

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

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

Absent:

APPROVED:

- Minutes of the regular board meeting held November 13, 2025, and the agenda for the December 11, 2025, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Annual organizational meeting, budget hearing, and regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education to be Thursday, January 8, 2026. (vote – all yea)
- Donations: \$2583 from the Arcanum Youth Basketball Association to be used to purchase 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball uniforms; \$500 from The Andersons to be used for the FFA program.
- Agreement with TSA Consulting Group to provide 403(b) & 457(b) plan administrative services, effective February 1, 2026.
- Payment to Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation of \$12,373 for the 2026 estimated annual premium. (vote – all yea)
- Post-issuance compliance policy and procedures. (vote – all yea)
- Kelly Norris as President Pro Tempore to start the January meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Policy 5200 – Attendance. (vote – all yea)

PROGRAMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2026-2027 CALENDAR

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
 - ◆ Congratulations to our EL and MS Spelling Bee Winners: EL: Kaylee Clem – 1st place, Ezekiel Wright – 2nd place. MS: Jonathon Courter – 1st place, Erinn Stewart – 2nd Place and Lilly Moore – 3rd Place, Kaylee and Jonathon will represent the district at the Darke County Spelling Bee in January.
 - ◆ Thank you to the Arcanum Athletic Boosters for hosting the annual Breakfast with Santa event and to all of our winter coaches and student athletes for volunteering their time to serve our guests.
 - ◆ We had another enjoyable Senior Citizens Luncheon! Thanks to the planning committee and admin team for their leadership. A special thanks to those groups that participated – AELC, Mrs. Wackler's art class, Mr. Hopwood, Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Barga with our band, choir and 2nd grade music class, Mr. Grote's Digital Design class, Mrs. Painting's food class and FCCLA, and the EL/MS/HS student councils. Thank you, café staff and custodial crew, also!
- School Operations and Updates
 - ◆ Booster Stadium Project update – Bleachers RFP, Concession Stand Single Prime Bid
 - ◆ 2026-2027 Calendar Draft – Are there any issues or options you would like considered?
 - ◆ Classroom Space – Potential to use/reimagine our ELA spaces to accommodate for additional small classrooms with fabricated panel walls. JMD Architectural Products, Inc. will be providing information and a quote for our consideration.
 - ◆ Policy 7510 Use of Premises Review

- ◆ OHSAA and Name, Image, & Likeness (NIL) Information.
- ◆ Football Practice Field – Request for adding a sprinkler system.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

• Elementary

- Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ During the month of November, our students learned about leadership and service as the character traits of the month and did a variety of activities around Veterans Day. Thank you to all teachers for dedicating time in their daily schedules to provide students with the history of Veterans Day and completing different activities for local Veterans. Our students did a fantastic job during the assembly.
 - ◆ Congratulations to the 4th grade Spelling Bee winner, Kaylee Clem and runner up, Ezekial Wright. Thank you to Julie Eldridge for organizing this year's Spelling Bee.
 - ◆ Kindergarten students held their first number bootcamp where students focused on a different number each day and held a parade to show off their number signs.
 - ◆ 1st grade students completed an activity learning about the Macy's Day Parade and incorporated STEM concepts to build their own balloon masterpieces.
 - ◆ 2nd grade students are completing a week-long unit learning about Christmas around the World.
 - ◆ 3rd grade students have been completing a variety of math games to boost their number sense and multiplication skills.
 - ◆ 4th grade students continue to work on writing skills by completing a variety of different writing prompts.
- School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)
 - ◆ Congratulations to the November Trojans of the Month for demonstrating the character traits of service/leadership: Nora Cox, Zayden Frasure, Karmen Morrison, Ezekiel Paulus, Nila Bixler, Kixton Jenkins, Navee Morris, Evelyn Warren, Londyn Baker, Austin Combs-Blakley, Edee Fearon, Waylon Wilson, Kennedy Brown, Ansley Gray, Kyndslee Kendig, Lilyan Walden, Olivia Binkley, Tyma Deaton, Kamryn Hoskins, Reid Pohlman. Students celebrated their award during breakfast with Mrs. Pechie on December 3rd.
 - ◆ Thank you to Ashley Matheson for facilitating lunch groups for students that focus on social, emotional, and behavioral health.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
 - ◆ Thank you to Roger McEldowney and the Leadership Class for organizing the district Veterans Day assembly. Several elementary classes made cards to give to the Veterans or completed grade level projects to display. Thank you to Emily Barga for leading the 1st and 2nd grade students in a patriotic song.
 - ◆ The high school entrepreneurship class led by Matt Grote's class and Roger McEldowney are holding a Santa Shop for the kindergarten students to buy gifts for their family members.
 - ◆ Emily Pleiman's class reacted carnival games. after studying Newton's Law and invited kindergarten students to try out their games.
 - ◆ We partnered with the Darke County Center for the Arts to bring Doug Berky to perform his talents of juggling, illusions, and unicycling for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade.
- Parent, and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
 - ◆ Thank you to the Elementary Student Council for passing out candy canes, 1st grade students for making cards, and Heather Wackler for having students make the placemats for the annual Senior Citizens Lunch.
 - ◆ Thank you to Emily Barga for planning and organizing the annual 3rd and 4th grade Christmas Musical, which will take place on Monday, December 8th.
 - ◆ AELC students will be performing a song and dance during the December 11th girls' basketball game.
 - ◆ The Elementary Student Council did a blessing box food drive to supply the community box with food for several weeks.

