

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING (Monday, January 12, 2026)**

Generated by Alyse Allison on Tuesday, January 13, 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. Introduction****A. Call to Order****B. 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

**C. Pledge of Allegiance****2. Approval of Agenda****A. 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-26-09

Motion Approved      5-0

**3. Presentation****A. School Board Recognition**

Dr. Ward recognized January as Board Appreciation Month, expressing appreciation on behalf of students, staff, and administrators. Statements of gratitude from principals across the district were shared, highlighting the Board's commitment to student learning, innovation, fiscal responsibility, and community leadership.

**B. Olivia Pennington Recognition**

The Board recognized Olivia Pennington, South High School student-athlete, for her selection as one of the 24 national Under Armour All-American Girls Flag Football players.

**4. Community Engagement****A. Public Comment**

1. Nancy Marra of Timberlake- EIT Resolution
2. John Marra of Timberlake- EIT Resolution
3. Stacey Mcguigan of Eastlake- Earned Income Tax
4. Jim Clements of Willoughby- Taxes and Integrity

**5. Board Members' Business****A. Board Discussion**

The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding:

- School funding challenges and recent reductions in state and county support.
- Property tax burden on residents, particularly seniors.
- Earned income tax options as an alternative funding mechanism.
- Community engagement, transparency, and voter decision-making.

Treasurer Ciarniello provided a detailed explanation of earned income tax mechanics, revenue projections at different rates, property tax relief implications, comparison with neighboring districts, and timing and implementation considerations.

**B. Legislative Liaison Update**

No legislative update was provided.

**6. Minutes**

**A. Approval of Minutes December 8, 2025**

A motion was made to approve the regular board meeting minutes of December 8, 2025

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-10

Motion Approved 5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the December 8, 2025 Minutes.

**7. Earned Income Tax Resolution**

**A. Earned Income Tax Resolution - 2.25%**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that a resolution declaring it necessary to raise annually an amount for school district purposes and requesting the state tax commissioner to estimate the respective rates at which it would be necessary to levy an ad valorem property tax, and a school district income tax on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district, to produce that amount, be approved.

A motion was made to table the Earned Income Tax Resolution- 2.25%

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Rhonda Osagie-Erese

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-11

Motion Approved 5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the Earned Income Tax Resolution- 2.25%.

**B. Earned Income Tax Resolution - 1.50%**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that a resolution declaring it necessary to raise annually an amount for school district purposes and requesting the state tax commissioner to estimate the respective rates at which it would be necessary to levy an ad valorem property tax, and a school district income tax on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district, to produce that amount, be approved.

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-12

Motion Approved 5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the Earned Income Tax Resolution- 1.5%.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Amended Appropriations for FY26**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Amended Appropriations for FY26 be approved.

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Rhonda Osagie-Erese

Miller Aye Osagie-Erese Aye Verdi Aye Shatsman Aye Menser Aye R-26-13

Motion Approved 5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the Appropriations Amendment- January 2026 Changes, please click [here](#) to view the Amended Appropriations- January 2026, please click [here](#) to view the Amended Appropriations Resolutions- January 2026.

**B. \* Financial Report for Month Ending December 31, 2025**

A motion was made to approve Financial Report for Month Ending December 31, 2025

Please click [here](#) to view the December 31, 2025 Financials.

**C. \* Grant Application Acceptance**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the following grant application and award be approved:

| Institution Awarding the Grant       | Fund/SCC | Amount    |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Center for Training Excellence (CTX) | 499-9726 | 25,000.00 |

**D. \* Establishment of New Accounts**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the following new accounts be established:

| New Account | School | Account Description                  |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 499-9726    | NCIE   | Center for Training Excellence (CTX) |

**E. \* Student Activity Accounts**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the following Student Activity Program Purpose, Goals and Proposed Budgets and Revisions for FY26 be approved:

| Fund/SCC | School | Account Description         | Amount    | Comments  |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| 007-9057 | EMS    | EMS Jennings                | 1,000.00  | New FY26 Budget Only                              |
| 018-9250 | SOI    | School of Innovation (Main) | 29,000.00 | Revised FY26 Budget; Revised FY26 Purpose & Goals |
| 018-9430 | JEFF   | Jefferson (Main)            | 10,200.00 | Revised FY26 Budget Only                          |
| 200-9209 | WWMS   | Willowick Drama Club        | 3,466.00  | New FY26 Budget; New FY26 Purpose & Goals         |

Please click [here](#) to view the December SA.

