ashtabula initiative. The goal of this initiative is to help children and families heal from abuse. Conneaut Area City schools has been selected to pilot this program in the 2026-2027 SY.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports

Legislative – None

A-Tech – Mr. Nesbitt noted no major developments.

Athletic Council/SPARC – Mr. Brecht shared that the ribbon cutting was held August 28th at the first home football game of the season and was well attended. The process of rebidding the construction of a fieldhouse is underway. The next meeting will be October 8th. The council will be looking at some type of marketing/advertising campaign to discuss ways to solicit donations.

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Student Achievement Report: Mrs. Armeni shared that Reading and Math diagnostic testing is taking place for K-8 students. The district received 3 stars on the state report card which means the district is meeting state standards. We are working as a district to have a consistent MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) process across the schools. MTSS is a proactive school framework that matches academic, behavioral, and emotional help to each student's specific needs. The District Implementation Team will be working to identify goals for the One Plan by analyzing the data from the report card, state and local testing, and the MTSS data this year. These plans will drive the district's instructional decisions for the next three school years.

City Council: Mrs. Norton shared that Macey McBride, a senior at CHS, is the September student of the month. Macey is actively involved in soccer, drill team, NHS, Youth Philanthropy, and track. She sets a high academic standard for herself while maintaining a rigorous schedule of classes.

Board President – None

Superintendent's report: Mrs. Riley reported that the administrative team met on September 11 to debrief on the start of the school year. She shared that the year is off to a great start and noted that this has been the smoothest start in her 11 years at Conneaut. She attributed the successful start to the cooperation and collaboration of all departments and specifically recognized the Transportation Department for its efforts. Attendance Spirit Week was held during the week of the "White Out" football game. Mrs. Riley also shared that the Conneaut Health Department notified her that measles cases have been reported in northern Ashtabula County. An FAQ document regarding measles will be distributed to parents and guardians. Judge Nick Iarocci is scheduled to speak with students at both Conneaut High School and Conneaut Middle School in the coming weeks regarding cell phone use. During the upcoming week, Mrs. Riley and Mrs. McKee will attend a countywide school finance meeting and a legal seminar, as well as meet with a representative from the Ohio Schools Council. The football team is off to a strong start with a 4-0 record. This marks the first time the team has started a season 4-0 since 1985, 41 years ago. The Outdoor Learning Center will host Discovery Day at the newly constructed pavilion on Saturday, September 19. Reading and math diagnostic testing is currently underway for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The state report card was released on September 15. The district received an overall rating of 3 stars, indicating that it is meeting state standards. The calculation of some of the report card components changed this year. The district maintained the same ratings in all components as last year, with the exception of the graduation component, which increased from 1 star to 2 stars. Conneaut Middle School and Gateway Elementary School both received 4-star ratings.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. McKee reported that the fiscal office has been very busy since staff and students have returned. The state auditors have been on site several days over the past month requesting and gathering information needed to complete the district's annual audit. The district received notification that the ODEW office of Nutrition will be conducting an Administrative Review and Procurement Review of the school nutrition program. The review will include both offsite and onsite components. Mr. Dalton made some revisions to the snow plowing requirements and is in the process of getting quotes for the upcoming season. Mrs. McKee attended the Q2 OASBO training seminar in Columbus. As a new treasurer, OASBO provides Q1-Q4 trainings at no cost to the district. One of the sessions at the Q2 training covered Response Plans and specifically addressed what happens when a district receives a "Precaution" or "Fiscal Caution" letter from the state. Out of the approximately 40 attendees at least 10 represented districts that had received one of these letters. Mrs. Miranda, Mrs. Brockway, and Mrs. McKee are working on completing Annual Appropriations. The monthly financial report was reviewed.

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09-2026-04 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2026. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-05 Moved by Mrs. Norton and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the financial report. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-06 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the following donations.

- Donation in the amount of \$762.00 from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Conneaut Aerie No. 408 for SPARC, fund #019-1821-9100-110
- Donation in the amount of \$2,730.00 from the Conneaut Eagles #408 for SPARC, fund #019-1821-9100-110
- Donation in the amount of \$858.68 from Employee donations for SPARC, fund #019-1821-9100-110
- Donation in the amount of \$125.00 from Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 51, for CHS National Honor Society, fund #200-1690-9063-110
- Donation in the amount of \$995.03 from Conneaut Athletic Boosters for SPARC, fund #019-1821-9100-110
- Donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Keith and Galynn Rossiter for Theatre, fund #300-1690-9060-110
- Donation in the amount of \$150.00 from K & G Electric Automations & Engineering, LLC for Theatre, fund #300-1690-9060-110
- Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Premix-Hadlock Composites, LLC for SPARC, fund # 019-1820-9100-110

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-07 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mrs. Norton that the Board approve the following Then and Now Certificates.

