

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.  
First Federal Lecture Hall  
Niswonger Performing Arts Center  
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call by President - **Time In: 5:00 p.m. Board Members Present- Anthony Adams, Greg Blackmore, Julie Burenga, Debby Compton, Scott Mull. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Bill Clifton, Troy Bowersock, Justin Bragg, Kristi Fuerst, Haley Michaud, Lori Bittner, Nikki Adams, Erin Heaslip, Megan Neuenschwander, John Marquez, Angela Marquez, Ronda Lehman, Matt Owens.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- III. Recite our Vision / Mission – **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.

- 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.

**23.03.015**

- V. Set Agenda  
**Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to accept the agenda as presented. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**
- VI. Special recognition and appreciation -  
A. Mercy Health – *Ronda Lehman and Matt Owens – Mercy Health-St. Rita's Medical Center, LLC exclusive sponsorship agreement*  
B. City of Van Wert – *Eggers Stadium sewer line replacement/installation*

- VII. Curriculum and Instruction (Educational Impact)  
A. Early Childhood Center – Lori Bittner, Nikki Adams, Erin Heaslip, Megan Neuenschwander - Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum
- VIII. Treasurer’s Section  
*Business and Records - Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the February financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, monthly revenue and expenditure summary, and the March 29, 2023 fiscal year 2023 appropriation amendment. Mr. Bowersock reviewed with the Board of Education the district’s bank deposits/cash reserves in light of the reported bank failures and updated the Board on the House Bill 33 FY2024-2025 biennial budget discussions and the House Bill 1 tax reform legislation.*
- IX. Assistant Superintendent’s Section - *Mr. Clifton reviewed the completed sanitary sewer line installation at Eggerss and provided an update on the Eggerss Stadium restoration project. Lastly, he reviewed the 2024-2025 school year calendar.*
- X. Superintendent’s Section - *Mr. Bagley provided an update on staffing and indicated that contract negotiations are soon to begin with the classified employees. He also continued conversation on the Eggerss Stadium project specifically discussing the turf installation and concrete restoration that will be starting soon. Lastly, Bagley provided a legislative update covering House Bill 1, House Bill 33, and the Backpack Bill.*
- XI. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)  
A. Vantage Board Report – *Upcoming April 13, 2023 All Boards Dinner.*  
B. VWAPAF Report – *Financial update; Schedule of Events; The recent 2<sup>nd</sup> grade fieldtrip/visitation to VWAPAF.*  
C. VWASIG Report – *2024 rate/premium discussion; Health initiative cost saving measures for consideration; Renewal of Huntington National Bank’s consulting contract.*  
D. Athletic Council – *Expansion of Fall sport coaching days; District-wide 2023 student activity/athletic shut-down period to be implemented over the July 4<sup>th</sup> week.*  
E. Safety Team – *Building threat assessment reporting and Safety drill requirements have been completed/filed.*

**23.03.016**

- XII. Consent Resolutions  
**Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve items “A through V” as presented. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**
- A. Accept the resignation of Mimmo Lytle from his long-term substitute position as Middle School Physical Education Teacher, effective March 10, 2023, as presented.
- B. Accept the resignation of Kristi Fuerst, after a 1-year leave of absence, from her position as Marketing & Public Relations Specialist, effective March 29, 2023, as presented.
- C. Accept the resignation of Kelly Foster, after a 2-year leave of absence, from her position as Middle School Teacher, effective March 29, 2023, as presented.
- D. Accept the resignation of Christa Davis from her position as Elementary School Paraprofessional, effective March 31, 2023, as presented.
- E. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Lynette Westgerdes from her position as Elementary School Secretary, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 contract year as presented.
- F. Approve John Marquez as Food Service Director, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective March 29, 2023, as presented.

- G. Approve Haley Michaud as Marketing and Public Relations Specialist, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2023-2024 contract year.
- H. Approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on February 22, 2023.
- I. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- J. Approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. A public hearing was held at the regular board meeting on February 22, 2023 and the calendar complies with minimum hour requirements in the Ohio Revised Code.
- K. Approve a list of sports for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented:
  - 1. High School Boys Sports
    - a. Baseball
    - b. Basketball
    - c. Bowling
    - d. Cross Country
    - e. Football - 11 player
    - f. Golf
    - g. Soccer
    - h. Swimming & Diving
    - i. Tennis
    - j. Track & Field
    - k. Wrestling
  - 2. High School Girls Sports
    - a. Basketball
    - b. Bowling
    - c. Cross Country
    - d. Soccer
    - e. Softball - Fastpitch
    - f. Swimming & Diving
    - g. Tennis
    - h. Track & Field
    - i. Volleyball
  - 3. High School Coed Sport
    - a. Cheerleading
  - 4. Middle School Boys Sports
    - a. Basketball
    - b. Cross Country
    - c. Football - 11 player
    - d. Track & Field
    - e. Wrestling
  - 5. Middle School Girls Sports
    - a. Basketball
    - b. Cross Country
    - c. Track & Field
    - d. Volleyball
  - 6. Middle School Coed Sport
    - a. Cheerleading
- L. Approve the following overnight trips, retroactively, as presented:
  - 1. Varsity Swimming - 2 athletes and 1 adult to Canton, Ohio, on February 22-24, 2023
  - 2. Varsity Wrestling - 3 athletes and 4 adults to Norwalk, Ohio, on March 3-4, 2023
- M. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Van Wert Federation of Teachers and the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education regarding high school track supplemental positions, effective the 2021-2022 contract year through the 2022-2023 contract year as presented.

