

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 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 – Sam Shriver, Scott Truxell, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Justin Bragg, Haley Michaud, Chuck Rollins, Ryan Parrish, Danielle Parrish, Olivia Young, Lori Bittner, Kennedy Mercer, Megan Neuenschwander, Samantha Lymon.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Debby Compton**

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.

25.03.017

- V. Set Agenda

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull 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. Lori Bittner, Early Childhood Center Principal, Kennedy Mercer, Teacher, Megan Neuenschwander, Teacher - Early Childhood Center update and discussion
- VII. 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, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Bowersock also reviewed with the Board of Education the March 26, 2025 fiscal year 2025 "amended" permanent appropriations, presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget, and discussed the fiscal year 2024 excess cost billings.
- VIII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Middle School/High School chiller project and on the asphalt sealing and patchwork scheduled to take place in the summer. He also reviewed summer maintenance project planning that is underway. Lastly, Priest discussed with the Board of Education that the district is exploring purchase options to replace one(1) school van.*
- IX. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley presented the first reading of the new/revised policies from the Neola spring 2025 (Volume 43, No. 2) update. Mr. Bagley also provided an update on staffing and on staff development leadership activities. He also continued conversations on Phase III of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project. Lastly, Bagley closed his report with a legislative update expressing continued concerns for the proposed state biennial budget bill (House Bill 96) as introduced by Governor DeWine, sharing a "public issued statement" in relation to the proposed legislation.*
- X. Board Member Section / Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
 - A. Vantage Board Report - *Discussed the upcoming April 3, 2025 All Boards Dinner and shared that planning underway for mock interviews.*
 - B. VWAPAF Report - *Reviewed the Summer Feel Good Fridays schedule of events.*
 - C. VWASIG Report - *Reviewed the monthly financial information.*
 - D. Athletic Council - *Reviewed the agenda/minutes of the most recent Athletic Council meeting.*
 - E. Safety Team – *Announced that the district is the recipient of two grants for safety initiatives from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.*

25.03.018

- XI. Consent Resolutions

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the consent items "A through V" 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 Leah Nietfeld from her position as 5th grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - B. Accept the resignation of Brianna Pelfrey from her position as 3rd grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - C. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Janine Warnecke from her position as occupational therapist, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - D. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Deborah Williman from her position as elementary school paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - E. Accept the resignation of Colten Royer from his position as elementary school intervention specialist, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - F. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Sara Royer from her position as elementary school counselor, effective May 27, 2025, as presented.

- G. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Robert Priest from his position as assistant superintendent, effective July 30, 2025, as presented.
- H. Accept the resignation of Megan Hurless from her supplemental position as high school head swimming coach, effective March 11, 2025, as presented.
- I. Accept the resignation of Hannah Phlipot from her supplemental position as high school head girls basketball coach, effective March 26, 2025, as presented.
- J. Approve a supplemental contract for Andrew Peel as spring strength and conditioning coach, effective the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
- K. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on February 26, 2025.
- L. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- M. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2025 Permanent Appropriations totaling \$38,044,457.31 as presented.
- N. Approve the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. A public hearing was held at the regular Board meeting on February 26, 2025 and the calendar complies with minimum hour requirements in the Ohio Revised Code.
- O. Approve a list of sports for the 2025-2026 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. Swimming & Diving
 - h. Tennis
 - i. Track & Field
 - j. Indoor Track & Field
 - 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
 - j. Indoor Track & Field
 - 3. High School Coed Sports
 - a. Cheerleading
 - b. Wrestling
 - 4. Middle School Boys Sports
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Cross Country
 - c. Football - 11 player
 - d. Track & Field
 - 5. Middle School Girls Sports
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Cross Country
 - c. Track & Field
 - d. Volleyball

