

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **March 26, 2026**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley for the purpose of a proposed Village after-school program.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mayor	Joe Mooney
	Deputy Mayor	Katie Sack
	Trustees	Jackie Wandell
		Ken Giblin
		Bill Foster
	Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin

WORK IN

PROGRESS: Proposed After School Program

1. Mayor/Clerk – Joe Mooney/Pam Benthin –

- **Timeline** – In November 2025 an initial meeting was held between the Village and School Representatives about a partnership for an after-school program to offset the challenges of a one schedule plan for families with younger students. Board feedback was positive. On March 16th, 2026, the “one district one schedule” plan was released to the public by the school. On March 17th another meeting was held involving the Village, School and Attorneys from each party to discuss the details, coming to the realization that this would be a village program rather than a partnership. The Village is currently evaluating the operational pros and cons of taking on this project.
- **Status, Village Perspective** - The board stated they want what is in the best interest for the village and its residents. The Village recognizes the need for an after-school program and how it would benefit the community, while taking into consideration the risks involved in administering such a project. Some main concerns include the village taking on total liability, the cost, time and administrative demands of a program of this scale.

2. Program Coordinators – Heidi Cardone & Vicki Bigelow

- **Program Overview** – A 10-month long after-school program that will run from 2:30-5:30 on school days only. No holidays or snow days. Certified through the State of New York Office of Children and Family Services, allowing care for up to 50 children ages 5-12, and 36 pre-k children, totaling 86 children. If demand exceeds capacity, a lottery drawing will determine enrollment. It will be self-sustaining; enrollee costs will cover the expenses to run the program. Subsidies offered for families through the Dept. of Social Services. The school will lease their building for \$1.00 to allow the program onsite. Program coordinators will provide vetting and training new hires, curriculum and attendance. If the Village takes this on, it would be responsible for new hire/termination paperwork, payroll processing, accounting, banking, OCFS reporting along with any other financial reporting, accounts payable and all legal liability. Possible LLC formation by coordinators would remove liability from the Village.

3. Village Attorney – Nick Cortese

- There are several concerns about this proposal. Mainly being the issue of liability. If anything bad were to happen, for example injury, it could be catastrophic to the village. There would also be many administrative hurdles, staffing could be difficult due to civil service requirements. New Village job titles would have to be created and pay and benefits would need to meet requirements.

Guests Question/Comments – Concerns over liability and questions about what the benefits would be for the Village. Many questions/concerns were focused on the school, being there was no representation present, the Village board advised residents to attend the next School board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm. Motion: *Trustee Sack* Second: *Trustee Wandell*

Meghan Hildebrand
Office Specialist