

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 27, 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, Debby Compton, Greg Blackmore, Julie Burenga, Scott Mull. Others Present - Sam Shriver, Scott Truxell, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Justin Bragg, Haley Michaud, Chuck Rollins.**
- 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.

25.08.042

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga 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. Treasurer's Section
Business and Records - Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the July 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 recommended 9/1/2025 fleet, liability, and property insurance renewal with Stolly Insurance Group and the Ohio School Plan and he presented an update on the Eggerss Stadium project budget.
- VII. Assistant Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Priest reviewed transportation staffing and bus route information in place for the 2025-2026 school year, discussed summer maintenance projects, and praised the custodial and maintenance staff for their efforts in preparing for 2025-2026 school year. Lastly, Priest updated the Board of Education on the purchase of a replacement van that will be executed in September.*
- VIII. Superintendent's Section - *Mr. Bagley extended his appreciation to all staff members for the successful start to the new school year. He provided an update on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year and discussed planning in place for the upcoming Focus 3 staff and student assemblies as part of the ongoing district culture development initiative. Bagley also reviewed Phase III of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project and closed his report with a legislative update including ongoing property tax reform discussions.*
- IX. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
- A. Vantage Board Report - *Discussed beginning of school year activities and highlighted the grand opening of the new fire training facility.*
 - B. VWAPAF Report - *Reviewed 2025-2026 programming and expressed appreciation of the leadership provided by the VWAPAF Executive Director, Jarin Hart.*
 - C. VWASIG - *No report*
 - D. Athletic Council - *Reviewed information from recent Athletic Council meeting including the development of a guest policy for Tyler's Landing and the newly installed projector lighting system in the High School gym.*
 - E. Safety Team - *Reported that the Van Wert Police Department recently conducted theoretical training in all buildings and that safety training was provided to the district's bus drivers.*

25.08.043

- X. Consent Resolutions
- Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to approve the consent items "A through Z" 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 Krista Conley from her position as early childhood center paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - B. Accept the resignation of Tracy Kantner from her position as early childhood center paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 contract year as presented.
 - C. Approve Taylor Semer as an early childhood center paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - D. Approve McKenzie Owens as an early childhood center paraprofessional, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.

- E. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on July 23, 2025.
- F. Approve the Career Education Opportunity (CEO) Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Crestview Local Schools for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- G. Approve the Career Education Opportunity (CEO) Agreement between Van Wert City Schools and Lincolnview Local Schools for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- H. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Crestview Local School District for Crestview students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- I. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Lincolnview Local School District for Lincolnview students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- J. Approve the contract between Van Wert City School District and Parkway Local School District for Parkway students attending Van Wert School @ the Goedde for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- K. Approve the Early Childhood/Elementary/Middle/High School student fees for the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- L. Approve all bus routes and shuttle schedules for the 2025-2026 school year as presented, and authorize Bob Priest to approve changes as deemed necessary.
- M. Approve the substitute staff list, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective for the 2025-2026 school year and any subsequent revisions as presented.
- N. Approve the 2025-2026 Athletic Department Handbook as presented.
- O. Approve the following supplemental contracts, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective for the 2025-2026 contract year:
 - 1. Early Childhood Center:
 - a. Ashley Hockenberry - Data Manager - (preschool)
 - b. Megan Neuenschwander - Data Manager - (kindergarten)
 - c. Megan Neuenschwander - RTI Manager
 - d. Diana Morrow - PBIS Coordinator
 - e. Alexa Dunlap - Cougar Pride
 - f. Kennedy Mercer - Cougar Pride
 - g. Ronda Niemeyer - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - h. Debbie Pollock - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - 2. Elementary School:
 - a. Hannah Phlipot- Student Council (.5)
 - b. Brooke Comer - Student Council (.5)
 - c. Kelsey Luthman - Student Rewards Primary (.5)
 - d. Karlie Ulm - Student Rewards Intermediate (.5)
 - e. Megan Weitzel - RTI Manager Grade 1
 - f. Rachael Dettrow - RTI Manager Grade 2
 - g. July Mosier - RTI Manager Grade 3
 - h. Molly Baltzell - RTI Manager Grade 4
 - i. Jared Army - RTI Manager Grade 5
 - j. Angie Stemen - Data Manager Grade 1
 - k. Leigh Short - Data Manager Grade 2
 - l. Jen Simper - Data Manager Grade 3
 - m. Betsy Davis - Data Manager Grade 4
 - n. Jared Army - Data Manager Grade 5