6. Middle School Coed Sports
 - a. Cheerleading
 - b. Wrestling
- P. Approve the following overnight stays:
 1. High School Girls Bowling (1 student and 2 adults) to the state tournament in Columbus, Ohio, March 6-7, 2025, as presented. (retroactively)
 2. High School Varsity Wrestling (2 students and 4 adults) to the state tournament in Columbus, Ohio, March 7-9, 2025, as presented. (retroactively)
- Q. Approve a resolution to rescind the Department of Education & Workforce Special Education Model Policies, that were approved at the January 14, 2025 Board meeting, and adopt a version of the Special Education Model Policies with modifications as presented.
- R. Approve the updated Business Advisory Council Joint Statement for 2025 as presented.
- S. Approve the Interagency Agreement between Van Wert County Public Schools, Van Wert County Board of DD, and CORS/Head Start, for the 2024-2025 program year as presented.
- T. Approve a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a Master Electric Energy Sales Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Power4Schools' endorsed electric supplier, ENGIE Resources, LLC for the period May 2025 through June 2027 as presented.
- U. Approve a resolution to establish and fund a Capital Projects Fund (070-9024) pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.13(C) as presented.
- V. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
 1. Gary & Beverly Profit - \$50.00 to Eggerss Stadium Fund in memory of Betty Lewis
 2. Robert & Karen Miller - \$50.00 to Eggerss Stadium Fund in memory of Betty Lewis
 3. Douglas & Sarah Cripe - \$25.00 to Eggerss Stadium Fund in memory of Betty Lewis
 4. Anonymous - \$70.00 to Eggerss Stadium Fund in memory of Betty Lewis
 5. Beer Barrel, Inc. - \$136.63 to Athletic Department Fund
 6. The Warehouse - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
 7. Van Wert Live - \$150.00 to High School Band
 8. Pamela Bockey-Smith - \$500.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde Principal's Fund
 9. Charles & Sharon Thompson - \$2,000.00 to Chuck Thompson Scholar/Athlete Award
 10. Charles & Sharon Thompson - \$6,100.00 to Athletic Department Fund - Shoot-A-Way
 11. Jeffery-Mohr Dentistry - \$63.00 to Van Wert Elementary Student Activity Fund
 12. Randy & Beth Stemen - \$25.00 to Golf Activity Fund in memory of Marilyn Donley
 13. Randy & Beth Stemen - \$25.00 to Bowling Activity Fund in memory of Marilyn Donley
 14. Jeffrey & Diane Hood - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 15. Nancy L. Friemoth - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

25.03.019

- A. Approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$676,962.00 to Alexander & Bebout, Inc. for Phase III of the Eggerss Stadium Project as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$676,962.00 to Alexander & Bebout, Inc. for Phase III of the Eggerss Stadium Project. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.03.020

- B. Approve a College Credit Plus Memorandum of Understanding between Van Wert City Schools and Rhodes State College for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve a College Credit Plus Memorandum of Understanding between Van Wert City Schools and Rhodes State College for the 2025-2026 school year. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.03.021

- C. Approve a Data Sharing Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Rhodes State College for the 2025-2026 School year as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Greg Blackmore to approve a Data Sharing Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Rhodes State College for the 2025-2026 school year. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

25.03.022

- D. Approve an Affiliation Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and the Ohio State Lima Campus for participation in the program for professional preparation of OSU Lima students during the 2025-2027 school year as presented.

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve an Affiliation Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and the Ohio State Lima Campus for participation in the program for professional preparation of OSU Lima students during the 2025-2027 school year. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

XIII. Public Notice

- A. The Van Wert City School District Board of Education hereby gives public notice with section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revised Code as follows:

1. Sara Royer has given notice of her retirement effective May 27, 2025, and is seeking to re-employ with the district. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the issue of Sara Royer being re-employed in the district at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.
2. Robert Priest has given notice of his retirement effective July 30, 2025, and is seeking to re-employ with the district. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the issue of Robert Priest being re-employed in the district at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

- 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, 2025:

- A. Paige Gerardot - Bachelor's to Bachelor's-150

- XV. Acknowledge notification from the City of Van Wert of a residential CRA application as presented:

- A. David & Allison Byrne, 324 Boyd Avenue, Van Wert, as presented.

25.03.023

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 Greg Blackmore and seconded by Debby Compton to go into executive session at 5:55 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 7:05 p.m.

25.03.024

XVII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to adjourn the Meeting at 7:06 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 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