

Michael J. Baumann,  
Superintendent  
Newfane Central School District  
Phone 716-778-6850  
Fax 716 778-6852  
mbaumann@newfane.wnyric.org

6273 Charlotteville Road  
Newfane, New York 14108

**Newfane Central  
School District**

# Press Release

## **Board of Education moves to workshop/voting meeting format**

Format change to go into effect in February 2017

**Newfane, New York, December 9, 2016:** The Newfane Central School District announced today that the Board of Education will be changing the format of their twice monthly meetings beginning with their meetings in February of 2017. The Board will continue to meet twice a month, typically on the first and third Tuesday of the month. However, while they currently have separate agendas for every meeting, and vote on agenda items pertaining to school district business at each of the meetings, the new format will limit the voting to only one meeting per month, usually the second meeting.

**New format should facilitate better discussions.** “We believe this new format will be a better use of our time, and the public’s time,” said Board of Education President James Schmitt. “The workshop model allows the Board members more time to talk about and deliberate action items on the agenda, without the pressure of having to vote that same evening.” The workshop/voting meeting model is used successfully in many other districts around Western New York. The Board meeting agenda, which follows a standard format and includes resolutions about academic programming, personnel issues, purchasing and other school district business functions that need to be approved by a vote of the Board members, is prepared by the Board Clerk before the workshop meeting. During the workshop meeting, Board members have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the impact of the agenda items. It also affords District officials the opportunity to provide any additional information that a Board member may request regarding a specific agenda item prior to the Board member having to cast a vote.

According to Superintendent of Schools Michael Baumann, moving to the new format will also provide greater opportunities for Board presentations focused on academics and students. “Since questions about the routine business items on the agenda have hopefully been answered at the workshop meeting, we will have more time at the voting meetings for presentations to the Board about our real purpose- educating our children,” said Baumann.

**For Immediate Release**