

Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
February 12, 2025

Present: Mr. Norris, Mr. Fearon, Mr. Moore, Mr. Trask, Mrs. Zimmer

Absent:

APPROVED:

- Minutes of the regular board meeting held January 8, 2026, and the agenda for the February 12, 2026, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Forecast, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Amended FY26 appropriations and estimated resources. (vote – all yea)
- Arcanum Virtual Academy 2026-2027 Student Guide and the Arcanum Early Learning Center 2026-2027 Parent Handbook. (vote – all yea)
- College Credit Plus agreement with Sinclair Community College for the 2025-2026 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Expenditure not to exceed \$13,685 to Primetime Construction LLC for concrete work for baseball/softball batting cages. (vote – all yea)
- Awarded contract for the completion of Arcanum Athletic Booster Stadium – Phase 3 to Level MB Construction for an amount of \$1,480,271 including one alternate bid. (vote – all yea)
- Contract to purchase new home side bleachers and press box with Southern Bleacher Company for the amount of \$859,235 including four alternates. (vote – all yea)
- Accept the following donations: \$1200 from the Arcanum Athletic Boosters to support the HS Cheer State Competition and \$25,000 from the Arcanum Athletic Boosters to support Phase 3 of the Arcanum Booster Stadium Project. (vote – all yea)
- Approve Ohio High School Athletic Association membership for Arcanum High School and Butler Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Nicki Bowser, effective May 31, 2026. (vote – all yea)
- Supplemental contracts for the 2025-2026 school year: Head MS track – Andrew Bryant; Asst. MS track – Jerry Rademachir. (vote – all yea)

PROGRAMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
 - ◆ Thank you to our principals, staff, and students for a great first semester! There is a lot of work ahead as classroom teachers focus on preparing for state testing and principals begin working on scheduling and staffing for next school year.
 - ◆ No school for students on Friday, February 13 for Teacher PD. Topics for the PD include: Math Curriculum & Instruction w/Emily Kappel, Emergency Operations Tabletop Exercises with the Pohl Group, Team Collaboration Time, and a DLT – led activity “Connected by Trust, Committed to Growth. Lunch will be catered by Doug Surber and staff.
- School Operations and Updates
 - ◆ Booster Stadium Project Update
 - ◆ Bus Safety Grant – The district received \$21,319.00 for safety upgrades. The plan is to use the funds to make the buses more visible by installing illuminated Stop Arms and lighted Bus Signs for all of the buses. Additionally, for bus driver safety/use, we would like to make sure buses have lights installed at the rear of the bus behind the back tires to make it easier for backing. To

cover the entire cost for the items, we would need to supplement the grant using approximately \$7500 funds from general operations.

- ◆ Enrollment Projection Update and Staff Recommendations.
- ◆ Policy Work Update.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

• Elementary

- Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
 - ◆ During the January 16th 2-hour early release, teachers updated grades, WEP progress reports, and analyzed mid-year student data.
- Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ 52% of our third-grade students scored proficient or above on the Fall ELA assessment. We were tied for 2nd in comparison of the county schools.
 - ◆ All students completed mid-year iReady diagnostic assessments to determine individual student growth. Teachers use this data to plan for whole group and small group lessons.
 - ◆ Congratulations to Kaylee Clem and Ezekiel Wright who represented Arcanum Elementary in the Darke County Spelling Bee.
 - ◆ The AELC staff are completing mid-year assessment to help target individualized learning and kindergarten readiness skills.
 - ◆ Kindergarten students continue to use a new program, ESGI, which graphs students' individual fundamental skills and gives parents resources to use at home.
 - ◆ First grade students continue to use the Heggerty Bridge to Reading program to build phonics and early reading skills.
 - ◆ Second, third grade, and fourth grade students have been targeting writing skills and practicing these foundational skills by creating their own opinion or informational writing passages using consistent terminology and writing rubrics.
- School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)
 - ◆ The students celebrated the end of the 2nd quarter with group games. We crowned an Arcanum Elementary Rock, Paper, Scissors Champion and played other games.
 - ◆ Congratulations to the December Trojans of the Month for having a positive attitude: Bristol Stickley, Logan Price, Banks Overholser, Kinlee Wilson, Charlotte Burns, Rowan Reier, Adalynn Tuco, Baylor Stikeleather, William Burns, Lola Sowers, Lennon Brubaker, Bristol Oldham, Kaiya Krickenbarger, Hamilton Greve, Teaya Reeder, Payton Pearson, Mea Baker, Cole Campbell, Alicen Fugate, Abriella Koons.
 - ◆ Congratulations to the January Trojans of the Month for having a positive growth mindset: Arie Vore, Elyce Matheson, Ruby Schwass, Kason Banks, Rogan Spiers, Larkin Edger, Eli Oswalt, Haleigh Gunckle, Juniper Menzie, Jayce Besecker, Kash Driver, Hannah Nottingham, RJ McCracken, Avery Jones, Logan Harshbarger, Tarrin Morrison, Gavin Vance, Easton Jenkins, Isaac Riffell, Jacob Oda. The students of the month celebrated their accomplishment with a breakfast with Mrs. Pechie and a Kona Ice treat.
 - ◆ We now have a book vending machine! Students earn tokens for demonstrating a strong work ethic and growth mindset.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
 - ◆ Thank you to Sue Huston and our friends from Darke County DD for talking with our students about disabilities and the importance of accepting everyone's unique differences.
 - ◆ Thank you to Roger McEldowney and the Leadership Class for working with first grade students to boost their skills and build positive relationships.
 - ◆ Mrs. Matheson continues to lead character education lessons for all grade levels and planned an interactive escape room for 3rd and 4th grade students to practice having a positive attitude and growth mindset.
 - ◆ The Ohio State Extension Office presented their annual earthworm lesson to 2nd grade students to learn about the benefits they provide to the soil and plants.

