

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WADSWORTH CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting

Date: August 14, 2025

The Wadsworth City Board of Education met in Special Session on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 3:00 P.M at Wadsworth High School Media Center, 625 Broad Street.

ROLL CALL

Present	Batey, Stevens, Beck, McComas
Absent	Gordon (arrived at 3:24 pm – left at 5:40 pm)
Administrators	5
Staff	0
Visitors	0

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

25-08-118 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

The motion was made by **Stevens**, seconded by **Batey**, to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:

Regular Meeting August 11, 2025

VOTE: Yea - Stevens, Beck, McComas, Batey
 Nay - None

Motion Carried,

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

25-08-119 Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Hill, the motion was made by **Stevens**, seconded by **McComas**, to adopt the Personnel Items from the August 14, 2025, Special Meeting, as presented:

A. PERSONNEL ITEMS

1. Employments

(Recommendations are contingent upon each individual receiving his/her license from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, with a license effective date of July 1, 2025, if he/she does not already have the said license and successfully meeting all other pre-employment requirements of the Board.)

a) Classified Substitutes

Tyler Perry

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b) Supplemental Contracts

Pravin Rodrigues Girls' Reserve Tennis Coach (eff. 08/13/25)

c) Kristy Nichol Home Instructor

VOTE: Yea – Beck, McComas, Batey, Stevens
Nay – None

Motion Carried,

DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

1. Dr. Hill reviewed the previous Strategic Plan.
2. Dr. Hill reviewed the Strategic Plan survey sent to community, staff & students.
3. Eric Jackson presented on the responsibilities of the Dept. of Instruction & Professional Development, including but not limited to, textbook adoptions moving to a 7-year cycle vs. 5-year cycle, whole grade screenings, licensure, renewal, professional development, literacy coaches, etc. Mandates from the State have changed the vision of these positions. (For example, dyslexia & Science of Reading). Tutors at the K-8 level and future needs from these positions. In addition, the High School schedule and class requirements.

4. Phil Luthman: Technology Strategic Plan Ideas 2026-2030

Urgency:

1- not urgent (equipment may be old but still works and/or new technology doesn't offer a large improvement over what we presently have)

5- extremely urgent (equipment will fail without action and/or new technology is so compelling that an upgrade is warranted)

Impact:

1- localized / small scope

5- widespread large scope

- A. Replace PA/Bells at FR, LI, MS with Audio Enhancement Epic Classroom and Paging System (overview of Epic and why what we have is antiquated)
- a. \$120,000 for FR, \$120,000 for LI, \$280,000 for MS
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2027

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- B. Investigate and likely replace clocks at FR, LI, and MS with the same clocks that were purchased for WIS (low cost, reliable, easy to manage).
 - a. Estimate: \$20,000 for MS, \$5,000 for FR, \$5,000 for LI
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 3
 - d. Target Date: 2027
- C. Interactive Panel Life-cycle refresh FR, LI, MS for 100 boards, \$400,000
 - a. Current panels are from 2017, and many have failing components. Getting 8 years out of each board is an enormous success. They were only under warranty for 3. We are still above water with the extra panels from the old CIS (about 38).
 - b. Urgency: 5
 - c. Impact: 4
 - d. Target Date: 2026
- D. New Wireless system in 2029 - \$500,000
 - a. We will evaluate the Wi-Fi Access Point (AP) landscape in 2028 and make decisions on which company to partner with then. We replace APs every 5 years on the eRate Category 2 discount rebate rate of 53%. As client endpoints and infrastructure change, we need our AP infrastructure to keep up with improvements. (Year 6 is painful on a wireless system; corporate is a 2-3 year turnover).
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2029
- E. iPad Life-cycle (6th generation out) 700 units - \$239,000
 - a. We have a fleet of iPads that will no longer update this coming September 2025. We are repurposing as many of those as we can, but for classroom and administrative use, we need to replace these iPads. Apps will stop working, and security updates will cease on unsupported devices. They have been used for 6 years.
 - b. Also, Jamf School will start charging per device per year, so we will be looking for another mobile device management software package (MDM)
 - c. Urgency: 4
 - d. Impact: 4
 - e. Target Date: 2026
- F. Battery Backups all move to lithium-ion - total \$62,000
 - a. Having a backup power fabric covering all our networking gear (including phones, cameras, APs) is critical for the longevity of our investments. We have utilized lead-acid batteries in the past b/c they were the only option. Now there is cost parity to get Lithium-ion UPSs (Uninterruptible Power Supply), which last twice as long, weigh less, and take up less space in rooms.
 - b. FR \$6,000, LI \$6,000, GA \$8,000, VV \$9,000, IS \$9,000, OV \$9,000, MS \$15,000
 - c. Urgency: 3
 - d. Impact: 5
 - e. Target Date: 2025-2027

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- G. Migrate away from PCs for classrooms and purchase Chromebook docks instead - \$50,000
 - a. Microsoft has changed its licensing model this past school year. Operating Windows PCs is now inherently more expensive. The team wants to explore moving to a mostly Chromebook fleet with docks for teachers in their classrooms. This would require a great deal of research, testing, and time. The end product would be reduced district cost and streamlining teacher workflow by moving down to one device. This is a model we have already started implementing with admins.
 - b. Urgency: 2
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2030

