

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Organizational Meeting, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 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 Pro-Tem, Board Vice-President, Superintendent and Treasurer) – *The Public Records Commission 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 Pro-Tem Anthony Adams
- II. Board of Education Section
 - A. Call to order and roll call by President Pro-Tem - **Anthony Adams, Greg Blackmore, Julie Burenga, Debby Compton, Scott Mull. Others Present - Scott Truxell, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Todd Keller, Aaron Ries, Ben Showalter.**
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America - **Recited by attendees in unison**
 - C. District's Vision / Mission - **Recited by Greg Blackmore**

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.

D. Election of Officers

25.01.001

- 1. Nominations for and election of Board President for the 2025 calendar year
Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to nominate Anthony Adams as Board President. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.01.002

- 2. Nominations for and election of Board Vice-President for the 2025 calendar year
Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to nominate Julie Burenga as Board Vice-President. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

3. President's acceptance – **Anthony Adams, President Pro-Tem, assumed the role of Board President and presided over the meeting.**

E. 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 to the OSBA annual Capital Conference - **Anthony Adams**
7. Alternate Delegate to the OSBA annual Capital Conference - **Julie Burenga**
8. Representative to the Neola Policy Development Committee - **Julie Burenga**

25.01.003

- F. Establish dates, times, and place for regular meetings during the 2025 calendar year

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga 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: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.01.004

III. Organizational Meeting Consent Resolutions

Motion was made by Scott Mull and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve the Organizational Meeting items "A through S" as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approve continued membership in the Ohio School Boards Association for the calendar year 2025.
- 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 2025 calendar year.
- C. The Treasurer of the Board of Education will be authorized to invest inactive and/or interim funds during the 2025 calendar year.
- D. Approve STAR Ohio, First Federal Savings & Loan, First Financial Bank, First Financial Bank Wealth Management / Yellow Cardinal Advisory Group, Flagstar Bank, and GreenWay 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 the Board of Education 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 2025 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 2025 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 2025 calendar year.
- K. The Superintendent of Schools and Treasurer are authorized to apply for local, state, and federal grant programs/funds for the 2025 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 between Board meetings, pending Board approval at the next meeting.
- O. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept resignations between Board meetings as follows:

WHEREAS, the Van Wert City School District Board of Education (the "Board") is empowered by the Ohio Revised Code to accept employee resignations; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of efficient and good management of the schools, the Board wishes to assign to the Superintendent the power to accept resignations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE VAN WERT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, as follows:

SECTION I

If an employee of the Board of Education tenders his or her resignation, the Superintendent shall be duly authorized to accept such resignation on the Board's behalf. The acceptance of the resignation shall be final and not subject to the Board's approval or ratification.

SECTION II

IT IS FOUND AND DETERMINED that all formal actions of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were adopted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

- P. The Superintendent of Schools will be designated to approve special education cooperative agreements as necessary.
- Q. The Athletic Director will be appointed purchasing agent for athletic account purchases for the 2025 calendar year within appropriations as approved by the Board of Education.
- R. The Food Service Director will be appointed purchasing agent for food service purchases for the 2025 calendar year within appropriations as approved by the Board of Education.
- S. The Board of Education approves the fiscal year 2026 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, 2025, 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.

25.01.005

V. Set Agenda for Regular January 2025 Meeting

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to accept the January 2025 Regular Meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. Curriculum and Instruction / Educational Impact Presentation

- A. Krista Baer, High School TV Production Teacher - School Board Recognition Month video tribute
- B. Ben Showalter, Bus Maintenance Supervisor – Bus and Transportation update and discussion

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

- A. Vantage Board - *Reviewed the Board meeting summary report for the January meeting*
- B. VWAPAF – *Reviewed 2026 programing/schedule of events and staffing*
- C. VWASIG - *No Report*
- D. Athletic Council - *Reviewed the agenda/minutes of recent Athletic Council meeting*
- E. Safety Team - *Planning continues for the district Safety Tabletop exercise*

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 2026 tax budget estimates.

IX. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Middle School/High School chiller replacement anticipating work to begin in December 2025. He also reviewed the equipment upgrades currently underway in the cafeteria areas throughout the district. Lastly, Priest discussed changes in bus driver drug testing and physical services resulting from the Van Wert Health / Ohio Health transition.*

X. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley reviewed the second reading of the new/revised policies from Neola Volume 43, Number 1 - Fall 2024 update recommended for approval. Mr. Bagley also provided an update on staffing and on planning that is currently underway for phase III of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project. Lastly, Bagley extended sympathies to the Grimm family in the passing of Wally Grimm and closed his report with a legislative update.*

