

ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING (Monday, January 5, 2026)

Generated by Alyse Allison on Tuesday, January 6, 2026

6:00 p.m. 3rd. Floor

35353 Curtis Blvd.

Eastlake, Ohio 44095

As Supplemented by the video recording that can be found [here](#).

1. Organizational**A. 3:00 p.m. Tax Hearing**

Please click [here](#) to view the Tax Budget.

B. Call to Order**C. Roll Call- 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Gabrielle Miller - Present

Ms. Rhonda Osagie-Erese- Present

Ms. Denise Verdi - Present

Ms. Jaime Shatsman - Present

Ms. Stacy Menser - Present

D. Pledge of Allegiance**E. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve agenda.

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-01
				5-0	

Motion Approved

F. Oath of Office to Elected board members - Menser, Miller, Osagie-Erese, and Shatsman**G. Election - Board of Education President to one-year term (3313.14)**

A motion was made to approve Ms. Stacy Menser as BOE President for a one year term.

Motion by Ms. Denise Verdi

Second by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-02
				5-0	

Motion Approved

H. Election - Board of Education Vice-President to one-year term (3313.14)

A motion was made to approve Ms. Jaime Shatsman as BOE Vice-President for a one year term.

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-03
				5-0	

Motion Approved

I. Legislative Liaison

President Stacy Menser appointed Vice-President Jaime Shatsman as the 2026 Legislative Liaison.

J. Establishment of 2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates

A motion was made to approve the Establishment of 2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates.

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-04
				5-0	

Motion Approved

Please click [here](#) to view the 2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates.

K. OSBA Annual Membership Dues

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer dues are paid for membership in the Ohio School Boards Association for CY26 in the amount of \$11,222.00 that includes an Electronic Subscription to OSBA Briefcase. (Last year's expense was \$10,398.00).

A motion was made to table the OSBA Annual Membership dues.

Motion by Ms. Osagie-Erese

Second by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-05

Motion Approved

5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the OSBA Annual Membership Dues.

L. OSBA Legal Assistance Fund

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer the Board enter into a contract with OSBA for the Legal Assistance Fund Consultant Services for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Cost for this service is \$250.00.

A motion was made to table the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund.

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-06

Motion Approved

5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund.

M. * Robert's Rules

Robert's "Rules of Order" will be used in the absence of Board Policy.

N. * Certified Public Records

It is recommended that the Board designate Nicholas Ciarniello, Treasurer, as the designee on behalf of Stacy Menser, Gabrielle Miller, Rhonda Osagie-Erese, and Jaime Shatsman, for their public records training pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 149.43(E)(1).

O. * Establishment of Service Fund for FY2026

P. * Recommendations by Board of Education to authorize the Treasurer

Please click [here](#) to view the WECSD- Tax Advance Resolution CY2026.

Q. * Legal Counsel Appointments

Be it resolved that the Superintendent, and the Treasurer and their designees be authorized to contact legal counsel as necessary for the successful performance of their duties. Legal counsel is designated to be: -Squire Patton Boggs - Weston Hurd -Peters, Kalail & Markakis Co., LPA -Burlson Law Offices -John Podgurski -Harpst Becker LLC

R. * Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Provided the Board of Education Members receive the minutes of previous meetings at least three or more days in advance of a meeting, authorization is given for the Board to waive reading of the minutes at that meeting.

S. * Resolution Requesting Notification

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Treasurer to approve the resolution requesting that the Board of Education be notified by the Tax Commissioner of any application for exemption from taxation for any property located within the district. The resolution is pursuant to §5715.27.

T. * Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Tax Budget for FY27 be adopted. Please click [here](#) to view the Tax Budget FY27.

U. * Resolution for Group Health, Vision and Dental Insurance for board members

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that Board Members may participate, at their own expense, in group health, vision and dental insurance plans provided to employees of the district.

V. * Pre-authorization of Advance of Funds

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Treasurer shall be authorized to make adjustments, transfers and additional modifications to budget up to \$2,500,000, revenue and appropriation accounts, as necessary, to update and close each month during the fiscal year to include fiscal year end.

W. * Hiring Authority

Be it resolved that the Willoughby-Eastlake Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to employ personnel on a temporary basis between Board meetings.

2. Board Resolutions

A. * Board of Education Member Compensation Resolution

Be it resolved that the current members of the Willoughby-Eastlake Board of Education shall be compensated at \$125.00 per meeting attended in calendar year 2026 for a maximum of 36 meetings.

3. Board Member's Business

A. Board Discussion

1. Dr. Ward, Superintendent, provided clarification regarding concerns circulating on social media. The Board stated that no changes were made to the transportation policy approved in December; the policy remains the same.
2. The Board discussed a potential earned income tax initiative to replace emergency levies, emphasizing the goal of meaningful tax relief, especially for seniors and fixed-income residents, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and transparency. Members noted the district's current financial stability presents an opportunity for proactive planning and acknowledged the importance of community education and input. Mr. Ciarniello, Treasurer, advised that two resolutions are required to place the measure on the ballot-one for consideration at the January 12, 2026 meeting and a second requiring an additional January meeting prior to February 2, 2026 for submission to the Board of Elections. Treasurer Ciarniello agreed to circulate possible additional meeting dates and draft resolution language.

4. Meeting Notification

A. * Meeting Notification

The next regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m., at the Administration Building, 35353 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake, OH.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Adoption of Consent Calendar

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-07
					5-0

Motion Approved

6. Closing

A. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Rhonda Osagie-Erese

Miller Aye	Osagie-Erese Aye	Verdi Aye	Shatsman Aye	Menser Aye	R-26-08
					5-0

Motion Approved

Adjourned 6:53 p.m.

Treasurer

President