**F. \* Gifts and Donations**

1. An anonymous community member donated \$10,000.00 to the districts 001 to support students with special needs in way that uplift them, strengthen their self esteem, and expand their opportunities to engage meaningfully in their school experience. The donor is requesting that the district partner with the FAA to offer customized music and art therapy programming for our students.
2. The Cleveland Browns Foundation donated \$3,000.00 to 300-9401 South Athletics to be used by the SHS Football Program with a focus on the health and safety of athletics. The money was donated based on winning week #5 CLE Browns High School Game of the week presented by Ohio CAT and in association with the ForeverLawn and Howard Hanna on 09/19/2025.

**9. Superintendent - Announcements**

**A. Second Semester Highlights**

Dr. Ward, Superintendent, presented an overview of key initiatives, events, and priorities scheduled for the second semester, emphasizing continued community engagement, student achievement, and district pride. Highlights included:

- Community Engagement- The rescheduled Senior Night Out event will be held on January 20.
- Student Activities and Athletics- The district will host multiple North-South varsity competitions throughout the winter season.
- High School Experience Nights- Both North and South High Schools will host experience nights to highlight academic programs, Advanced Placement opportunities, career-technical pathways, and student support systems for incoming students and families.
- Strategic Planning and Community Input- The second Strategic Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 26th at South High School.
- Middle School Transition Events- District middle schools will conduct experience nights to assist fifth-grade students and families with the transition to sixth grade.
- Alumni and Community Recognition- The district will reinstate Alumni Induction Dinner in March.

**10. Superintendent - Resolutions**

**A. Amended Payment Agreement with Crossroads Health**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the amended payment agreement with Crossroads Health be approved.

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

Miller Aye      Osagie-Erese Aye      Verdi Aye      Shatsman Aye      Menser Aye      R-26-14

Motion Approved      5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the Amended Agreement for School Based Services- Crossroads Health.

**B. Magic School Contract**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Magic School contract for educator AI platform services through June of 2028 in the amount of \$64,598.64 be approved.

Motion by Ms. Jaime Shatsman

Second by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Miller Aye      Osagie-Erese Aye      Verdi Aye      Shatsman Aye      Menser Aye      R-26-15

Motion Approved      5-0

Please click [here](#) to view the Magic School Contract.

**C. \* MOU with Kent State University**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Memorandum of Understanding with Kent State University for the 2026-2027 school year be approved.

Please click [here](#) to view the Kent State- College Credit Plus Agreement.

**D. \* Overnight and/or Out of State Trip Request (South High)**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that an educational trip for the South High School Varsity and JV Baseball Teams to participate in baseball training in Cocoa Beach, Florida, Sunday, March 22, 2026 through Friday, March 27, 2026 be approved.

**E. \* Parental Transportation Reimbursement Agreement**

WHEREAS, the student(s) identified below have been determined to be residents of this school district and eligible for transportation services; and WHEREAS, after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for these student(s) to their selected schools(s); and WHEREAS, the following factors as identified in Revised Code 3327.02 have been considered: 1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation 2. The number of pupils to be transported 3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration 4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation 5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules 6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and WHEREAS, the option of offering a parental transportation reimbursement agreement is provided; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Willoughby-Eastlake Board of Education hereby approves the agreement to transport the student(s) identified herein and offers the parent(s)/guardian(s) of student(s) named on the attachment, transportation reimbursement per the attached agreement(s).

**11. Personnel Agenda****A. \* Administrative Personnel**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Administrative Personnel Agenda be approved.

Please click [here](#) to view the Administrative Personnel.

**B. \* Certified Personnel**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Certified Personnel Agenda be approved.

Please click [here](#) to view the Certified Personnel.

**C. \* Classified Personnel**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Classified Personnel Agenda be approved.

Please click [here](#) to view the Classified Personnel.

**D. \* Supplemental Contracts**

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer that the Supplemental Contracts be approved.

Please click [here](#) to view the Supplemental Contracts.

**12. Meeting Notification****A. \* Meeting Notification**

The next regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., at the Administration Building, 35353 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake, OH 44095.

**13. Consent Calendar**

**A. Adoption of Consent Calendar**

Motion by Ms. Gabrielle Miller

Second by Ms. Rhonda Osagie-Erese

|            |                  |           |              |            |         |
|------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Miller Aye | Osagie-Erese Aye | Verdi Aye | Shatsman Aye | Menser Aye | R-26-16 |
|            |                  |           |              | 5-0        |         |

Motion Approved

**14. Closing**

**A. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Ms. Rhonda Osagie- Erese

Second by Ms. Denise Verdi

|            |                  |           |              |            |         |
|------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Miller Aye | Osagie-Erese Aye | Verdi Aye | Shatsman Aye | Menser Aye | R-26-17 |
|            |                  |           |              | 5-0        |         |

Motion Approved

Adjourned 7:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
President