

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, the New Albany-Plain Local Schools community entrusts the New Albany-Plain Local Schools Board of Education Members with effective and ethical governance of the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Albany-Plain Local School District Statement of Purpose includes, “to create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Statement of Purpose includes definitions for each word, including “accountability” and “student”; and,

**WHEREAS**, “accountability” is defined in the Statement of Purpose in part as, “...All individuals and groups, including staff, students, parents, and the Board of Education, will hold themselves and each other accountable...;” and,

**WHEREAS**, “student” is defined in the Statement of Purpose as, “It’s about the kids, not the adults. Period. Parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, and community members are all important partners in our work. Nonetheless, discussions, debates, and disagreements must be focused on what’s best for our students”; and,

**WHEREAS**, Board of Education Policy 0123 of the New Albany-Plain Local Schools includes the intent of this Board to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Ohio School Boards Association, including the basic principle to, “accept and encourage a variety of opinions from and communication with all parts of the community;” and,

**WHEREAS**, Board of Education Policy 7544 and the adopted Employee Handbook includes expected standards of conduct for social media usage for district employees; and,

**WHEREAS**, Board of Education Policy and the adopted Student Handbooks include expected standards of conduct for social media usage by students including that they shall not act or use technology so as to intimidate, insult, sexually harass, or otherwise abuse, orally or in writing, any member of the school staff or student body; and,

**WHEREAS**, Board of Education Policy 7540.04 defines staff technology acceptable use and safety for social media use to include, “An employee’s personal or private use of social media may have unintended consequences. While the Board respects its employees’ First Amendment rights, those rights do not include permission to post inflammatory comments that could compromise the District’s mission, undermine staff relationships, or cause a substantial disruption to the school environment. This warning includes staff members’ online conduct that occurs off school property including from the employee’s private computer. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the staff member’s professional responsibilities;” and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education shall be held to the same high standards expected for our students and staff for social media usage;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Philip Derrow, Board of Education Member did in fact recently post several inflammatory and insulting comments on social media that caused disruption to the school environment, impaired the reputation of the District and the professional responsibilities of the Board of Education, disrespected and eroded community trust, and resulted in unwanted negative attention to the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Derrow's actions have clouded his effectiveness as a Board Member and undermined the orderly governance of the District, morale, and the reputation of excellence among our parents and community;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the New Albany-Plain Local School District does hereby publicly censure Board Member Derrow. This public censure serves as a reprimand for Mr. Derrow's inflammatory social media posts and to make clear for the record that the Board of Education in no way condones his recent social media actions; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the New Albany-Plain Local School District does hereby publicly state that Mr. Derrow's social media actions are in no way representative of the standards of conduct that the Board expects of its members and are a disappointment to the Board as a whole; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this censure of Mr. Derrow by the New Albany-Plain Local School District acts as a check on board member conduct in an effort to curtail future unprofessional acts and ensure compliance with board bylaws, rules and codes of conduct.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by the New Albany-Plain Local School District Board of Education.

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John McClelland  
Board President

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Rebecca Jenkins  
Treasurer/CFO