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.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our November Students of the Month: *5th grade* – Emelia Ingle & Chase Lucas; *6th grade* – Kaylee Eley & Grant Pohlman; *7th grade* – Adelyn Hoskin & Mason Tegtmeyer; *8th grade* – Gabby Fugate & Gideon Duncan.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our November T-Shirt Tuesday Winners: Brynlee Benton, *5th grade*; Hunter Gigandet, *7th grade*; Annie Tegtmeyer, *6th grade* and Brooklyn Prickett, *8th grade*.
 - ◆ 267 MS students earned the Q1 Reward which was popcorn and the movie, Jumanji, on November 25. Students earned this reward for having no Ds/Fs on their Q1 report card, no missing assignments, and no office referral during the first quarter of school. 267 students represent 81.4% of our student body. Thanks to Mrs. Bowser and our Student Council students for leading this event.
 - ◆ Thank you to our PBIS committee for organizing the November Trojan Way ticket reward. This month students could exchange 10 Trojan Way tickets for a doughnut on the morning of Friday, December 5. A special thanks to 4 One Apparel for sponsoring this event. All told, we had over 100 students who received a free doughnut!
 - ◆ Congratulations to all of our MS Spelling Bee contestants. A special thank you to Mrs. Loar for organizing the event and April Hoying for pronouncing. *Champion* – 6th grader Jonathan Coulter (county qualifier); *Runner-Up* – 7th grader Erinn Stewart (county qualifier); and *Alternate* – 8th grader Lilly Moore (alternate).
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ Students participated in Club Day #3 on Friday, November 21. This program continues to be a huge hit in the Middle School and allows our students to connect with staff in a different way as well as get to know students in other grade levels. Students will have one more meeting before switching to a different club.
 - ◆ The MS celebrated Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 11th. The government shutdown prevented our normal crew, but staff and students still participated in military style lessons, watched a video, and participated in the district-wide Veterans Day assembly.
 - ◆ Thank you to Jared and Elizabeth from Darke Soil and Water Conservation District for presenting to our 7th graders about water pollution. The interactive experience held the attention of our students and provided lots of information about keeping our waterway clean.
 - ◆ 5th graders participated in Breads of Harvest on November 24 & 25. The program was brought to us by the Ohio State Extension Office. Students were able to make bread and take home their own mini loaf that was fresh baked by our awesome cafeteria staff! Thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped!
 - ◆ 5th graders participated in a design challenge to create a sailing ship that could be powered by the wind (hairdryer), and carry their marshmallow passenger across the ocean. Thank you to Mrs. Dickman for continuing to provide fun, engaging, and hands-on activities for our 5th grade science students!
- 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.
 - ◆ Arcanum-Butler Local held our monthly fire drill on Wednesday, November 12. We were able to successfully evacuate the entire building in just over two minutes during this drill.
 - ◆ Group picture day was Thursday, December 4. Thank you to all of our advisors and Handshoe Photography for helping this process go smoothly.
 - ◆ Thank you to Coach Moore for assisting in the organization of winter sports pictures which were held on Wednesday, November 12.
 - ◆ Congratulations to 3-time Chili Cookoff CHAMP, David Baker!
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.

