

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center**  
**10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

**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.

**AGENDA:**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- III. Recite our Vision / Mission
- IV. Public Participation

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.

- V. Set Agenda
- VI. Educational Impact Presentation
  - A. Van Wert Elementary School
- VII. Public Hearing on the Board of Education's intent to re-employ the following retirees:
  - A. Robert Priest, Assistant Superintendent
  - B. Sara Royer, Elementary School Counselor
- VIII. Treasurer's Section
  - A. Business and Records
- VIX. Assistant Superintendent's Section

- X. Superintendent's Section
  - A. Second reading of the new/revised policies from the Neola spring 2025 update
- XI. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
  - A. Vantage Board Report
  - B. VWAPAF Report
  - C. VWASIG Report
  - D. Athletic Council
  - E. Safety Team
- XII. Consent Resolutions  
(all items may be voted on in one motion)
  - A. Accept the resignation of Evie Bair from her position as 4th grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
  - B. Accept the resignation of Audrey Coil from her position as elementary school paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
  - C. Accept the resignation of Marie Wynk from her position as kindergarten teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
  - D. Accept the resignation of Josie Brunet from her position as middle school science teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
  - E. Approve Michelle Young as special services secretary, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - F. Approve Emma Guggenbiller as a third grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - G. Approve Julie Wallace as a third grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - H. Approve Asia Arellano as a fourth grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - I. Approve Morgan Seewer as a fourth grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - J. Approve Megan Weitzel as an elementary school intervention specialist, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - K. Approve Taylor Bendele as a part-time occupational therapist, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - L. Approve Zachary Spence as a kindergarten intervention (cross-categorical) teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - M. Approve Kennedy Mercer as a kindergarten teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - N. Approve Morgan Deffenbaugh as a kindergarten teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - O. Approve Kaylen Kemler as a kindergarten teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - P. Approve Naomi Schlatter as an occupational therapy assistant, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
  - Q. Approve employee contracts/salary notices for the 2025-2026 contract year, as presented.
  - R. Approve a supplemental contract for Kaleb O'Donnell as High School Orchestra Pit Director for the spring musical, retroactively, as presented.
  - S. Approve the following supplemental coaching contracts, effective the 2025-2026 contract year, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, as presented:

1. Head winter coaches
  - a. Jeremy Best - Boys Basketball
  - b. Seth Blackmore - Boys and Girls Bowling
  - c. Jacque Welch - Cheerleading
  - d. Ben Collins - Wrestling
2. Fall assistant coaches
  - a. Football
    1. Steve Recker - Varsity Assistant
    2. Bryce Crea - Varsity Assistant
    3. Nick Pauff - Varsity Assistant
    4. Josh Poulson - Varsity Assistant
    5. Jalen McCracken - Varsity Assistant
    6. Keaton Altimus - Freshman
    7. Jordon Danylchuk - Freshman
    8. Josiah Poletta - HS Volunteer
    9. Alex Martz - HS Volunteer
  - b. Boys/Girls Cross Country
    1. Toshia Wilhelm - Varsity Assistant
    2. Emily Holliday - Middle School
    3. Noah Carter - Middle School
    4. Deb Merritt - High School Volunteer Assistant
  - c. Girls Tennis
    1. Melissa Bloomfield - Assistant
  - d. Volleyball
    1. Issa Ickes - Junior Varsity
    2. Morgan Hicks - Freshman
    3. Glenn Hicks - High School Volunteer
    4. Avery Cowan - 8th grade
    5. Kati Karl - 7th grade
  - e. Girls Soccer
    1. Freddy Rodriguez - Assistant
  - f. Cheerleading
    1. Tiffany Werts - Varsity Assistant
    2. Krista Baer - Middle School
- T. Approve the following custodial workers for the summer of 2025, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met. All summer custodial workers are paid from a timesheet; many are part-time/as available/as needed.
  1. Nate Gearhart (new)
  2. Sydney Dowler (new)
  3. Hayden Dower (new)
  4. Abigail Rollins (new)
  5. Addison Sturwold (new)
  6. Saxton Short (new)
  7. Andrew Laudick (new)
  8. Noah Spath (new)
  9. Heet Patel (new)
  10. Zoey Miller (new)
  11. Tonya Sroufe (current paraprofessional)
  12. Rachel Davis (current paraprofessional)
  13. Brooke Gearhart (current paraprofessional)

14. Tracy Kantner (current paraprofessional)
15. Jordan Dettrow - as needed (current teacher)
16. Grace Dowler (current substitute)
17. Zoe Coleman (current substitute)
18. Mark Taylor (current substitute)
19. Malissa Mohr - part time (current substitute)
20. Evan Okuly (current substitute)
21. Cassandra Martz (current substitute)
22. Tom Lee (current substitute)
23. Anna Marquez (current substitute)
24. Tom Leiendecker (current substitute)
25. Eliza Leiendecker (current substitute)
26. Nancy Brown - as needed (current substitute)
27. Peyton Okuly (current substitute)
28. Taylor Semer - until July (current substitute)
29. Zoe Longstreth - as needed (current substitute)

U. Approve for graduation the Class of 2025 as submitted and presented, providing all requirements are met.

V. Approve the following overnight stays/trips:

1. High School Boys Basketball (15-20 students and 2-3 adults) to Eastern Ohio Basketball Camp, Sherrodsburg, Ohio, June 8-10, 2025, as presented.
2. High School Boys & Girls Cross Country (30 students and 2 adults) to Cross Country Camp, Logan, Ohio, August 4-8, 2025, as presented.

W. Approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on March 26, 2025.

X. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.

Y. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2025 Permanent Appropriations as presented.

Z. Approve a resolution authorizing the principal component of the upcoming lease payment as part of the LED Lighting and Energy Savings Project to be paid from fund 004 9019 as presented.

AA. Approve a resolution to establish and fund a Termination Benefits Fund (035-9025) pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.13(B) as presented.

AB. Approve enrollment in the Sedgwick Workers Compensation group rating program for the policy period commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

AC. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:

1. Slushers Jewelry - \$63.00 to Van Wert Elementary Student Activity Fund
2. GreenWay Bank - \$100.00 to Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
3. Ayers Service Group, LLC - \$150.00 to Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
4. Dairy Queen / Castle Treats Inc. - \$50.00 to Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
5. Calvary Evangelical Church of Van Wert - \$500.00 to Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
6. The Secret Garden Floral and Gifts - \$100.00 to Masque & Gavel
7. The Van Wert County Foundation - \$2,000.00 on behalf of the Black, Inc. Scholarship Fund
8. United Way of Van Wert County - \$2,016.50 to Van Wert School at the Goedde
9. Van Wert High School Class 1954 - \$613.37 to Van Wert High School Student Activity Fund
10. Casey's / The Blackbaud Giving Fund - \$500.00 to Van Wert Middle School Student Activity Fund

11. Van Wert High School Class of 1970 - \$1,750.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
12. John & Beth Gamble - \$16,471.72 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
13. OhioHealth - \$50,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation

XIII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

- A. Approve a release and separation agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Robert Sloan as presented.
- B. Accept the resignation of Robert Sloan from his position as high school band director, effective April 1, 2025, as presented.
- C. Approve the following supplemental coaching contract, effective the 2025-2026 contract year, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, as presented.
  1. Charlie Witten - Middle School Football
- D. Approve the following custodial worker for the summer of 2025, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met. All summer custodial workers are paid from a timesheet; many are part-time/as available/as needed.
  1. Lile Mull (new)
- E. Approve the following custodial worker for the summer of 2025, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met. All summer custodial workers are paid from a timesheet; many are part-time/as available/as needed.
  1. Spencer Adams (current substitute)
- F. Approve the new/revised policies from the Neola Spring 2025 Update - Vol. 43, No. 2, as presented.
  1. Policy 0131.1 - Technical Corrections
  2. Policy 0171 - Review of Policy (rescind)
  3. Policy 1422.01 - Drug Free Workplace (new)
  4. Policy 1613 - Student Supervision and Welfare
  5. Policy 2260.02 - Single Gender Classes and Activities (new)
  6. Policy 2271 - College Credit Plus Program
  7. Policy 2340 - Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips
  8. Policy 2340.02 - Participation of Community/Stem School Students in Extracurricular Activities
  9. Policy 2431 - Interscholastic Athletics
  10. Policy 2460 - Special Education
  11. Policy 3213 - Student Supervision and Welfare
  12. Policy 4213 - Student Supervision and Welfare
  13. Policy 5113 - Inter-district Open Enrollment
  14. Policy 5120 - Assignment Within District
  15. Policy 5131 - Student Transfers
  16. Policy 5136.01 - Electronic Equipment
  17. Policy 5223 - Released Time for Religious Instruction
  18. Policy 5330 - Use of Medication
  19. Policy 5350 - Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
  20. Policy 5460 - Graduation Requirements
  21. Policy 5610 - Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students
  22. Policy 5751 - Parental Status of Students
  23. Policy 5780.01 - Parents' Bill of Rights
  24. Policy 6151 - Bad Checks
  25. Policy 6460 - Vendor Relations
  26. Policy 7421 - Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms and Changing Rooms (new)
  27. Policy 7440.01 - Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
  28. Policy 8142 - Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services

29. Policy 8452 - Automated External Defibrillators (AED)
30. Policy 8500 - Food Services (revised)

XIV. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee was advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective April 1, 2025, as presented:

- A. Katie Peterson - Masters to Masters+15

XV. The Annual Food Services Notification regarding compliance with the “Standards for Food and Beverages Act” is presented for your review.

XVI. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.