

VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Organizational Meeting, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891

MINUTES

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING (Board President, Board Vice-President, Superintendent and Treasurer) – *Met prior to the organizational meeting to review the records retention schedule. No action taken.*

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

- I. Opening - **Time In: 5:00 p.m.**
 - A. Welcome by Board President Scott Mull
 - B. Oath of office, administered by State Representative Roy Klopfenstein to elected Board members:
 - 1. Julie Burenga
 - 2. Debby Compton – *Absent (Oath of office will be administered at a later date)*

24.01.001

- C. Appointment of Anthony Adams, Board of Education member, effective January 1, 2024. This appointment is for the term ending on December 31, 2025.
Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Greg Blackmore to appoint Anthony Adams to the Board of Education vacancy with a term ending on December 31, 2025. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, absent. Motion carried 3-0 with 1 absent.
- D. Oath of office, administered by State Representative Roy Klopfenstein to appointed Board member:
 - 1. Anthony Adams

II. Board of Education section

24.01.002

- A. Election and appointment of a President Pro-Tem for January 11, 2024 organizational meeting
Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Julie Burenga to nominate Scott Mull as President Pro-Tem. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, absent. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.
- B. Call to order and roll call by President Pro-Tem - Board Members Present - **Anthony Adams, Greg Blackmore, Julie Burenga, Scott Mull. Absent – Debby Compton. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Brian Hess, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Justin Bragg, Todd Keller, Haley Michaud, Justin Krogman, Tracy Wehner, Roy Klopfenstein, D.J. Smith, Victoria Stiles, Jaxton Berry, Peggy Miller, Sebastian Davis, Kimberly Davis, Ellie Shindeldecker, Kate Shindeldecker, Nora Holliday, Sara Holliday, Landon Overmeyer, Joey Courtney.**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America - **Recited by attendees in unison**

D. District's Vision / Mission Statement - **Recited by Anthony Adams**

Our Vision

In partnership with our community, Van Wert City Schools will ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to thrive in post-secondary education, careers and civic life.

Our Mission

Van Wert City Schools will continue to be a source of Cougar Pride while providing each student a quality education through innovative instructional methods and technology.

E. Election of officers

24.01.003

1. Nominations for and election of Board President for the 2024 calendar year

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Greg Blackmore to nominate Debby Compton as Board President. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, absent. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

24.01.004

2. Nominations for and election of Board Vice-President for the 2024 calendar year

Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Greg Blackmore to nominate Julie Burenga as Board Vice-President. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, absent. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

3. President's acceptance - **Julie Burenga, Board Vice President, presided over the meeting in Debby Compton's absence.**

F. Appointment of Board representatives

1. Representative to the Athletic Council – **Julie Burenga**
2. Representative to the District Safety Team – **Greg Blackmore**
3. Representative to VWASIG (Van Wert Area School Insurance Group) – **Anthony Adams**
4. Representative to the Vantage Board of Education – **Debby Compton**
5. Representatives to VWAPAF (Van Wert Area Performing Arts Foundation) – **Greg Blackmore**
6. OSBA (Ohio School Boards Association) legislative liaison / delegate Capital Conference – **Debby Compton**
7. Alternate delegate to the OSBA annual Capital Conference – **Julie Burenga**
8. Representative to the Neola policy development committee – **Julie Burenga**

24.01.005

G. Establish dates, times, and place for regular meetings during the 2024 calendar year

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to establish Board Meeting dates (4th Wednesday - February through October; 3rd Wednesday – November and December) at 5:00 p.m. in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. Vote: Debby Compton, absent; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

24.01.006

III. Resolutions

Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve items “A through R” as presented. Vote: Debby Compton, absent; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

- A. Approve continued membership in the Ohio School Board Association for the calendar year 2024.
- B. The Treasurer of the Board of Education will be authorized to request advance draws on tax settlements when available and as needed during the 2024 calendar year.
- C. The Treasurer of the Board of Education will be authorized to invest inactive and/or interim funds during the 2024 calendar year.
- D. Approve STAR Ohio, First Financial Bank, First Financial Bank Wealth Management / Yellow Cardinal Advisory Group, and Van Wert Federal Savings Bank as depositories for public funds of the Van Wert City Schools.
- E. Authorization to be given to the Treasurer to pay all bills within the limits of the appropriations resolution as bills are received and when the merchandise has been received in good condition.
- F. The Treasurer of Schools is designated to attend the public records training for the school system in compliance with House Bill 9.
- G. Authorize the Superintendent and Treasurer to make certain expenditures on behalf of the Board of Education for staff including staff dinners, refreshments, and/or gifts.
- H. The Superintendent of Schools will be appointed as purchasing agent for all funds except athletic and food service funds for the 2024 calendar year within appropriations as approved by the Board of Education.
- I. The Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent’s designee will be authorized to approve the use of school buses for non-routine trips for the 2024 calendar year and to establish bus routes and pick-up points.
- J. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to approve professional meeting attendance for certified and classified staff for the 2024 calendar year.
- K. The Superintendent of Schools and Treasurer are authorized to apply for local, state and federal grant programs/funds for the 2024 calendar year.
- L. The Superintendent of Schools will be designated as the approving official to review and approve student activity budgets, including 018 Funds.
- M. The authorization is to be given to the Superintendent to employ substitutes and temporary personnel as is needed.
- N. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to hire staff and accept resignations between Board meetings, pending Board approval at the next meeting.
- O. The Superintendent of Schools will be designated to approve special education cooperative agreements as necessary.
- P. The Athletic Director will be appointed purchasing agent for athletic account purchases for the 2024 calendar year within appropriations as approved by the Board of Education.
- Q. The Food Service Director will be appointed purchasing agent for food service purchasing for the 2024 calendar year within appropriations as approved by the Board of Education.
- R. The Board of Education approves the fiscal year 2025 tax budget per section 5705.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, as well as tax rates and values, as presented and further that the tax budget be filed with the County Auditor prior to January 20, 2024, as required by law.

