

Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
September 11, 2025

Present: Mr. Norris, Mr. Fearon, Mr. Moore, Mr. Trask, Mr. LeMaster

Absent:

APPROVED:

- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Permanent appropriations for FY26, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- In-state tuition rate of \$7888.56 for the 2025-2026 school year, as set by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. (vote – all yea)
- Donations from the Darke County Foundation: \$1000 for the Academic Team and \$2000 for the Band. (vote – all yea)
- Removal of existing fence around the football field (north, south, and east sides) and installation of new black chain link fence by Hess Fencing at a cost of \$25,850. (vote – all yea)
- Café classified sub: Natalie Davis
- Classified subs: Kiannah Farmer and Chelsea Dickensheets. (vote – all yea)
- Jill Etherington for EL Summer School and Kindergarten Camp, effective August 5, 2025. (vote – all yea)
- Usage agreement with Arcanum Youth Basketball for the 2025-2026 school year. (vote – all yea)
- 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. May 19-22, 2026. (vote – all yea)
- Brian Pohlman taking the FFA members to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis IN, October 28-November 1, 2025. (vote – all yea)
- Adoption of a cybersecurity program that safeguards the district's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity.

PROGRAMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
 - ◆ I want to thank the entire staff for efforts to prepare for the start of the year. It is great to have our students back in the building with us!
 - ◆ It's been a great start for the Trojans this fall in the WOAC. As a reminder, you can view team standings and statistics for the Trojans and other WOAC teams at the WOAC website.
<http://www.woacsports.com>
 - ◆ Total K-12 Enrollment – 1103 with +166 (144 last year) open enrollment. The elementary has one class in the 90's, one in the 70's and the rest in the 80's. The MS has one class in the 90's (5th grade), two in the high 80's, and one in the 70's (77 in 8th). The HS has two in the 80's and two in the 90's. The largest class is the junior class with 99 and the smallest classes are 2nd and 8th at 77. Enrollment Trend: 2024-2025 – 1099; 2023-2024 – 1092; 2022-2023 – 1096; 2021-2022 – 1068.
- School Operations and Updates
 - ◆ Booster Stadium Update – Concession building phase discussion.
 - ◆ Buildings and grounds update
 - ◆ Cybersecurity program requirements – Local governments including schools are required to adopt a cybersecurity program per HB96 that includes a cyber incident response plan, training for staff, practices to assess & remediate cyber risks, reporting of events, and associated policies ("No Ransom Policy"). Mr. Baker has been leading the development of the program and

we have attended various training sessions led by the Ohio Cyber Reserve to develop our program.

- ◆ I attended the county Business Advisory Council meeting led by our county ESC Supt., Jim Atchley. We discussed this year's objectives which included a continued collaboration with the following events: Manufacturing Day, Darke County Job Shadow Week, Impact STEM2D Conference for Women, 20 Under 20 Awards, and a new career Expo. The Career Expo is something that Ty is working on that we will host for our upperclassmen in the spring. It will target opportunities for employment right after high school for seniors, possible summer internships for college-bound students, and/or summer employment for underclassmen.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

