

Press Release

For Release on February 21, 2025

Re: Wayne County Board Meeting

From: Jamie Reagan

02/21/2025

On Thursday, February 20th, the Wayne County Board of Education held a regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. During the meeting, Superintendent Don Neal addressed instructional issues and concerns that could impact upcoming Title 1 funding, MTSS, and PBIS. Neal emphasized the need for the board to be aware of potential funding cuts that may affect the amount of Title 1 funding schools receive in the upcoming school year.

Kevin Jones provided an update on Fall Sports. The 2025-2026 School Calendar was approved, featuring a later start date of August 13th, 2025. Additionally, the board approved the 2025-2026 allocation formulas.

Valarie Hutchinson discussed the application process for ERate Eligible items for Internal Connections and Telecommunications. This federal funding allows the district to apply for items at a 90% discounted rate, based on the number of students receiving free and reduced meals in the district. This funding will enable enhancements such as Wi-Fi for buses, maintenance fees, and other electronic needs.

Transportation and Facilities Director Justin Alley presented on the BG1 project concerning the Davis Heirs Land Acquisition. The board decided to table this motion until the March meeting. Alley presented the board with tractor quotes they requested in the January meeting: one for the High School Agriculture Department and the other for the Maintenance Department, using general funds. After much discussion regarding funding, the board voted 3 to 2 to approve the purchase of both tractors and several attachments.

Alley then addressed the potential for approval to pursue projects funded by a Capital Funds Request for Building Funds. These projects include:

1. Asbestos abatement and replacement of floor tiles at Bell Elementary
2. Replacement of flooring in the Monticello Elementary Media Center

3. Replacement of vinyl flooring in Wayne County Middle School hallways
4. Replacement of HVAC compressors at the Wayne County District Services Building

The board also discussed taking action related to the Alliance Corporation Walker Early Learning Center Contract. The decision was made to request a final payment amount owed to Alliance at this time, with all members voting in favor. The consent agenda was approved, with item 14.B moved to item 15 for further action.

The meeting concluded with the board entering an executive session, and subsequently, the meeting was adjourned.