

VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 – 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 - **Time in: 5:00 p.m. Board Members Present - Anthony Adams, Julie Burenga, Greg Blackmore, Debby Compton, Scott Mull. Others Present - Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Aaron Ries, Haley Michaud, Ruth Ann Dowler, Tracy Wehner, Bob Spath.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Julie Burenga**

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.

25.02.011

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Greg Blackmore to accept the 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. Ruth Ann Dowler, Special Services Coordinator - Special services and instruction update and discussion

VII. Treasurer's Section

Business and Records - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the January 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 the February 26, 2025 fiscal year 2025 "amended" permanent appropriations, presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget, and discussed the official audit report and results of the fiscal year 2024 audit.*

VIII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Middle School/High School chiller project. He also reviewed snow removal activities resulting from winter weather and commended custodial/maintenance staff for their efforts. Lastly, Priest discussed proposed transportation legislation that is currently being discussed at the state level.*

VIII. Public hearing - 2026-2027 School Calendar

A. The Van Wert City School District Board of Education hereby gives public hearing in accordance with section 3313.48(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, regarding the school calendar, including a presentation by the Superintendent/designee on the total number of hours in the school year, length of the school day, and the beginning and end dates of instruction in the calendar. **The school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year was presented by Mark Bagley, Superintendent. No public comment offered.**

IX. Superintendent's Section – *Mr. Bagley discussed with the Board of Education Focus 3 activities taking place in the district along with the resulting positive impact on the Cougar culture. He also shared the updated district strategic plan that is now displayed in the buildings and on the district website. Lastly, Bagley closed his report with a legislative update expressing his concern for the proposed state biennial budget bill (House Bill 96) as introduced by Governor DeWine.*

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

- A. Vantage - *Taste of Vantage open house and discussed renovation planning underway for the Thomas Edison building.*
- B. VWAPAF - *Staffing discussions and reviewed 2025 programming/schedule of events.*
- C. VWASIG - *Wellness activities are being rolled out in coordination with the Wellness Coordinator and Wellness Champions.*
- D. Athletic Council - *Fitness Center dedication and open house.*
- E. Safety Team - *Tabletop Exercise planning underway.*

25.02.012

XII. Consent Resolutions

Motion was made by Scott Mull and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the Regular Meeting consent items "A through Z" 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 resignation of Audrea Mancinotti from her position as middle school science teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
- B. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Stacy Strick from her position as special services secretary, effective July 1, 2025, as presented.
- C. Accept the resignation of Eli Alvarez from his supplemental head boys tennis coaching contract, effective February 12, 2025, as presented.
- D. Approve Michael Dellinger as an elementary school paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective January 23, 2025, as presented.

- E. Approve Kole Small as a 5th grade teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- F. Approve Hanna Heitkamp as a 4th grade teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- G. Approve Destiny Coil as a primary cross-categorical intervention specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- H. Approve Brittney Boaz as an elementary school art teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- I. Approve Jennifer Trinosky as an elementary school art teacher, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- J. Approve a supplemental contract for Emily Gehle as high school spring musical assistant director, effective the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
- K. Approve the following supplemental spring coaching contracts, effective the 2024-2025 contract year as presented:
 - 1. Softball
 - a. Scott Bigham - varsity assistant coach (.5)
 - b. Matt West - varsity assistant coach (.5)
 - c. Destiny Coil - junior varsity coach
 - d. Carlee Young - junior varsity volunteer assistant
 - e. Alli Kennedy - varsity volunteer assistant
 - 2. Baseball
 - a. Damian Helm - varsity assistant coach
 - b. Damon Brown - junior varsity coach
 - c. Jalen McCracken - 9th grade coach
 - d. Mason Place - junior varsity volunteer assistant
 - e. Jeremy Kitson - varsity volunteer assistant
 - 3. Boys/Girls Track & Field
 - a. Kim Laudick - high school assistant coach
 - b. Nick Pauff - high school assistant coach (.5)
 - c. Alexis Dowdy - high school assistant coach (.5)
 - d. Ben Laudick - high school assistant coach
 - e. Gage Chiles - high school volunteer
 - f. Kerry Koontz - middle school coach
 - g. Bob Spath - middle school coach
 - h. Bryce Crea - middle school coach
 - i. Noah Carter - middle school volunteer
 - 4. Boys Tennis
 - a. Mitch Price - head coach
 - b. Katie Peterson - assistant coach
- L. Approve the following supplemental fall coaching contracts, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented:
 - 1. Keith Recker - head football coach
 - 2. Katie Peterson - head girls tennis coach
 - 3. Bob Spath - head boys & girls cross country coach
 - 4. Kim Doidge - head golf coach
 - 5. Samantha Fleming - head fall cheerleading coach
 - 6. Rachel Black - head volleyball coach
 - 7. Ashley Showalter - head girls soccer coach