25.01.006

XI. Regular Meeting Consent Resolutions

Motion was made by Scott Mull and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the Regular Meeting items “A through G” as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Accept the supplemental contract resignation of Kimberly Laudick from her position as Head Cross Country Coach, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
- B. Approve the minutes from the December 18, 2024 regular Board meeting as presented.
- C. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- D. Approve a resolution authorizing the Treasurer of the Van Wert City School District Board of Education to advertise and receive bids for the Van Wert Middle School / High School Chiller replacement project as presented.
- E. Approve a resolution authorizing the Treasurer of the Van Wert City School District Board of Education to advertise and receive bids for Phase III of the Eggerss restoration project as presented.
- F. Approve an overnight trip for 23 students and 4 adults for AP Government to travel to the Ohio Statehouse on January 30-31, 2025, as presented.
- G. Accept the following generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools from:
 - 1. Cougar Pride Athletic Booster Club - \$1,493.20 to Football Activity Account for Lap Timing System
 - 2. United Way of Van Wert County, Inc. - \$2,016.50 to Van Wert School at the Goedde
 - 3. United Way of Van Wert County, Inc. - \$4,585.00 to Family and Children First
 - 4. Van Wert Rotary Foundation - \$300.00 to High School Choir
 - 5. Citizens National Bank - \$250.00 to Tri County ADAMHS
 - 6. Citizens National Bank - \$250.00 to Van Wert Middle School Washington DC Activity Fund
 - 7. Laing Family Dentistry - \$300.00 to Masque & Gavel
 - 8. Tisha Fast Insurance Agency, Inc. - \$150.00 to Masque & Gavel
 - 9. Wallace Plumbing & Underground LLC - \$1,200.00 to Wrestling Activity Fund
 - 10. Anonymous - \$2,500.00 to High School Robotics
 - 11. Edward Jones - Ryan Lindemann - \$1,834.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 - 12. Edward Jones - Eric Hurless - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 - 13. Mike & Beth Conn - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 14. Gordon Stemen - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 15. Mark & Linda Hartman - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 16. Wayne Kilton - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 - 17. Van Wert Elks Lodge #1197 - \$750.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

25.01.007

- A. Approve the new / revised Board policies and guidelines from the Neola Volume 43, Number 1 - Fall 2024 update:
 - 1. Po0100 - Definitions (revised)
 - 2. Po0142.1 - Oath (revised)
 - 3. Po0151 - Organizational Meeting (revised)
 - 4. Po0152 - Officers (revised)
 - 5. Po0155 - Presiding Officer (technical correction)
 - 6. Po0163 - Presiding Officer (technical correction)

7. Po0164 - Notice of Meetings (revised)
8. Po0165 - Board Meetings (new)
9. Po0165.1 - Regular Meetings (rescind)
10. Po0165.2 - Special Meetings (rescind)
11. Po0166 - Agendas (new)
12. Po0167.2 - Executive Session (renumbered)
13. Po0167.7 - Use of Personal Communication Devices (renumbered/revised)
14. Po0173 - Board Officers (rescind)
15. Po4120.08 - Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular/Extra-curricular Activities (revised)
16. Po4121 - Criminal History Record Check (revised)
17. Po5131 - Student Transfers (revised)
18. Po5136 - Personal Communication Devices (revised)
19. Po5136.01 - Electronic Equipment (revised)
20. Po5200 - Attendance (revised)
21. Po5500 - Student Conduct (revised)
22. Po5780 - Student / Parent Rights (revised)
23. Po6220 - Budget Preparation (revised)
24. Po6320 - Purchasing and Bidding (revised)
25. Po6460 - Vendor Relations (revised)
26. Po7530.02 - Staff Use of Personal Communication Devices (revised)
27. Po7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (revised)
28. Po7540.04 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (revised)
29. Po7530.09 - Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) (new)
30. Po8310 - Public Records (revised)
31. Po9160 - Public Attendance at School Events (revised)
32. Po2265 - Protections of Individual Beliefs, Affiliations, Ideals, or Principles of Political Movements or Ideology (new)
33. Po1130 - Conflict of Interest
34. Po3113 - Conflict of Interest
35. Po4113 - Conflict of Interest
36. Po6110 - Grant Funds
37. Po6111 - Internal Controls
38. Po6112 - Cash Management of Grants
39. Po6114 - Cost Principals - Spending Federal Funds
40. Po6325 - Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds
41. Po6550 - Travel Payment & Reimbursement/Relocation Costs
42. Po7310 - Disposition of Surplus Property
43. Po7450 - Property Inventory

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve the new / revised Board policies and guidelines from the Neola Volume 43, No. 1 / Fall 2024 update. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.01.008

- B. Approve a resolution to adopt the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), as presented.

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve a resolution to adopt the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

XIII. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee(s) will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective the second semester of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented:

A. Jordan Dettrow - Bachelor's - 150 to Master's

25.01.009

XIV. Executive Session

A. Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel.

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to go into executive session at 5:56 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel.

Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m.

25.01.010

XV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to adjourn the Meeting at 7:20 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 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