- N. Approve the Satellite Program Standards & Maintenance Agreement between Vantage Career Center and Van Wert City Schools for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.
- O. Approve a Lease Agreement between the City of Van Wert and the Board of Education of the Van Wert City School District for the setting up, display, and tearing down of 4th of July 2023 fireworks on the High School/Middle School and Elementary School Campus for the community's enjoyment as presented.
- P. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2023 appropriations as presented.
- Q. Approve the following" then and now certificate." It is hereby certified that both at the time of the making of this order and at the date of the execution of this certificate the amount required to pay this order has been appropriated for the purpose of the order and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of the fund, free from any previous encumbrance. I recommend that the following invoice \$3,000 and over be authorized for payment by the Van Wert City Board of Education:
- Vendor - The Marsh Foundation - 12/31/2022 - \$7,130.00
  - Vendor - The Marsh Foundation - 1/31/2023 - \$7,130.00
  - Vendor - The Marsh Foundation - 2/28/2023 - \$6,440.00
- R. Approve a resolution approving architect/engineer agreement with Garmann Miller & Associates, Inc., and authorizing the board president and treasurer to sign that agreement, as presented.
- S. Approve a resolution approving design-builder and authorizing a design-build agreement with Trisco Systems, Inc., for Eggerss Stadium concrete restoration design-build project.
- T. Approve the Enterprise Zone Agreement for 100% tax exemption for a fifteen(15) year period with "Project Hulk" as presented, and to waive the 45 day notification requirement.
- U. Approve a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement/side agreement between "Project Hulk" and the Board of Education of the Van Wert City School District as presented.
- V. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
1. Brewed Expressions LLC donated \$200.00 to Middle School MD Classrooms
  2. Robin Kraner donated \$100.00 to High School Scholastic Bowl
  3. United Way of Van Wert County donated \$1,750.00 to Middle School Activity Fund - Cookie Dough
  4. United Way of Van Wert County donated \$728.18 to Middle School Activity Fund
  5. United Way of Van Wert County donated \$728.19 to High School Renaissance
  6. United Way of Van Wert County donated \$2,000.00 to Goedde Principal's Fund
  7. Wal-Mart donated \$1,500.00 to Goedde Principal's Fund
  8. Van Wert Family Physicians donated \$50.00 to National Honor Society
  9. Laudick's Jewelry donated \$100.00 to Middle School Library Activity Fund
  10. Van Wert Massotherapy, LLC donated \$125.00 to Girls Basketball
  11. Laudick's Jewelry donated \$200.00 to Girls Basketball
  12. Collins Fine Foods donated \$125.00 to Girls Basketball

### XIII. Nonconsent Resolutions

#### **23.03.017**

- A. Accept the resignation of Bill Clifton, from his position as Assistant Superintendent, effective at the end of his 3-year administrative contract on July 31, 2023, as presented.
- Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve item "A" as presented. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**23.03.018**

- B. Accept the resignation of Bob Priest from his position as High School Principal, effective July 31, 2023; and in-turn approve a 3-year contract for him as Assistant Superintendent, effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026, as presented.

**Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Anthony Adams to approve item “B” as presented. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**23.03.019**

- C. Approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education and the Van Wert Federation of Teachers effective August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2026, as presented.

**Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to approve item “C” as presented. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

- XIV. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective the next pay following April 1, 2023:

A. Joshua Poulson - Bachelors to Bachelors-150

**23.03.020**

- XV. Executive Session

- A. Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), 121.22(G)(2), 121.22(G)(4), and 121.22(G)(6), for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel, for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for a public purpose, for the purpose of employee negotiations, and for the purpose of discussing details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols.

**Motion was made by Anthony Adams and seconded by Debby Compton to go into executive session at 6:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel, for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for a public purpose, for the purpose of employee negotiations, and for the purpose of discussing details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols. Vote: Scott Mull, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Meeting reconvened at 7:23 p.m.**

**23.03.021**

- XVI. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Vote: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0**

The next scheduled regular Board Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.