

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 25, 2025
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER **6:00 pm**

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Grant A* Ms. Knight Y Ms. Minnick Y Ms. Fisher Y Mr. St. John Y

Present: 4

Absent: 1 - Ms. Grant arrived at 6:08 p.m.

V. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

VI. REPORTS

- Board of Education President – Melissa Knight - Ms. Knight reported that the first day of the school year for students was September 2, and the start of the school year has gone well. She reported that Homecoming festivities were great, donations are covering Camp Fitch expenses for students, and a fundraiser to help defray medical expenses for a community member is being held at tonight's volleyball game.
- Student Achievement - Mandy Minnick - Ms. Minnick congratulated members of the 2025 Homecoming court.
- Maplewood Career Center Representative – Mandy Minnick - Ms. Minnick reported that Christmas in the Woods will be held on Halloween, a 50th anniversary open house will be held on October 8 and that two additional vocational programs are being considered: fire and EMT training, and a second welding program.
- Legislative Report- Megan Fisher - Ms. Fisher reviewed current legislative activities at the Statehouse.
- KT/SPED Update-Melissa Malone - Regan Weiss - No report.
- JH/HS Update-Zack Burns - No report.
- SPED Update - Katie Bandera - No report.
- Superintendent - Michael Dobran – Mr. Dobran reported that the 2024-25 school year state report card was reviewed. The District had greater improvement in the Performance Index metric than any other Portage Cnty school district and is one of only three districts in the County that went up in its rating. The District is having an issue with hot water and work is underway to resolve the problem. He

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shared a letter commending the volleyball coach with the Board. He reviewed a trip to Washington, D.C., to request continued federal support for the District related to the Ravenna Arsenal (Camp James A. Garfield) property. He also reported that the implementation of legislation banning student use of cell phones in schools is going smoothly. He reported on security improvements that will be funded through a school safety program. Interviews for a vacant softball coaching position will begin in the next few days.

- Treasurer- Todd Puster – Mr. Puster, the new Treasurer said he appreciated the opportunity to serve the Windham community. He reviewed the monthly financial report. He also noted several bills are pending in the Ohio General Assembly related to property taxation and school funding. He noted the superintendent has taken steps to manage District personnel expenses that will be helpful financially. He said the Board will need to approve the fall version of the District financial forecast at the next meeting on October 14.

VII: PUBLIC COMMENT (1) Limit of 5 minutes per individual (2) No more than 30 minutes total for all of those who want to comment. No comments were received.

VIII: TREASURER'S ITEMS:

A. Motion that the Board consolidate and approve the following items 1 - 2:

1. Approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, Special Board Meeting.
2. Approve the August Financial Reports.

Motion: Ms. Minnick
Second. Ms. Grant
Comment: (None)

Ms. Grant Y Ms. Knight Y Ms. Minnick Ms. Fisher Y Mr. St. John Y

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following:

- A. Motion that the Board consolidate and approve the following items 1 - 8:

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1. Approve the retirement of Kathy Austin, Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Amend resolution from June 17, 2025, correcting the hiring of Brian Tackett as Assistant JHS Football Coach. He should have been hired as a volunteer.
3. Approve Brian Tackett as a volunteer football coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI & FBI checks.
4. Approve the appointment of the following individuals for supplemental contracts per salary schedule in the type of position listed for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI/FBI check:

| | | <u>Year/Step</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Christina Neer | Senior Class Advisor | 1 / 1 | \$1,625.00 |
| Jon Crisman | Assistnat JHS Footbal Coach | 1/1 | \$2,031.00 |

5. Approve the appointment of the following individuals as substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI/FBI check:

Abigail Polewchak effective September 5, 2025
Chris Carter

6. Approve the appointment of the following individuals on the respective substitute lists as presented for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI/FBI check:

Ryan Dunn - Bus Driver
Bailey Fincham - Districtwide
Carol Howald - Educational Aide & Districtwide
Abigail Polewchak - Educational Aide & Districtwide
Lorelei Sterpka - Districtwide

7. Approve unpaid leave for Kelsey Pontillo beginning January 5, 2026, through the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

8. Approve the following tuition reimbursement payments:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Stephanie Smith | 6 Semester Hours | \$1,350.00 |
| Kim Workman | 20 Semester Hours | \$2,700.00 |

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|----------------|------------------|------------|
| Sherri Harrah | 5 Semester Hours | \$1,125.00 |
| Derek Pressell | 3 Semester Hours | \$489.00 |
| Dougle Hankins | 5 Semester Hours | \$284.00 |

Motion: Mr. St John
Second: Ms. Minnick
Comment:

Ms. Grant Ms. Knight Ms. Minnick Ms. Fisher Mr. St. John

MOTION CARRIED.

B. Motion that the Board consolidate and approve the following items 1 - 2

1. Accept the following students under open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| Waylon Bartlett | Grade PS | Newton Falls |
| Gianna Christopher | Grade 6 | Newton Falls |
| Jaylee Christopher | Grade 6 | Newton Falls |
| David Hill | Grade 11 | Ravenna |
| Issac Simms | Grade 11 | Kent |
| Emerson Hall | Grade PS | Ravenna |

2. Approve the following donations to the food pantry:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Star Therapy & Sales Corporation | \$100 |
| KT Staff | \$24 |

Motion: Ms. Minnick
Second: Ms. Fisher
Comment:

Ms. Grant Ms. Knight Ms. Minnick Ms. Fisher Mr. St. John

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Whereas, as a public board of education may hold an executive session only after a majority of the quorum of this board determines by a roll call vote to hold

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such a session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the following matters:

- (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

- (2) To consider the purchase of property (both real and personal, tangible or intangible), or to consider the sale of property (either real or personal) by competitive bid if disclosure of the information would give a competitive advantage to the other side by division (G)(2) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

- (3) Conferences with the public body's attorney concerning pending or imminent court action by division (G)(3) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code. Court action is "pending" if a suit has been commenced; court action is "imminent" if it is on the point of happening or impending.

- (4) Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing collective bargaining strategy by division (G)(4) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

- (5) Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, federal rules, or state statutes by division (G)(5) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

- (6) Specialized details of security arrangements where disclosure of the information to be discussed in executive session might reveal information that could be used to commit, or avoid prosecution for, a violation of the law by division (G)(6) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Windham Exempted Village School District Board of Education, by a majority of the quorum present at this meeting, does hereby declare its intention to hold an executive session of item 1 as listed above for the specific purposes of considering the employment and compensation of public employees.

Motion: Ms. Kinight

Second: Ms. Fisher

Ms. Grant Y Ms. Knight Y Ms. Minnick Ms. Fisher Y Mr. St. John Y

MOTION CARRIED.

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Enter Executive Session: 6:35 PM

Exit Executive Session: 7:09 PM

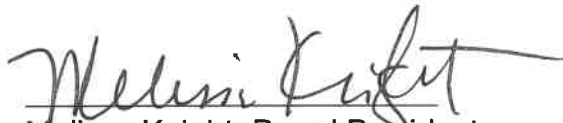
XI. Approve a motion to adjourn at 7:10 P.M.

Motion: Ms. Minnick

Second: Ms. Fisher

Ms. Grant Y Ms. Knight Y Ms. Minnick Y Ms. Fisher Y Mr. St. John Y

MOTION CARRIED.


Melissa Knight, Board President


Todd Puster, Treasurer