

West Branch Local School District Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, April 16, 2025)

Generated by Adam J Fisher on Thursday, April 17, 2025

Members present

Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

Member Not Present

Aaron Hawk

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM**A. Call to Order**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

B. Executive Session**1. 2025-044 Executive Session**

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 5:31 P.M. for the purpose of discussion with regard to:

- a. Employment of a public official

Action will be taken

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

2. 2025-045 Exit Executive Session and Return to Regular Meeting

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education exit Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting at 5:52 P.M.

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

C. Supplemental Contract**1. 2025-046 Girls Basketball Coach**

Recommend approval to employ Walt DeShields as the Girl's Basketball Coach for the 2025 - 2026 school year and 2025 Girls Basketball Summer Conditioning.

Discussion: None

- a. Mrs. Kangagy abstained while reading the following statement:

"I want to begin by stating that I will be abstaining from this vote. Given my personal connection to the situation, I believe this is the most appropriate and respectful decision.

I'm now in my 14th year serving on this school board, and I'm grateful to have earned the community's trust through three re-elections. I've always worked with integrity, never using my position for personal gain—for myself, my family, or my profession.

That's why I'm deeply disappointed by recent events. My daughter has been unfairly targeted with false claims that I'm upset over her playing time and that it has influenced my stance on board matters. These accusations are false. She should never be put in this position because I serve on the board. It may be a convenient narrative for some, but it's hurtful and entirely undeserved.

She's simply a student who wants to play the sport she loves. She does not deserve to be caught in the middle of rumors and personal agendas.

To avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, I'm choosing to abstain from this vote—for the sake of my family and the integrity of this board."

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

Abstain: Mikki Kanagy

- b. After the vote was taken and the motion carried, Mrs. Kanagy read the following statement:

"Our community has been through a lot over the past several weeks.

In fact, it has been too much. Too much misinformation. Too many rumors. Too many attacks on social media. Too much confusion. So much cruelty.

Far too much of this has been unnecessary and, to some degree, the would have been self-inflicted. For that, the Board is very sorry. A situation that required response was handled and should have remained confidential given the privacy issues involved. Instead, it was allowed to grow out of control. We accept responsibility for our role in that.

Superintendent Egli has expressed her concerns relating to Mr. DeShields' judgement, which have been discussed with him, and we support her determination to address those issues internally and continue to monitor those concerns moving forward.

With the vote you have seen tonight, we hope to put much of this to rest. There should now be no doubt that Coach DeShields will be back leading our girls' high school basketball team.

We understand that some in our community may ask, why now? To that, I can only say that we have heard and read what our community has expressed about this. We have thought hard and long about the issues involved and carefully considered the recommendation of our Superintendent. We know we need to own our part in this.

We also understand that our community will decide when it's time to move on from the hard feelings and divisiveness this has fueled.

Our mission statement is to prepare all students for tomorrow, today.

Tonight, we want to move forward together focusing again on that mission."

D. Board of Education Vacancy

1. 2025-047 Board of Education Member Resignation

Recommend the approval to accept the resignation of Aaron Hawk, Board of Education member effective 4/10/2025.

Mrs. Kanagy read Mr. Hawk's resignation letter.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Bryan Hobbins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

2. Nomination and Election of a Vice President of the Board of Education

a. 2025-048 Open Nominations

Recommend a motion to open nominations for Board Vice President.

Motion by Joe Courtwright, second by David Yaggi.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

b. Nominations for Vice-President are now open.

1. Bryan Hobbins nominated Joe Courtwright; Mikki Kanagy seconded the nomination.

2. No other nominations

c. 2025-049 Close Nominations and Approve Vice President

Recommend motion to close nominations for Board Vice President and approve Joe Courtwright as Vice President of the West Branch Local Schools Board of Education

Motion by David Yaggi, second by Bryan Hobbins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

E. Agenda Approval

1. 2025-050 Approve Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer, approve the consent agenda for the 4/16/25 Board of Education Regular Session. If any board member wishes to move any consent agenda items to the regular agenda for further discussion, please let it be known now.

Discussion: None

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

F. Comments

1. Visitor's Comments

a. Abbey Bacconi - Spoke in favor of having Mr. DeShields return as girls basketball coach and asked the Board who would want to teach or coach here now.

b. David Kanagy - Spoke unfavorably about community members' treatment of his daughter and wife on social media. He was asked to stop speaking after calling out individual people in a disrespectful manner. He later was allowed to return to finish what he had to say because of Freedom of Speech. He spoke about an "assault" that his daughter witnessed in the weight room by Mr. DeShields' son.

c. Earl Trimmer - Thanked the Board for making the right decision, but was critical of how the situation was handled and the statement that was released the week prior. He spoke highly of Mr. DeShields as a man and as a coach.

d. Josh Hergenroder - Spoke about the Board having personal agendas and bypassing Athletic Director Ryan Wolf on the issue of bringing back Mr. DeShields as coach. Requested a clear explanation.

2. WBEA Comments - None

3. WBCEA Comments - None

G. Building Reports

1. Building Reports - Please see reports on BoardDocs

H. Superintendent's Report

1. Recognitions

YWCA Young Women With a Bright Future Winner -- Lauren Cameron

High School Students of the Month (list attached)

Elks' Teenagers of the Month -- Garin Harlan and Eliza Hirst

Young & Alive and Band Members who performed at Disney World.