• Elementary

- Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
 - ◆ Thank you to Courtney Warner, Sarah Loxley, Jesse Warner, Amanda Herzog and Ashley Matheson, who attended the District Leadership Team meeting in August to review data and develop goals for this school year.
 - ◆ Elementary teachers reviewed the elementary CIP and are beginning to plan lessons and activities geared towards these goals. The focus will be resource alignment and implementation and parent/community involvement through career exploration.
 - ◆ Thank you to Lisa Giuffre and Kylie Prasuhn who led a discussion and overview of the Same Goal program for the elementary teacher.
- Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ We are off to a great start! Thank you to the teachers for spending the extra time to learn and implement the new Into Readiness series.
 - ◆ The new staff have made positive connections with their colleagues and students and are doing a fantastic job in the classroom.
 - ◆ Students are beginning to take the i-Ready online diagnostic and instructional tool which helps teachers personalize learning in both reading and mathematics.
 - ◆ The Kindergarten Readiness Camp was a huge success. Over 66 students were in attendance and toured the building, completed state assessments, learned about bus safety, and became acquainted with simple classroom routines. Thank you to all the kindergarten teachers, Amanda Herzog, Jill Etherington, and Beth Piel for assisting in the event.
 - ◆ Thank you to Erin Fout and the AELC staff for a successful start to the school year. We still have a few spots open for late enrollees.
 - ◆ Current enrollment: MD – 9; KG – 78; 1st – 85; 2nd – 77; 3rd – 90; 4th – 80; Total – 419.
- PBIS (CIP Goal #3)
 - ◆ All students reviewed Trojan Way expectations through PBIS videos and conversations to model appropriate behaviors throughout the building.
 - ◆ Bus drivers and students completed bus evacuation drills. Students helped each other evacuate out the back and the front of the bus while the staff supervised.
 - ◆ Lifewise begins September 15.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4) and Parent and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
 - ◆ Over 115 students completed the summer learning packets to review reading and math concepts throughout the summer. Students had breakfast and extra recess for their hard work.
 - ◆ Many new families to the district attended the new student orientation on August 25. Families learned about the daily routines and procedures at Arcanum Elementary.
 - ◆ Many families attended our annual Open House on August 25. Students were able to meet their teachers and classmates.
 - ◆ Thank you to all the parent volunteers who have helped in kindergarten as the students learn the daily routines and expectations.
 - ◆ The youth football team and cheer squad helped cheer the Trojans on to a Victory on Thursday, September 4.

• Middle School

- Standard 1: Continuous Improvement – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Thank you to the middle school staff, students, and parents for a great start to the 2025-2026 school year. A special thanks to Teresa Leeper, Allison Fox-Gilbert, Darlene Barga-Rhodehamel, Katie Hartman, Ashley Matheson, Evette Paul, and Ann Glasscoe for helping our 5th graders with their lockers the first week. In addition, all students received their computers/passwords and connected to the new Student Center, our online student information page.
 - ◆ Congrats to all of the students who chose to run for Student Council. We had 45 students in the election which took place on Friday, September 5. I will have a list of our winners during the October meeting. Thank you to Mrs. Bowser for all of her work and effort leading these students.
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ During the second week of school, 5th grade intervention groups were established and students began receiving targeted enrichment and support based on their individual needs. 5th graders will rotate through different classrooms during intervention time (7:35-8:15) to receive this instruction.
 - ◆ The 2025-2026 i-Ready Diagnostic window runs from August 28-September 26. This is year 2 for the Math and ELA program which provides students with diagnostic testing that closely resembles the state assessment and provides staff with a detailed report of student(s) strengths and weaknesses across several domains. The biggest strength of this program is that it aligns online lessons to best fit individual students to meet them where they are, allowing for on target differentiation to take place. Testing will take place three times throughout the school year.
 - ◆ Each grade level spent the first several days reviewing expectations, norms, and routines with all students. Week two saw staff begin to dive into their curriculum and begin the process of working to better understand where students are in their educational development.
- Standard 3: School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ Thanks to David Baker for his effort in getting Chromebooks to all of our students with very few issues. Once again, Mr. Baker organized all computers into a single grade level room which really helped staff and students streamline information regarding their computers and passwords.
 - ◆ Safety and security continue to be a major point of emphasis in our district. I would like to thank the Pohl Group for providing Threat Assessment training to our bus drivers following our August bus driver meeting.
 - ◆ Our annual Bus Evacuation Drill took place on Friday, August 29. Our drivers did a great job explaining emergency information to our students and assisting Mr. Macy with one of the more important events in his new role.
 - ◆ Middle School Picture Day was on Thursday, September 4. Thanks to Mrs. Parker and Handshoe Photography for organizing the event. In addition, after pictures, Mrs. Greve completed scoliosis testing with 5th grade girls and all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.
 - ◆ The first fire drill of the school year was held on Thursday, September 4. Thanks to SRO John Wilt, Joni Pechie, Ty Cates, and John Stephens for their work on reviewing and completing the drill and 2025-2026 safety drill schedule.
 - ◆ Up-to-date enrollment numbers: 5th – 93; 6th – 80; 7th – 80; 8th – 77; AVA – 5.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ Our DLT met on August 14 to review our Continuous Improvement Plan and set building goals for the school year. This year, the MS will be focusing on continuing to improve our understanding of i-Ready math and ELA, continued instruction around The Trojan Way, and providing students with instruction that will support living in a modern society.