- ◆ We continue to collaborate with LifeWise to provide a consistent schedule for our students to attend the weekly program.
- Parent, and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
 - ◆ The AELC staff and students performed a creative song and dance routine at the high school girls' basketball game.
 - ◆ Over 100 little girls participated in the annual mini cheer night. Thank you to the high school cheerleaders for organizing this event for the girls. The girls performed a dance and cheer between games to a full gym.
 - ◆ Thank you to Abbey for allowing the boy's and girl's youth basketball teams to scrimmage one another at JV and Varsity basketball games the past few 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 December Students of the Month: *5th grade* – Nora Koenig & Jett Baker; *6th grade* – Harper Koerner & Isaac Rausch; *7th grade* – Hyleas Estell & Karson Garno; and *8th grade* – Reagan Murray & Nate Powers. January Students of the Month: *5th grade* – Lillian Hawkins & Urban Schwieterman; *6th grade* – Izzy Wick & Andrew Waldo; *7th grade* – Maybree Locke & Kendall Hobbs; and *8th grade* – Marilyn Wright & Ryland Wright.
 - ◆ Congratulations to Darke County Spelling Bee participants Jonathan Courter (6th) and Erinn Stewart (8th) who competed on Thursday, January 16.
 - ◆ Congratulations to all of our Q2 Growth Mindset winners who were nominated for their hard work and commitment to their goals throughout the second quarter. A special congratulations to our fifth graders who overtook the seventh graders and won the Arcanum Spirit Shield for having the least amount of combined behavior and academic points during the second quarter.
 - ◆ Congratulations to the middle school students who finished with a 3.0+ during the second quarter: *5th grade* – 84/93 (90%); *6th grade* – 64/80 (80%); *7th grade* – 65/79 (82%); *8th grade* – 66/77 (86%); Total – 279/329 (85%)
 - ◆ Congratulations to all the students who earned the Q2 reward. These students had no missing assignments, no D's or F's on their report cards, and no office referrals for the entire second quarter. *5th grade* – 83/93 (89%); *6th grade* – 66/83 (80%); *7th grade* – 49/79 (62%); *8th grade* – 57/77 (74%); Total – 255/329 (78%)
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ All MS students recently completed the winter iReady diagnostic in Math and English. Data received from these assessments will provide staff with valuable information regarding student growth/progress individual student pathways which will assist students in closing the gap.
 - ◆ Staff will begin examining student data and implementing state testing benchmark assessments in order to gauge student readiness for the spring tests. Information from these assessments will be vital in helping staff prepare lessons based on student needs. The spring testing dates are: ELA – April 14-15; Math (5th and 8th only) – April 21-22; Science (5th and 8th only) – April 28-29.
 - ◆ The Darke County Science Fair is on Thursday, February 26, at Greenville High School. This year the middle school has eleven students participating with a total of eight projects being entered. Thanks to Mr. Kendig for assisting these students with their projects: Harper Miller, Weston Hatfield, Tim Johnson, Chloe Rieman, Ryland Wright, Sargent Engle V, Eli Huffgarden & Erinn Stewart, Truett Deaton, Alex Psczulkoski, Owen Bixler.
 - ◆ Club meetings were held on Friday, January 30. Several students had the chance to try something new, while others continued with their year-long clubs. Whether starting fresh or sticking with an original, clubs continue to be a great way for students to connect with one another and build relationships with different staff members.
 - ◆ Mr. Hopwood, Mrs. Berry, and Mrs. Barga attended the OMEA Conference at the Columbus Convention Center on January 29–30. This conference features nearly 300

sessions led by nationally recognized master teachers who share research-based best practices in music education, along with 30 performing ensembles and the largest music trade show east of the Mississippi. The event also provided our music department with valuable opportunities to collaborate and network with music educators and industry professionals from across the country.