Les Miserables-- Mrs. Krista Clay, cast and crew (and all the volunteers) for an outstanding performance.

I. Consent Items

1. 2025-051 Consent Items

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer, approve the following items by consent action:

Treasurer's Consent Items

1. Minutes

1. March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting

2. Financial Reports

1. Cash Summary Report March 2025
2. Cash Reconciliation March 2025
3. Monthly Investment Statement March 2025
4. SM2M Report March 2025
5. Detailed Check Register March 2025
6. Appropriations Summary March 2025
7. Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources March 2025

3. Gifts and Donations

1. James & Nicole Stryffeler - \$100.00 to FFA
2. Generations Women's Health - \$300.00 to FFA
3. Anonymous - \$1,500.00 to Girls Soccer
4. Boyle Harvesting - \$500.00 to FFA
5. Willow View Farms - \$100.00 to FFA
6. Dean Mossgrove - \$300.00 to FFA
7. Martig Farms - \$300.00 to FFA
8. Fraser Auto - \$100.00 to FFA
9. Zeller Valley Farm - \$200.00 to FFA
10. Kenneth & Rebecca McCracken - \$300.00 to FFA
11. Ruthrauff Farms - \$100.00 to FFA
12. Campbell Bros. Inc. - \$300.00 to FFA
13. Rocky Gardens Landscape Group - \$300.00 to FFA
14. Advanced Land Enhancement Solutions - \$50.00 to FFA
15. Anonymous - \$100.00 to FFA
16. PPC Flex - Donation of equipment to the high school with a value of \$3,000.

****Mr. Fisher read the Gifts and Donations aloud and thanked everyone for their contributions.**

Superintendent's Consent Items

1. Personnel

1. Retirements

1. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Megan Woods, Aide, effective July 1, 2025.
2. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Nancy Yonkey, Aide, effective July 1, 2025.
3. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Cheryl Oblisk, Bus Driver, effective August 8, 2025.

2. Retire/Rehire

1. Recommend approval to accept the retire/rehire of the following classified staff:

1. Lynn Moore, Technology, effective June 27, 2025.

3. District Resignations

1. Recommend approval to accept the resignation of Kelly Passmore, Intervention Specialist, effective at the completion of the 2024 - 2025 school year.
2. Recommend approval to accept the resignation of Cari Conaway, Middle School Language Arts, effective at the completion of the 2024 - 2025 school year.

4. Substitutes -- Certificated (pending certification)

1. Chloe Wilhelm

5. Employment

1. Recommend approval to grant Matthew Tafe a three (3) year contract as Assistant Principal for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
2. Recommend approval to employ Abigail George as a Vo-Ag teacher for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
3. Recommend approval to employ Brooke Courtney as an elementary teacher for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
4. Recommend approval to employ Erin Chaplow as an elementary teacher for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

5. Supplementals

Head Boys' Basketball Coach	Scott Loudon
Head Wrestling Coach	Chris Dorris
Summer Conditioning -- Boys' Basketball (Co)	Scott Loudon
Summer Conditioning -- Boys' Basketball (Co)	John Hancock
Summer Conditioning -- Football	Tim Cooper

2. Professional Days/Superintendent Assignments

1. April 2025 List Attached

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by David Yaggi.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

****Mrs. Egli announced the retirements of Megan Woods, Nancy Yonkey, and Cheryl Oblisk and thanked them for their years of service. She also announced the newly hired employees.**

J. Old Business

1. **025-052 Maintenance Supervisor Contract Revision 2025-031**

Recommend approval to modify Sean Fritz's start date as April 23, 2025 for Maintenance Supervisor, originally June 1, 2025.

Discussion: None

Motion by David Yaggi, second by Bryan Hobbins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

K. New Business

1. **2025-053 Student Insurance**

Recommend approval of Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company as the student insurance provider for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

Discussion: None

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

L. Executive Session

1. **2025-054 Executive Session**

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 6:24 P.M. for the purpose of discussion with regard to:

- ☒ X Employment of a public official
- ☐ Appointment of a public official
- ☐ Dismissal of a public official
- ☐ Discipline of a public official
- ☐ Promotion of a public official
- ☐ Demotion of a public official
- ☐ Compensation of a public official
- ☐ Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student
- ☐ To confer with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action
- ☐ To consider legal matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes
- ☐ To consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, or production techniques
- ☐ To consider the purchase of property for public purposes
- ☐ To consider the sale of property at competitive bidding
- ☐ To prepare for negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment
- ☒ X To conduct negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment

- _____ To discuss details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols or the board of education
_____ To consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.

Motion by Joe Courtwright, second by Bryan Hobbins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

2. 2025-055 Exit Executive Session

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education exit Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting at 7:33 P.M.

Motion by Bryan Hobbins, second by David Yaggi.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

M. Adjournment

1. 2025-056 Adjourn

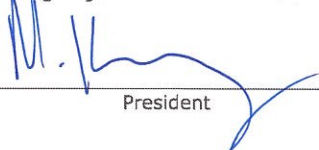
Recommend motion to adjourn at 7:33 P.M.

Motion by David Yaggi, second by Joe Courtwright.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

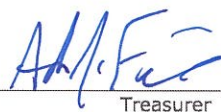
Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Bryan Hobbins, David Yaggi, Joe Courtwright

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.



President

Attest:



Treasurer