IV. Public Participation - **None**

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of public participation will be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board will give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person will be allotted three (3) minutes until the total time of thirty (30) minutes is used. During the period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board.

24.01.007

V. Set Agenda for Regular January 2024 Meeting

Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Scott Mull to accept the January 2024 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Debby Compton, absent; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

VI. Curriculum and Instruction / Educational Impact Presentation:

- A. Justin Krogman, Van Wert Elementary School Principal; Tracy Wehner, Van Wert Elementary School Assistant Principal - School Board Recognition Month video tribute
- B. Gregg Scheidt - Facilities and grounds update and discussion

VII. Board member section / reports from Board representatives (discussion only)

- A. Vantage Board - *No Report*
- B. VWAPAF - *Executive Director search/hiring process update.*
- C. VWASIG - *No Report*
- D. Athletic Council - *Reviewed the agenda/minutes of the Athletic Council meeting.*
- E. Safety Team – *The district has met all annual requirements of the Ohio School Safety Center. Planning continues for OTOA training that will take place at Van Wert Elementary School on March 11 & 12, 2024.*

VIII. Treasurer's Section

Business and Records - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the December financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Bowersock also reviewed with the Board of Education an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget and discussed the fiscal year 2025 tax budget estimates.*

IX. Assistant Superintendent's section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Early Childhood Center playground project/equipment upgrades that are to take place this summer. He also discussed planning for the upcoming April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. Lastly, Priest reviewed transportation staffing needs for the next school year.*

X. Superintendent's section - *Mr. Bagley presented an update to the Board on current and future staffing needs throughout the district. He also highlighted the concerted district-wide effort promoting a*

positive culture focus and thanked State Representative Roy Klopfenstein for his attendance and service provided to the Van Wert City Schools District. Lastly, Bagley continued conversations on Phase II of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project and closed his report with a legislative update.

24.01.008

XI. Resolutions

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to approve items “A through F” as presented. Vote: Debby Compton, absent; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

- A. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on December 20, 2023 as presented.
- B. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- C. Approve transfer of \$22,000.00 from the Van Wert Middle School Principal’s Fund (018 9331) to the Van Wert Middle Washington DC Fund (018 9333).
- D. Approve requests for early completion of graduation requirements for two high school students as presented.
- E. Approve an overnight trip for AP Government (24 students/3 staff). The students and staff will travel to Columbus, Ohio, on February 1, 2024, to compete in the We the People State Competition on February 2, 2024 as presented.
- F. Accept the following generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools from:
 - 1. Schlatter Premier Turf Management LLC - \$50.00 to Masque & Gavel
 - 2. Tisha Fast Insurance Agency Inc - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
 - 3. First Federal of Van Wert - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
 - 4. Trevor & Nikki Bebout - \$500.00 to Athletic Department Capital Projects Fund
 - 5. Edward Jones (Trevor & Whitney Webster) - \$1,000.00 to Athletic Department Capital Projects Fund
 - 6. Clair & Arlene Dudgeon - \$500.00 to Athletic Department Capital Projects Fund
 - 7. Van Wert County Foundation on behalf of the Oscar & Norma C. Feigert Memorial Fund - \$2,000.00 to High School Robotics
 - 8. Van Wert County Foundation on behalf of the Associated Charities Fund - \$1,500.00 to Goedde Building Principal’s Account - Christmas at the Goedde
 - 9. United Way of Van Wert County, Inc. - \$1,791.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde
 - 10. Connie Ainsworth - \$100.00 to Elementary Students of Need Fund

XII. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employees will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective February 1, 2024 as presented:

- A. Alexa Terry – Bachelors-150 to Masters
- B. Damian Helm – Bachelors to Bachelors+10

XIII. Acknowledge receipt and notification of Residential CRA Applications as presented:

- A. Allen Whittington, 314 S. Market St., Van Wert, OH 45891
- B. Krista Etzler, 685 N. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891

24.01.009

XIV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Scott Mull and seconded by Greg Blackmore to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Vote: Ayes – 4; Nays – 0; Absent – 1

Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

Board President

Fiscal Officer