- o. Nate Hoverman - ECHO Support Staff
 - p. Gage Chiles - Jumpin Jammers (.5)
 - q. Alex Schmidt - Jumpin Jammers (.5)
 - r. Gage Chiles - Road Runners Fall (.5)
 - s. Alex Schmidt - Road Runners Fall (.5)
 - t. Jessica Bear - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - u. Debbie Rager - Multi-media manager (.5)
 - v. Katelyn Shindeldecker - Summer Science Camp
 - w. Kelsey Luthman - Summer Science Camp
 - x. Ashley Sinn - Literacy Facilitator (.5)
 - y. Sarah Holliday - Literacy Facilitator (.5)
 - z. Ashley Breese - Cougar Pride (.5)
 - aa. Allison Bertke - Cougar Pride (.5)
3. Middle School:
- a. Christine Gemmer - PBIS
 - b. Tami Suzuki - PBIS
 - d. Katy Priest - Cougar Leaders 8th grade
 - e. Rachel Cheney - Cougar Leaders 7th grade
 - f. Brooke Boznango - Cougar Leaders 6th grade
 - g. Rachel Cheney - Yearbook
 - h. Alexa Terry - Multi-media manager
 - i. Marty Hohman - Middle School Robotics Club
 - j. Kelli Thompson - Middle School After School Club Mgr.
 - k. Bryce Crea - Intramurals (.5)
 - l. Ben Laudick - Intramurals (.5)
 - m. Melissa Bloomfield - Echo Support
 - n. Brooke Boznango - 6th Grade Data Manager
 - o. Chris Kraner - 7th Grade Data Manager
 - p. Payton Markward (Shays) - 8th Grade Data Manager
 - q. Heidi Arney - 6th Grade RTI
 - r. Megan Hurless - 7th Grade RTI
 - s. Amie Moonshower - 8th Grade RTI
 - t. Matthew Warnecke - Middle School Scholastic Bowl Advisor
4. High School:
- a. Emilie Lewis - Art Club Advisor
 - b. Melissa Bloomfield - Chamber Choir
 - c. Jeremy Kitson - ECHO Support Staff (.5)
 - d. Bob Spath - ECHO Support Staff (.5)
 - e. Sarah Zabka - Excalibur
 - f. Sarah Zabka - German Club
 - g. Nicole Gamble - Junior Class Advisor (2 positions)
 - h. Evan Sroufe - Marching Band Support Staff
 - i. Krista Baer - Multi-media Manager
 - j. Natoshia Wilhelm - National Honor Society Advisor (.5)
 - k. Jackie Sroufe - National Honor Society Advisor (.5)
 - l. Bob Spath - Robotics Club Advisor
 - m. Noah Carter - Robotics Club Advisor

