

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

MINUTES

- A. 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, Chris Covey, Thaison Leaser, Chuck Rollins, Judy Krites, Grace Spieles, Cole Story, Brenna Kimmet, Katie Kramer.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America - **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission - **Recited by Scott Mull**

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.

25.11.059

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull 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. Curriculum and Instruction / Educational Impact Presentation
 A. Chuck Rollins, Van Wert High School Principal, Judy Krites, Student Council Advisor, and Student Council Members, Grace Spieles, Cole Story, Brenna Kimmet, Katie Kramer - Student Council activities/projects for the 2025-2026 school year update and discussion
- VII. Board member section / Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
 A. Vantage Board - *Provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project, on the Vantage 50th anniversary celebration preparations, and expressed appreciation to the Vantage community in the recent permanent improvement levy passage.*
 B. VWAPAF report - *Discussed programming changes, the upcoming schedule of events, and ongoing financial planning efforts underway to address declining attendance and the resulting financial implications.*
 C. VWASIG - *No report*
 D. Athletic Council – *Update on the Winter sports season that is underway, plans for a new sound system in the High School gymnasium, preparations for the upcoming Eggerss Stadium 90th anniversary celebration.*
 E. Safety Team - *Discussed the full scale safety drill debriefing that recently took place and the planning that is underway to update the districtwide public address system.*
- VIII. Treasurer's section
Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the October 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 November 19, 2025 fiscal year 2026 "amended" permanent appropriations and presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget.
- IX. Assistant Superintendent's section - *Mr. Priest reviewed ongoing buildings and grounds, equipment, and maintenance planning that is underway to address the district's future needs. He also provided an update on transportation and custodian/maintenance staffing in place for the 2025-2026 school year. Lastly, Priest praised staff members for their efforts and cooperation during the November 17, 2025 power outage that took place during the school day.*
- X. Superintendent's section - *Mr. Bagley reviewed the second reading of the new/revised policies from Neola Volume 44, Number 1 - Fall 2025 update recommended for approval. He also shared with the Board of Education planning that is underway for the upcoming staff professional development day and parent teacher conferences and provided an update on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year. Lastly, Bagley discussed the Eggerss Stadium restoration project and closed his report with a legislative update including ongoing property tax reform discussions.*

25.11.060

XI. Consent Resolutions

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve the consent items "A through V" as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, absent. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Accept the resignation of Patricia Bonifas from her position as high school cafeteria worker, effective November 17, 2025, as presented.

- B. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Deb Chiles from her position as third grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- C. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Angie Stemen from her position as elementary school Title 1 teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- D. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Kerri Kiracofe from her position as elementary school paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- E. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Deb Mengerink from her position as high school secretary, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- F. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Cara Moonshower from her position as elementary school paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- G. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Roy Schleeter from his position as elementary school cafeteria worker, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- H. Accept the resignation of Jessica Small from her supplemental contracts as Elementary School Building Leadership Team member (BLT) and District Leadership Team member (DLT) for the 2025-26 contract year, effective October 31, 2025, as presented.
- I. Approve supplemental contracts for Kim Dowdy as Elementary School Building Leadership Team member (BLT) and District Leadership Team member (DLT) for the 2025-26 contract year, effective November 1, 2025, as presented.
- J. Approve John Kolb, Jr. as a custodial / maintenance worker, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective November 24, 2025, as presented.
- K. Approve Ben Price as a full-time bus driver, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective January 5, 2026, as presented.
- L. Approve the minutes from the regular Board of Education meeting held on October 22, 2025, as presented.
- M. Approve the minutes from the Board of Education special work session on November 3, 2025, as presented.
- N. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- O. Approve the Internet Service Provider Contract with Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031, as presented.
- P. Approve the following overnight trip requests as presented:
 - 1. High School Girls Cross Country (9 students and 4 adults) to the State Cross Country Meet in Obetz/Columbus, OH, retroactively to October 31-November 1, 2025.
 - 2. High School Bowling (8 students and 2 adults) to the Ohio High School Coaches Association Preseason Tournament in Columbus, OH, December 5-6, 2025.
- Q. Approve the service contract agreement with Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- R. Approve the architect/engineer agreement with Garmann/Miller & Associates, Inc. for Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium restoration project (Eggerss Stadium End Zone Buildings) as presented.
- S. Approve a resolution to participate in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council cooperative school bus purchasing program as follows:
 - Whereas the Van Wert City School District Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of one(1) school bus.
 - Therefore, be it resolved that the Van Wert City School District Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to advertise and receive bids on said Boards' behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of one(1) school bus.