- Bonefish Systems \$4,142.00

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

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09-2026-08 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Conneaut Education Association.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-09 Moved by Mrs. Norton and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Ashtabula Area City School District. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-10 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Armeni the Board approve the Conneaut Area City School District Gifted Identification and Service Plan. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-11 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mrs. Norton that the Board approve the Conneaut Area City School District Test Security Plan to comply with Ohio Department of Education test security guidelines. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-12 Moved by Mrs. Norton and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve first reading of the following policies and revisions. (ENCLOSURE)

- 0145 FILLING A BOARD VACANCY
- 0146 RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL
- 1231 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF STAFF
- 2265 PROTECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL BELIEFS, AFFILIATIONS, IDEALS, OR PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND IDEOLOGY
- 2461 RESCIND RECORDING OF DISTRICT MEETINGS INVOLVING STUDENTS AND/OR PARENTS
- 3231 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF STAFF
- 4231 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF STAFF
- 5111.01 HOMELESS STUDENTS
- 5224 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION ACCESS

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- 8120 VOLUNTEERS
- 8310 PUBLIC RECORDS
- 8470 SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-13 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mrs. Norton that the Board approve Fall, Winter, Spring, and Club Interscholastic Athletics for the 2026-2027 school year.

FALL

CHS Football	CMS 7 th Football
CHS Volleyball	CMS 8 th Football
CHS Boys Soccer	CMS 7 th Volleyball
CHS Girls Soccer	CMS 8 th Volleyball
CHS Girls Tennis	CMS Boys Cross Country
CHS Boys Golf	CMS Girls Cross Country
CHS Boys Cross Country	CMS Fall Cheer (Club)
CHS Girls Cross Country	
CHS Fall Cheer	

WINTER

CHS Boys Basketball	CMS 7 th Boys Basketball
CHS Girls Basketball	CMS 8 th Boys Basketball
CHS Boys Wrestling	CMS 7 th Girls Basketball
CHS Girls Wrestling	CMS 8 th Girls Basketball
CHS Boys Swimming	CMS Boys Wrestling
CHS Girls Swimming	CMS Girls Wrestling
CHS Winter Cheer	CMS Co-ed Swimming (Club)
	CMS Winter Cheer (Club)

SPRING

CHS Softball	CMS Baseball (Club)
CHS Baseball	CMS Softball (Club)
CHS Boys Track	CMS Boys Track
CHS Girls Track	CMS Girls Track
CHS Boys Tennis	CMS Co-ed Tennis
CHS Girls Flag Football	

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

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09-2026-14 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Norton that the Board approve CTE prep work hours for the following certified personnel at \$30.00/hour for a total of 18 hours.

- Nicholus Armeni

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain: Armeni

Motion Carried

09-2026-15 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the resolution for non-licensed supplemental positions. (ENCLOSURE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

09-2026-16 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve the following personnel resolutions, pending proper certification and successful completion of pre-employment testing and personnel paper work as needed, in accordance with scale as adopted by the Board.

16.01 Approve movement on scale to reflect additional education.

- Kari McKinley, from M to M+15

16.02 Rescind motion 06-2026-16, 16.04, Approve a one (1) year limited contract for certified personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Devastasha Beaver B, step 0

16.03 Approve Extended Day Monitor contracts at \$18.00 per hour for no more than three (3) hours per session for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Georgia Woods

16.04 Approve employment for the following certified personnel as a home tutor at \$24.00/hr. effective August 31, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

- Casey Bambarger

16.05 Approve CTE prep work hours for the following certified personnel at \$30.00/hour for a total of 18 hours.

- Adam Lytle
- Daniel VanSlyke
- Jessica Kennedy
- Jim Campbell

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16.06 Approve the following changes in classified contracts.

Effective 8/20/26:

- Jennifer Jones, Bus Aide W/Paraprofessional Certification, from 4 hrs. to 4.5 hrs.
- Tracy Thomas, Driver, from 7.5 hrs. to 8 hrs.
- Karla Beatman, Driver, from 6 hrs. to 8 hrs.
- Michael Mandagelo, Bus Aide W/Paraprofessional Certification, from 5.25 hrs. to 5.5 hrs.
- Shelley Fertig, Bus Aide, from 6.5 hrs. to 6.25 hrs.

Effective 8/31/26:

- Jennifer Jones, Bus Aide W/Paraprofessional Certification, from 4.5 hrs. to 5 hrs.
- Tammy Fetterhoff, GES Paraprofessional/Certification/SN, from 6 hrs. to 6.25 hrs.

16.07 Approve employment for the following as long-term substitute certified personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Leah Kuscsik
- Devastasha Beaver

16.08 Approve employment for the following as substitute certified personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Jodie Parise
- Michael McCorkle
- Anthony Burckhartte
- Mary Holdson
- Kevin Punkar
- Kimberly Gilford
- Gary Case

16.09 Approve employment for the following as substitute classified personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Kelsey Steadman
- Julie Verzella
- Halee Pickett
- April Sabo

16.10 Approve supplemental contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Michael O'Brien CMS Asst. Football step 1
- Nichole David GES IAT Chair step 1
- Austin Blair Dramatics Director/non-musical step 1

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16.11 Approve volunteers for the district athletic program for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Kathryn Ray-Level 1

16.12 Approve volunteers for the district drama program for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Jason Walker-Level 1
- Grant Bennett-Level 1

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

Board members' summary: The Board would like to thank the staff for all of the work that goes into getting ready for the school year. Congratulations to the football team on the great start to the season (4-0). Congratulations to Miss Mason on being chosen as the News Channel 5, Teacher of the Week

09-2026-17 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board adjourn this regular meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ARMENI, BRECHT, COLTMAN, NESBITT, NORTON

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Motion Carried

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Treasurer

President