- n. Judy Krites - Robotics High School Assistant
- o. Melinda Clymer - RTI Manager
- p. Emma Schmitmeyer - RTI Manager
- q. Erin Lee - RTI Manager
- r. Katie Merley - RTI Manager
- s. Natoshia Wilhelm - RTI Manager
- t. Sarah Zabka - RTI Manager
- u. Danielle Slagle - School Musical - Music Director
- v. Rachael Dettrow - School Musical - Play Director
- w. Emily Gehle - School Musical - Assistant Director
- x. Rachael Dettrow - School Plays - Play Director (.5)
- y. Danielle Slagle - School Plays - Play Director (.5)
- z. Maggie Roehm - Senior Project Counselor
- aa. Pam Switzer - Senior Project Teacher (2 classes)
- ab. Jackie Sroufe - Senior Project Teacher (2 classes)
- ac. Robin Workman - Senior Project Teacher (2 classes)
- ad. Khandiss Klinger - Spanish Club Advisor
- ae. Judy Krites - Student Council Advisor
- af. Katie Bowersock - Student Council Advisor
- ag. Jordan Dettrow - Coordinator of Student Rewards
- ah. Ava Burkheimer - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
- ai. Maggie Roehm - Coordinator of Student Rewards (.5)
- aj. Traci McCoy - Varsity Club Advisor
- 5. Athletics
 - a. Kolby Barnhart - Middle School Assistant Football Coach
 - b. Ben Collins - Middle School Assistant Football Coach
 - c. Mason Place - Middle School Assistant Football Coach
 - d. Tom Baer - Middle School Fall Site Coordinator
 - e. Glenn Hicks - Middle School Winter Site Coordinator
 - f. Harry Florence - High School Fall Site Coordinator
 - g. Andrew Peel - Fall Strength Coach
 - h. Rhonda Cunningham - Concession Stand Manager
- 6. District and Building Leadership Teams
 - a. ECC Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 - 1. Lori Bittner - Principal (Internal Facilitator) (unpaid)
 - 2. Katie Wells - Teacher
 - b. ECC Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Zachary Spencer - Teacher
 - 2. Erin Heaslip - Teacher
 - 3. Diana Morrow - Case Worker
 - c. Elementary Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 - 1. Justin Krogman - Principal (unpaid)
 - 2. Tracy Wehner - Assistant Principal (Internal Facilitator) (unpaid)
 - 3. Betsy Davis - Teacher
 - 4. Jared Army - Teacher
 - 5. Jess Small - Teacher
 - d. Elementary Building Leadership Team only
 - 1. Stephanie Sudhoff - Teacher
 - 2. Jen Slusher - Teacher
 - 3. Katelyn Shindeldecker - Teacher

4. Tre Short - Teacher
5. Rachel Dettrow - Teacher
- e. Middle School Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 1. Darla Dunlap - Principal (Internal Facilitator) (unpaid)
 2. Ben Collins - Assistant Principal (unpaid)
 3. Melissa Bloomfield - Teacher
 4. Amie Moonshower - Teacher
 5. Heidi Arney - Teacher
- f. Middle School Building Leadership Team only
 1. Noah Carter - Teacher
 2. Chris Gemmer - Teacher
 3. Brooke Boznango- Teacher
 4. Megan Hurless - Teacher
 5. Frankie Bowen - School Counselor
 6. Sarah Smith - School Psychologist (unpaid)
- g. High School Building and District Leadership Team
 1. Chuck Rollins - Principal (unpaid)
 2. Ryan Parrish - Assistant Principal (Internal Facilitator) (unpaid)
 3. Jordan Dettrow - Teacher
 4. Bob Spath - Teacher (Internal Facilitator)
 5. Kate Merley - Teacher
 6. Katie Bowersock - Teacher
- h. High School Building Leadership Team only
 1. Melinda Clymer - Teacher
 2. Mary Kramer - Teacher
 3. Jeremy Kitson - Teacher
 4. Maggie Roehm - School Counselor
- i. Goedde Building
 1. Rhonda Cunningham - Director (DLT) (unpaid)
 2. Jeff Kallas - Teacher
- j. District Employees (unpaid)
 1. Mark Bagley - Superintendent (DLT and Internal Facilitator)
 2. Ruth Ann Dowler - Special Services Coordinator (DLT only and Internal Facilitator)
 3. Justin Bragg - Technology Director (DLT only)
 4. Chris Covey - Director of Curriculum and Instruction (DLT/BLTs/Internal Facilitator)
- k. Echo Support Staff
 1. Nate Hoverman - Elementary School
 2. Melissa Bloomfield - Middle School
 3. Bob Spath - High School (.5)
 4. Jeremy Kitson - High School (.5)
- l. Mentors/Focused Mentors for the Resident Educator Program
 1. Year-1 Mentors (mentors are paid \$500.00)
 - a. Deb Chiles (Hannah Heikamp, Dylan Wierwille)
 - b. Betsy Davis (Morgan Seewer)
 - c. Megan Neuenschwander (Morgan Deffenbaugh, Kennedy Mercer)
 - d. Traci McCoy (Brittney Boaz)
 - e. Shelly Place (Kaylen Kemler)