- M. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Van Wert Federation of Teachers and the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education to add a Fall, Winter and Spring Strength and Conditioning Coach to the supplemental pay schedule, effective the 2024-2025 contract year through the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- N. Approve the following overnight trips:
1. High school varsity swimming (5 students and 1 adult) to the state swim meet in Canton, Ohio, February 19-21, 2025, as presented. (retroactively)
 2. High school varsity boys bowling (7 students and 2 adults) to the state bowling tournament in Columbus, Ohio, February 28-March 1, 2025, as presented.
 3. High School varsity wrestling (3 students and 4 adults) to Norwalk, Ohio, February 28-March 1 2025, as presented.
- O. Approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025 organizational, budget, & regular Board meeting as presented.
- P. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- Q. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2025 Permanent Appropriations totaling \$37,957,364.73 as presented.
- R. Authorize membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for Van Wert High School and Van Wert Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- S. 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 the July 4th, 2025 fireworks on the high school/middle school and elementary school campus for the community's enjoyment as presented.
- T. Approve a facility agreement with the City of Van Wert Parks & Recreation Department, for usage of park facilities for school athletic contests and the usage of school facilities for recreational programs offered by the Van Wert Parks Department during the 2025 calendar year as presented.
- U. Approve the Independence Education Center Service Contract Agreement with Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.
- V. Approve the Community Learning Center Service Contract Agreement with Mercer County Educational Service Center for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.
- W. Accept the Van Wert City School District tax levy amounts and rates as determined by the Van Wert County Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Van Wert County Auditor for the 2026 fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, as presented.
- X. Approve a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement (CRA) between the City of Van Wert and Intraplas Packaging Solutions, Inc. as presented.
- Y. 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 invoices \$3,000.00 and over be authorized for payment by the Van Wert City Board of Education:
- Vendor - Ohio Auditor of State - 1/31/2025 - \$3,362.00
- Z. Accept the following generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools from:
1. Van Wert County Foundation - \$2,000.00 to High School Robotics
 2. First Federal of Van Wert - \$100.00 to High School Robotics
 3. Beer Barrel, Inc. - \$164.69 to High School Robotics
 4. Laudick's Jewelry - \$200.00 to Masque & Gavel
 5. Bcourageous III LLC / Biggby - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
 6. Sixth Cents LLC / Rager Burger - \$300.00 to Masque & Gavel
 7. Straley Realty & Auctioneers, Inc. - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
 8. Jeffery-Mohr Dentistry - \$300.00 to Masque & Gavel

9. Vancrest Health Care Centers - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
10. Van Wert Bedrooms, Inc. - \$500.00 to Masque & Gavel
11. Schlatter Premier Turf Management LLC - \$50.00 to Masque & Gavel
12. Wild Willy's - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
13. Van Wert Propane, Inc. - \$50.00 to Masque & Gavel
14. Edward Jones - Thaison Leaser - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
15. Unverferth Family Dentistry Inc. - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
16. Wayne Kilton - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
17. Sealscott CPA Inc. - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
18. Leland Smith Insurance Services - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
19. GreenWay Bank - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
20. Van Wert Service Club Inc. - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
21. Cheryl Oechsle - \$51.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
22. Randy & Beth Stemen - \$50.00 to Van Wert High School Library Activity Fund
23. Edward Jones - Thaison Leaser - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
24. Sara Bagley - \$300.00 to Van Wert Middle School DC Student Activity Fund
25. Annetta Watson - \$500.00 to Athletic Department
26. Putnam Law Offices, LLC - \$5,000.00 to Athletic Department Capital Projects Fund
27. The Van Wert County Foundation - \$40,269.32 on behalf of the following grant funds:
 - a. Gaylord and Carmen Leslie Golf Scholarship Fund - \$5,972.81
 - b. Gaylord Leslie Trust - \$2,301.91
 - c. Justin R. Lybold Memorial Fund - \$343.58
 - d. Lacy L. Trammel Memorial Fund - \$400.40
 - e. Leslie Endowment Fund - \$29,708.21
 - f. Van Wert City Endowment Fund for Educators - \$1,542.41
28. Van Wert High School Class of 1973 - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
29. Northwest Ohio Trophy - Rob & Jacque Welch - \$2,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
30. Van Wert High School Class of 1959 - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
31. Rebecca Wells - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
32. Paul & Annette Hoverman - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
33. Strategence Capital, LLC - \$125.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators

XIII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

25.02.013

- A. Approve a resolution to authorize the filing of a complaint with the Board of Revision on the FNLI Here In My Car, LLC property (Parcel Numbers 12-032108.0000, 12-032128.0000, 12-031032.0000, 12-032132.0000, and 12-032152.0000) for the 2024 tax year per O.R.C. 5715.19 as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve a resolution to authorize the filing of a complaint with the Board of Revision on the FNLI Here In My Car, LLC property (Parcel Numbers 12-032108.0000, 12-032128.0000, 12-031032.0000, 12-032132.0000, and 12-032152.0000) for the 2024 tax year per O.R.C. 5715.19. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.02.014

- B. Approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$1,051,800.00 to Smith-Boughan Mechanical, Inc. for the chiller replacement at the Van Wert Middle School/High School as presented.

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$1,051,800.00 to Smith-Boughan Mechanical, Inc. for the chiller replacement at the Van Wert Middle School/High School. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- XIV. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee(s) will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework as presented:
- A. Josie Brunet - Bachelor's to Master's, effective February 1, 2025
 - B. Rachel Cheney - Master's to Master's+15, effective April 1, 2025

- XV. Acknowledge notification from the City of Van Wert of a residential CRA application as presented:
- A. Xhevat Murati, 603/605 Flagler St., Van Wert, as presented.

25.02.015

- XVI. 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 Scott Mull and seconded by Debby Compton to go into executive session at 6:03 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 7:07 p.m.

25.02.016

- XVII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to adjourn the Meeting at 7:08 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays - 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 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