- 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.
 - ◆ On January 7, staff and students battled the cold temperatures to complete our monthly fire drill. The drill went off without any issues and our K-12 evacuation time was just over two minutes.
 - ◆ During our two-hour early release on January 16, MS staff was provided time to finalize and enter quarter two grades, progress monitor Written Educational Plans for our gifted population, and update RtI Database information. I appreciate all our staff for their attention to detail in getting this information completed in a timely manner.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ Mental Health continues to be a focus of schools across the nation and Arcanum-Butler continues to work with area agencies to provide resources to parents and students. Mrs. Matheson and Mrs. Smith have connected with Julia Rose from Tri County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services and are working on a plan to provide QPR training to MS/HS staff and students. QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer), is an emergency mental health intervention designed to act as "CPR for suicide prevention". Created in 1995 by Paul Quinnett, it is an evidence-based training for "gatekeepers"—anyone in a position to recognize a crisis—to identify and interrupt a suicide crisis and direct a person to proper care. This training will be part of our Hope Week which will take place the week of March 23.
 - ◆ Ohio Revised Code (3313.60) and Senate Bill 288 (Erin's Law) requires each school district in Ohio to provide developmentally appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse which must include instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. This is something that we have done the last two years and will continue this school spring. Students in grades fifth & sixth will view videos from the Fight Child Abuse website and students in grades seventh & eighth will be presented information from the Speak Up program. Both of these programs have been reviewed and approved by the state of Ohio and by our administration.
- 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.
 - ◆ The JH Girls WOAC Basketball Tournament kicked off on Saturday, January 31. The finals will be played on Saturday, February 7 at Bradford HS. 7th grade (at Dixie) earned the #1 seed with a record of 9-4 (8-0). They earned a round 1 bye and defeated #8 MV in round 2 and Newton in round 3. They will play #3 Tri-Village in the championship on Saturday, February 7 at Bradford HS. 8th grade (at Bradford HS): earned the #4 seed with a record of 8-6 (6-3). They lost to #5 Preble Shawnee on Monday, February 2.
 - ◆ The JH Boys WOAC Basketball Tournament kicked off on Saturday, February 7. The finals will be played on Saturday, February 14 at Ansonia HS. 7th grade (at Arcanum) finished the year 10-3 (6-2) and earned a #2 seed in the WOAC Tournament. The boys will play #7 Tri-Village on Tuesday, February 10. 8th grade (at Ansonia): finished the year 12-4 (9-2) and earned a #3 seed in the WOAC Tournament. The boys will play the winner of #6 Ansonia and #11 Twin Valley South on Tuesday, February 10.
 - ◆ Our Pennies for Patients fundraiser kicked off on Monday, February 9, and will run until Friday, February 20. This two-week fundraiser will collect money for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Our goal this year is \$4000. Thank you to the Franklin Monroe and Arcanum communities for kick starting the events helping us raise over \$860 during last Friday's varsity boys basketball game. Thanks to Mrs. Bowser and our Student Council students for organizing this community service project.

- ◆ Each Friday, parents and students receive a recap of what occurred during the week and a schedule of important events that will be happening the following week. This information is sent out via Parent Square each Friday around 4:00. Parents are also receiving lesson outlines each Monday from all grade levels via Parent Square.

High School

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ In January, Mrs. Kessler and I held meetings with sophomore students and their parents to explore college and career possibilities. Special appreciation to Mrs. Kessler for personally meeting with each sophomore who applied to MVCTC.
 - ◆ In January, I met with each of our staff members to review their goals for the school year. Together we reviewed goals and made adjustments to focus on continuous improvement for our teachers.
- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ Congratulations to Kamryn Beisner – Treasurer, Danicka Michael – Reporter, and Cheyenne Swisher – Secretary, for receiving a Gold rating on their FFA Officer Books. All three will be recognized on stage at the Ohio FFA State Convention.
- Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ As a high school staff, we are committed to instilling the values of accountability, honesty, and service in our students throughout the school year. One example is in the selection of our Students of the Month. In December, we focused on Accountability, recognizing Freshman Lydia Wackler, Sophomore Kennedy Hayes, Junior Cameron Garbig, and Senior Grace Psczulkoski. In January, with a focus on Honesty, we honored Freshman Olivia King, Sophomore Mason Kendig, Junior Ben Hartman, and Senior Kamryn Beisner.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ Our band and choir had a great Holiday concert in December that was well attended. Kudos to Mr. Hopwood and Mrs. Berry as both sounded great
 - ◆ Congratulations to our Honor band from their competition at Troy.
- 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 Abbey Moore, Sheryl Kramer, Kelly Kramer, Chef Doug Surber, Amanda Denlinger, and the Arcanum Athletic Hall of Fame committee for their exceptional efforts in organizing this year's Hall of Fame ceremony! Congratulations to Sheena (Rothwell) Bronson and Larry Patrick for being inducted.
 - ◆ I want to commend Mr. Grote and the Renaissance Club for organizing a great Renaissance Assembly. During the event, we recognized students who achieved High Honor, Honor, Merit, Scholar Athlete, and Trojan Awards.
 - ◆ In the near future, we will be distributing Serve Arcanum brochures, sharing them on social media, as well as posting them around town.

Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.