- T. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2026 Permanent Appropriations totaling \$37,302,946.52 as presented.
- U. Approve the following” then and now certificate.” It is hereby certified that both at the time of the making of this order and at the date of the execution of this certificate the amount required to pay this order has been appropriated for the purpose of the order and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of the fund, free from any previous encumbrance. I recommend that the following invoices \$3,000.00 and over be authorized for payment by the Van Wert City Board of Education:
Vendor - Julian & Grube - 9/4/2025 - \$3,200.00
- V. Accept the following generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools from:
1. Beer Barrel, Inc. - \$205.64 to Athletic Department
 2. Slusher’s Jewelry - \$150.00 to Van Wert Elementary School Wellness
 3. Jeffery-Mohr Dentistry - \$250.00 to Van Wert Elementary School Wellness
 4. Central Insurance - \$5,000.00 to Van Wert High School PBIS
 5. Madalyn & Mel Emerson - \$300.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde Principal’s Fund
 6. Skylar & Nancy Cunningham - \$500.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde Principal’s Fund
 7. Alexander & Bebout, Inc. - \$50.00 to High School Students of Need for Hygiene Supplies
 8. Straley Realty & Auctioneers, Inc - \$50.00 to High School Students of Need for Hygiene Supplies
 9. Van Wert Family Physicians - \$50.00 to High School Students of Need for Hygiene Supplies
 10. Wallace Plumbing & Underground LLC - \$300.00 to High School Students of Need for Hygiene Supplies
 11. Van Wert Rotary Foundation - \$10,000.00 to No Child Without a Bed Fund
 12. Melfour LLC - \$200.00 to Van Wert High School Principal’s Fund
 13. Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home & Crematory - \$250.00 to Girls Basketball Activity Fund
 14. Amy & Chad Adams - \$150.00 to Girls Basketball Activity Fund
 15. Laudick’s Jewelry - \$300.00 to Girls Basketball Activity Fund
 16. Ryan McCracken - \$300.00 to Girls Basketball Activity Fund
 17. Donna Welker - \$5,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 18. Rich & Isabel Riley - \$10,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 19. Bob & Becky Proffitt - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 20. Phil Gamble - \$3,865.36 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 21. St. Paul’s Church - \$1,000.00 to Elementary Students of Need Fund
 22. LifeHouse Church - \$8,000.00 to No Child Without a Bed Fund
 23. LifeHouse Church - \$26,360.00 to VWCS Students of Need Fund

25.11.061

XII. Non-consent Resolution(s)

- A. Approve the new/revised policies from the Neola Volume 44, Number 1 - Fall 2025 Update:
1. Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities (revised)
 2. Policy 2430.02 - Participation of community/stem school/home-educated students in extra-curricular activities (revised)
 3. Policy 2431 - Interscholastic athletics (revised)
 4. Policy 3130 - Assignment and transfer (revised)
 5. Policy 5130 - Withdrawal from school (revised)
 6. Policy 5136 - Personal communication devices (revised)
 7. Policy 5200 - Attendance (revised)
 8. Policy 5223 - Released time for religious instruction (“RTRI”) (revised)
 9. Policy 5410 - Promotion, academic acceleration, placement, and retention (revised)

10. Policy 6109 - Acceptance of payment by credit card (new)
11. Policy 6152 - Student fees, fines, and charges (technical correction)
12. Policy 6830 - Audit (revised)
13. Policy 7540.02 - Digital content and accessibility (revised)
14. Policy 7541 - Electronic data disaster recovery plan (rescind)
15. Policy 8300 - Continuity of organizational operations (revised)
16. Policy 8305 - Information security (revised)
17. Policy 8400 - School safety (revised)
18. Policy 8462 - Student abuse and neglect (revised)
19. Policy 9270 - Equivalent education outside the schools & participation in extra-curricular activities for students not enrolled in the district (revised)
20. Policy 1422 / 3122 / 4122 - Nondiscrimination, equal employment opportunity, and anti-harassment (replacement)
21. Policy 1422.02 / 3122.02 / 4122.02 - Nondiscrimination based on genetic information of the employee (rescind)
22. Policy 1662 / 3362 / 4362 - Anti-Harassment (rescind)
23. Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and access to equal educational opportunity (technical correction)
24. Policy 2260.01 - Section 504/ADA Prohibition against discrimination based on disability (technical correction)
25. Policy 1623 / 3123 / 4123 - Section 504/ADA Prohibition against disability discrimination in employment (technical correction)

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve the new / revised Board policies from the Neola Volume 44, Number 1 - Fall 2025 Update. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, yes; Debby Compton, yes; Scott Mull, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- XIII. Nutrition Standards Annual Report – Presentation of Van Wert City School District’s annual food service report regarding the district's compliance with the standards prescribed in section 3301.68 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- XIV. This is to inform the Board of Education that the following employees will be advanced on the payscale, due to additional college coursework, effective the second semester of the 2025-2026 academic year:
 - A. Alexa Dunlap-Post – Bachelor’s-150 to Master’s
 - B. Paige Gerardot – Bachelor’s-150 to Master’s
 - C. Kathleen Merley – Bachelor’s-150 to Master’s
- XV. Other New Business
 - A. It was discussed that the Board of Education set the date, time, and location of the 2026 organizational meeting, with the fiscal year 2027 tax budget hearing to follow. The regular January 2026 meeting will immediately follow the tax budget hearing meeting. In addition, the Public Records Commission (Board president, Board vice-president, Superintendent and Treasurer) will meet immediately prior to the organizational meeting to review the records retention schedule.

2026 Organizational Meeting / Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Budget Hearing / Regular January 2026 Meeting set for January 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

25.11.062

XVI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Greg Blackmore and seconded by Scott Mull to adjourn the Meeting at 7:20 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 5; Nays – 0

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 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