- ◆ I am excited to announce that Lifewise will be expanding to the 7th and 8th grade this year. Students will attend Lifewise each week during specials. The program will kick off on September 18.
- ◆ During our September 4 staff meeting, staff reviewed the first week of school, received Same Goal onboarding support from the ESC, and received professional development from me focusing on professionalism in education.
- ◆ New Staff Orientation took place on August 20. Thanks to John Stephens for organizing this event and to David Baker for providing additional training to our new staff.
- Standard 5: Parents and Community Engagement – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
 - ◆ Each grade level will continue to work hard to communicate with our parents in hopes of keeping them informed. On Monday's, each grade level will share their Parent Communication Plan via Parent Square which includes reminders to parents about assignments, assessments, and other important information. By viewing the PCP, parents can be more informed about assignments, assessments, and other important classroom needs.
 - ◆ MS schedule pickup went very smoothly the week of August 18. Thank you to Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Matheson for having everything prepared for this event.
 - ◆ Thanks to all the parents, students, and staff who attended 5th grade and new student orientation during Open House night. Parents and students were informed of some of the new features students will experience as they enter Arcanum-Butler MS and the major differences between elementary and middle school. It was a packed house and staff stayed very busy welcoming the students back into the building.

• High School

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Mrs. Kessler, along with three current seniors – Camden Pfahler, Cole Kessler, and Meridith Laux, and I, helped lead freshman orientation. Together, we set expectations for the freshmen and worked to calm some of the nerves for students and parents. The seniors did a fantastic job representing Arcanum High School.
 - ◆ New Staff Orientation took place on August 20. Special thanks to John Stephens for organizing this event and to David Baker for providing additional training. Leslie Hulett has joined the High School staff, and Internal Charity Wright and Faith Bennett have moved to the High School as well.
 - ◆ During our first staff meeting of the year, I shared the vision and goals of our high school staff for the 2025-2026 school year. Our focus is on breaking down silos, being more creative in our teaching approach and getting to know our students better. Connected by trust and committed to growth. We will also provide additional leadership training during Flex and begin offering Lifewise in the High School on Thursdays along with the Middle School.
 - ◆ During the first week of school, I met with our student body and staff to reiterate the expectation, core values, and goals for our high school.
- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ During our monthly 90 minute meeting time, some sessions will be held with the entire staff, while others will take place in small groups created by teachers to better serve our students. Topics will include PBIS, College and Career Readiness, Real Life Wednesday, Serve Arcanum, Students of the Month, RTI for struggling students, and content area for grade level meetings.
- Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ Thanks to David Baker for his help with the Chromebook distribution.
 - ◆ Our annual Bus Evacuation Drill took place on Friday, August 29. Thanks to Mr. Macy and Mr. Vince for organizing the event and to all the bus drivers for their continued support of school safety within the Transportation Department.

- ◆ Our teachers have received their emergency plan manuals. Teachers will be provided with information regarding updates throughout the year.
- ◆ Thanks to Mr. Vince for organizing the safety drills for the school year.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ Students will continue to compete in the “Clash of Classes” to promote academics, student involvement, behavior, and school spirit. At the end of the year, the winning class will receive a special lunch.
 - ◆ During the first staff meeting, we focused on making sure students with Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are receiving the accommodations and modifications they need to succeed.
 - ◆ Our Renaissance Club spoke to our freshmen, sharing advice to help them succeed in high school. Thanks to Mr. Grote, Mr. McEldowney, and the Senior Renaissance speakers for a job well done.
 - ◆ Our DLT met on August 14 to review our Continuous Improvement Plan and set building goals for the 2025-2026 school year. The High School will continue to focus on elevating math scores with daily tutoring offered during Flex. We will also continue our Industrial Recognized Credentialing for freshmen, led by Mr. Grote and Mr. McEldowney, and have planned opportunities for juniors to earn the Yellow Belt credential.
- Goal #5 – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
 - ◆ Arcanum High School utilizes Facebook, Instagram, and X.
 - ◆ Special congratulations to all our students who participated at the Great Darke County Fair! They did an outstanding job representing Arcanum High School!
 - ◆ Current enrollment numbers: 9th – 86; 10th – 82; 11th – 99; 12th – 93

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.