- ◆ I would like to thank Jim Atchley (Darke Co. ESC) and Ben Garbig (Darke Co. Juvenile Court) for taking time to meet with me regarding HB 96 and the impact on school attendance protocols.
- ◆ I would like to thank Jaimee Garbig, Mandy Flatter, and Erin Tegtmeyer for all of their work and communication efforts regarding the fall IEP season. Our staff works hard to provide specific details about student progress and our Special Education Department uses this information to lead students and parents through the IEP process.
- ◆ Thank you to April Hoying for taking the time to visit Arcanum-Butler classrooms on Monday, November 17. April uses this time to connect with our staff and to observe what resources and strategies that we are using that may benefit students in other districts.
- ◆ Thank you to David Baker for leading CyberSecurity Training on Tuesday, November 18. David led Joni, Ty Officer Wilt, Deanna Monnin, John Stephens, and myself through several different scenarios that could impact our network and the team collaborated to determine how to handle various threats.
- 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.
 - ◆ Winter sports season has kicked off and I would like to thank Coach Moore and Coach Macy, along with all of our site managers and ticket takers, for their support during the upcoming season.
 - ◆ I would like to thank Roger McEldowney and his Leadership class for helping us organize this year's Veterans Day Assembly. Middle School students recited poems, the band played, the choir sang, and William Cox spoke to all of our students. I would also like to thank Mrs. Painting and her classes for making cookies for our guests.
 - ◆ I would like to thank Megan Smith for organizing our Q2 service project. Starting the week of December 8, students began making Christmas cards for area nursing home residents. We have several classes also including this project as part of their curriculum instruction (ex. Digital Design and Computer 5).
 - ◆ Congratulations to Rachel Knight and MS Drama Department for their fantastic work in presenting Elf Jr. The show saw a lot of first timers take the lead and received lots of positive feedback from the community.

• High School

- ◆ Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Our sophomores recently visited the Miami Valley Career Technology Center, exploring two programs/labs of their choice to discover potential areas of interest. Many also attended the Open House held two days later. This experience provides a great opportunity for students interested in pursuing a trade.
- ◆ Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ On November 13, we had our parent teacher conferences for the high school. Our teachers have been encouraged to increase communication with parents prior to the conferences. Our goal is to try and be proactive, sharing both positive and constructive feedback with parents and students.
 - ◆ Our Academic Team wrapped up an incredible season as back-to-back WOAC Champs, with JV winning the WOAC as well! Their outstanding performance earned them a spot at regionals in April where they'll compete for a chance to advance to state.
- ◆ Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ We would like to thank Mark Pohl Group for their "Project Survive" with our students, which was very well received and well done to prepare them for life outside of Arcanum!
 - ◆ As a high school staff, we will be focusing on promoting the values of accountability, honesty, and service to our students throughout the school year. The staff will be promoting these activities in a variety of ways throughout the school year. One example is in the selection of our Students of the Month. The November Students of the Month

are Freshman Reba Prestel, Sophomore Breanna White, Junior Logan Besecker and Senior Robby Arling.

- ◆ Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ We held our first Renaissance assembly for the year. Our Renaissance assemblies are used to promote the academic achievement of the students in our High School. Students were honored for the following: High Honor Roll, Honor Roll, Merit Roll, Scholar-Athlete, and Teacher Trojan Awards. Students also selected a staff member to honor with Student Trojan Awards, congratulations to Mrs. Arling. I want to commend Mr. Grote, Mr. McEldowney, and Mrs. Kramer for their assistance with this activity.
- ◆ 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.
 - ◆ I would like to commend Mr. McEldowney and his leadership class for their effort in organizing the Districtwide Veterans' Day Assembly. Special thanks to Mr. Vince and Mrs. Pechie for stepping up to speak and lead during the event. We're also grateful to Mr. William Cox for being an excellent guest speaker.
 - ◆ I want to give a big shoutout to Cassie Bixler, Michelle and Wade Harrison, and the talented students of the Arcanum High School Drama Club for an outstanding fall production.
 - ◆ A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our 13th Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon on December 3! It was wonderful to see staff and students from all three buildings come together to serve and make the event special.

Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.