- H. New Phone System by 2029, \$600,000
 - a. The VoIP (voice over Internet Protocol) PBX (private branch exchange) that we have been operating since 2016 is branded ShoreTel. ShoreTel was acquired by MiTel, and the product has been discontinued. It will officially go “end of support” in 2029, meaning the company will no longer sell technical assurance or support on it. Also, coming in 2025, there will be one more software update to make our server compatible with Microsoft Windows Server 2022. After that, there are no more updates. We spent \$276k in 2016 for our new phone system. I would like to pursue replacement platforms that will give us another 10-year or more runway of use and come with significantly more capability than what we have now.
 - b. Urgency: 5
 - c. Impact: 4
 - d. Target Date: 2030

- I. Verkada Security Cameras installed at HS, MS, GA \$500,000
 - a. We have finished the last strategic plan’s goal of replacing all K-4 buildings with new security cameras. The partner we have chosen district-wide is Verkada. Security cameras were replaced at HS, MS, and GA back in 2021 for \$310,000. I want to still get some more life out of the cameras in these locations. But when we replace, this is the approximate cost for replacing cameras in these three buildings.
 - b. Urgency: 2
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2028

- J. Verkada Command Connector for WIS \$120,000
 - a. The security partner of the district, Verkada, is a dynamic platform that offers incredible advancements that our Meraki cameras simply do not have. We would like to purchase the Verkada Command Connector for WIS to transform all those cameras into Verkada cameras. This will ease the burden of replacing the cameras when we are able to do so (b/c the command connector requires purchasing a license for each camera, so when we replace the camera itself, we won’t have to buy a new license at that time). By making this move, we will have K-6 on the same camera platform.
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2025

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- K. Technology Teachers for K-4 Encore rotation
 - a. The Technology Committee has mentioned the impact on our K-4 students of having a Technology Encore rotation. Having a baseline of technology educational awareness could truly propel students' creativity and capability as they move to WIS.
 - b. Urgency: 2
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2027
- L. TVs for digital signage in all buildings, all locations via OptiSign - \$15,000
 - a. We have chosen a district-wide partnership for digital signage with the company Optisign. We are working with each building to add more TVs and OptiSticks. Cost is the estimated amount needed to increase digital signage district-wide. There is a cost for the TV, the player, and the Optisign license
 - b. Urgency: 2
 - c. Impact: 4
 - d. Target Date: 2025
- M. Campus-wide Wi-Fi for HS, MS, and WIS in all open spaces \$40,000
 - a. We would like to provide Wi-Fi for the entire campus at HS, MS, WIS, Track, athletic building, practice fields, parking lots, etc. This would require approximately 15 outdoor-rated access points, new wiring, engineering work, and labor. Thinking about all the outdoor learning opportunities that this could enable, allowing students to work outside, community events, etc.
 - b. Urgency: 1
 - c. Impact: 3
 - d. Target Date: 2026
- N. Color sign replacement at the street entrance to the campus \$50,000
 - a. The sign at the front of the campus is outdated and should be replaced with a more modern color sign to reflect the quality and excellence of the buildings on our main campus. Also, the panel that is out there is old and has needed expensive repair recently. It would be compelling to move away from Daktronics.
 - b. Urgency: 3
 - c. Impact: 2
 - d. Target Date: 2028
- O. Explore the feasibility of moving away from ProgressBook, VisitU
 - a. This would be a goal to continue to look into moving away from ProgressBook. This is more dependent on NEOnet, though.
 - b. Urgency: 1
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: ?

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- P. Implementing an HR System with workflows to better manage employee onboarding, offboarding
- a. The process of onboarding and offboarding employees in the district is truly onerous and not efficient. Many details are often missed. Would like to pursue a workflow program with or without NEOnet that could make sure that all onboarding and offboarding are completed the same way, without mistakes, in an orderly fashion, with tracking.
 - b. Urgency: 5
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2025
- Q. Cyber security software training for all staff, which includes phishing campaigns and required training. We have had some security issues, and we are layering on more tools (MiniOrange, Public School Works, Abnormal, etc).
- a. Would like to not only add cyber security training via public school works, but also NEOnet's free phishing tool for further district cybersecurity training
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 5
 - d. Target Date: 2025
- R. Network closets at FR, LI, and MS all need new AC units \$50,000
- a. These three buildings all get unbearably hot during the Summer, and during the school year, they operate at 75-80 degrees. It is far less than ideal for all the expensive networking equipment in these rooms. LI and FR have 1 unit each, and MS has 4. I propose we replace the failed units in all of these spaces.
 - b. Urgency: 5
 - c. Impact: 4
 - d. Target Date: 2025
- S. Student ID badge tracking (we have the capability now, just need some licensing and new intelligent badging)
- a. If we believe we could have HS students wear their IDs, we could explore how much each badge would cost.
 - b. Urgency: 1
 - c. Impact: 2
 - d. Target Date: 2029
- T. Network backup re-engineered to have offline, immutable backups to prevent data loss under threat of ransomware \$30,000
- a. Currently, we have backups that mirror from the HS to OV. We have incremental backups that are done only at the HS and do not mirror anywhere else. We would like to explore the cost of upgrading our versioned backups to a new piece of hardware that would mirror to OV. We have quoted this out with PCS already.
 - b. Urgency: 4
 - c. Impact: 4
 - d. Target Date: 2025

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ADJOURNMENT

25-08-120 The motion was made by **Beck**, seconded by **Batey**, to adjourn at **6:00** p.m.

VOTE: Yea – McComas, Batey, Stevens, Beck
Nay – None

Motion Carried,

(Signed) _____
Tim Beck, Vice President

(Attested) _____
Douglas D. Beeman, Treasurer