- P. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for Comprehensive Gifted Services with Mercer County Educational Service Center for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- Q. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for vision impaired services with Midwest Regional Educational Service Center for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- R. Approve the Services Agreement with OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc. for retirement plan consulting, compliance, and administration services effective October 1, 2025, as presented.
- S. Approve the U.S. OMNI & TSACG 403(b) Adoption Agreement and Plan Document effective October 1, 2025, as presented.
- T. Approve the U.S. OMNI & TSACG OASBO 457(b) Adoption Agreement and Plan Document effective October 1, 2025, as presented.
- U. Approve the monthly financial reports as presented by the Treasurer.
- V. Approve the hiring of athletic event/school event workers on an “as needed” basis for the 2025-2026 school year.
- W. Approve the Service Contract Agreement for hearing/audiology services with Montgomery County Educational Service Center for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- X. Approve the fleet, liability, and property coverage (declining terrorism coverage) with Stolly Insurance Group and the Ohio School Plan effective September 1, 2025 to September 1, 2026.
- Y. Approve an overnight request for Girls Junior Varsity Soccer (11 students, 2 adults) to Chain O’Lakes State Park, retroactively to August 1-4, 2025, as presented.
- Z. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
 - 1. Speedy Management, LTD/McDonald’s - \$200.00 to High School Students of Need Fund/Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
 - 2. Richard & Nancy Kelly - \$300.00 to High School Students of Need Fund for Feminine Hygiene Products
 - 3. William & Patricia Gutierrez - \$200.00 to Elementary Students of Need Fund
 - 4. First United Methodist Church - \$1,000.00 to Van Wert Middle School Activity Fund
 - 5. Tisha Fast Insurance Agency Inc/State Farm - \$500.00 to Van Wert Middle School Activity Fund
 - 6. Laudick’s Jewelry - \$200.00 to Van Wert Middle School Activity Fund
 - 7. Main Street Van Wert, Inc - \$1,580.00 to Boys Basketball Activity Fund
 - 8. The Van Wert County Foundation - \$1,000.00 on behalf of the Jared Fleming Running Scholarship
 - 9. The Van Wert County Foundation on behalf of the Van Wert Area Chamber Leadership Class of 2025 - \$9,038.92 to No Child Without a Bed Fund
 - 10. Central Insurance - \$1,600.00 to No Child Without a Bed Fund
 - 11. Trevor & Whitney Webster/Edward Jones - \$1,000.00 to Cross Country Activity Fund
 - 12. Timken Co Charitable and Ed Fund - \$2,000.00 to Middle School Robotics
 - 13. Raymond James Charitable / Cooper Family Foundation - \$2,000.00 to High School Academics
 - 14. Ohio City Class of 1969 - \$300.00 to Cafeteria Fund for Student Lunches
 - 15. Van Wert Bedrooms/Randy Thompson - \$5,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 - 16. John & Jan White - \$25,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation

25.08.044

XI. Non-consent Resolution(s)

A. Approve the following supplemental contract for the 2025-2026 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met:

1. District and Building Leadership Teams
 - a. ECC Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT)
 1. Nicole Adams – Teacher

Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve a supplemental contract for Nicole Adams as ECC Building and District Leadership Team (Both DLT and BLT) effective the 2025-2026 contract year, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met. Vote: Anthony Adams, abstain; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

XII. Appointment of Board Representative(s)

A. Alternate Delegate to the OSBA annual Capital Conference – **Debby Compton**

XIII. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employee(s) will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective the 2025-2026 school year:

- A. Rachael Dettrow - Master's to Master+15
- B. Danae Leaser - Master's+15 to Master's+30
- C. Steve Sealscott - Bachelor's+10 to Bachelor's-150
- D. Tre Short - Bachelor's to Master's
- E. Ashley Sinn - Master's+15 to Master's+30
- F. Karlie Ulm - Bachelor's to Master's

XIV. Acknowledge notification from the City of Van Wert of residential CRA applications as presented:

- A. Zen Collins, 702 George St., Van Wert, OH 45891
- B. Logan Collins, 703 George St., Van Wert, OH 45891

XV. Special Education Notice: Van Wert City Schools will offer a public meeting to provide the opportunity for public comment on the district's use of IDEA Part B funds with recommendations or suggestions for special education programs and services. Ruth Ann Dowler, Special Services Coordinator, and Lori Bittner, Early Childhood Center Principal, will be available for this meeting on September 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Goedde Building conference room, or by appointment at a later time.

25.08.045

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 Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to go into executive session at 5:30 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 6:04 p.m.

25.08.046

XVII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to adjourn the Meeting at 6:05 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays - 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 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