

VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall, Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891

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.

AGENDA:

- I. Call to order and roll call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
- III. Recite our Vision and Mission
- IV. Public participation

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.

- V. Set agenda
- VI. Curriculum & Instruction (Educational Impact) presentation
 - A. Special Services
- VII. Treasurer's section
 - A. Business and records
- VIII. Assistant Superintendent's section
- IX. Public hearing as presented below:
 - A. The Van Wert City School District board of education hereby gives public hearing in accordance with section 3313.48(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, regarding the school calendar, including a presentation by the superintendent/designee on the total number of hours in the school year, length of the school day, and the beginning and end dates of instruction in the calendar.

- X. Superintendent's section
- XI. Board member section / reports from board representatives (discussion only)
 - A. Vantage
 - B. VWAPAF
 - C. VWASIG
 - D. Athletic Council
 - E. Safety Team
- XII. Consent Resolutions
(All items may be voted on in one motion.)
 - A. Approve a supplemental contract for Ben Hemming as high school musical pit orchestra director, effective the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - B. Accept the resignation of Nicole Gamble from her position as keyboarding instructor, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
 - C. Approve Grace Dowler as a fifth grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - D. Approve Nicole Gamble as middle school family and consumer science teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - E. Approve Alycia Lindeman as a high school intervention specialist, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - F. Approve Natalie Ungruhn as a fourth grade teacher, pending all board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - G. Approve a leave of absence for Lydia Mendenhall, kindergarten teacher, effective March 6, 2026 through the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
 - H. Approve the following supplemental spring coaching contracts, effective the 2025-2026 contract year, as presented:
 - 1. Softball
 - a. Scott Bigham - varsity assistant coach (.5)
 - b. Matt West - varsity assistant coach (.5)
 - c. Destiny Coil - junior varsity coach
 - 2. Baseball
 - a. Damian Helm - varsity assistant coach
 - b. Jalen McCracken- junior varsity coach
 - c. Mason Place - 9th grade coach
 - d. Jeremy Kitson - volunteer assistant coach
 - 3. Boys/Girls Track & Field
 - a. Kim Laudick - high school assistant coach
 - b. Gage Chiles - high school volunteer coach
 - c. Nick Pauff - high school assistant coach (.5)
 - d. Alexis Burdette - high school assistant coach (.5)
 - e. Ben Laudick - high school assistant coach
 - f. Kerry Koontz - middle school coach
 - g. Bob Spath - middle school coach
 - h. Bryce Crea - middle school coach
 - i. Noah Carter - middle school volunteer coach
 - 4. Boys Tennis
 - a. Mark Verville - high school assistant coach
 - I. Approve the following supplemental fall coaching contracts, effective the 2026-2027 contract year, as presented:
 - 1. Keith Recker - head football coach

2. Kannen Wannemacher - head girls tennis coach
 3. Bob Spath- head boys & girls cross country coach
 4. Kim Doidge - head golf coach
 5. Samantha Fleming - head fall cheerleading coach
 6. Rachel Black - head volleyball coach
- J. Approve an overnight trip, retroactively to February 23-24, 2026, for 7 students and 2 adults to travel to the girls bowling district tournament in Port Clinton, OH, as presented.
- K. Approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026 organizational, budget, & regular Board meeting as presented.
- L. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- M. Approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2026 Permanent Appropriations as presented.
- N. Approve the district facilities and equipment 5 year planning budget as presented.
- O. Authorize membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for Van Wert High School and Van Wert Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.
- P. Approve a Family and Children First Administrative Agent Agreement for the two year period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028, as presented.
- Q. Accept the Van Wert City School District tax levy amounts and rates as determined by the Van Wert County Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Van Wert County Auditor for the 2027 fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, as presented.
- R. Approve the fiscal year 2026 Financial Forecast based upon the information and assumptions available as of February 26, 2026 as presented.
- S. 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 - Jostens Inc. - 9/11/2025 - \$5,135.39
- T. Accept the following generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools from:
1. The Van Wert County Foundation - \$42,475.13 on behalf of the following grant funds:
 - a. Gaylord and Carmen Leslie Golf Scholarship Fund - \$6,099.38
 - b. Gaylord Leslie Trust - \$2,341.92
 - c. Justin R. Lybold Memorial Fund - \$322.53
 - d. Lacy L. Trammel Memorial Fund - \$375.86
 - e. Leslie Endowment Fund - \$27,887.53
 - f. Van Wert City Endowment Fund for Educators - \$1,447.91
 - g. Wally Grimm Education Scholarship Fund - \$3,000.00
 - h. Jared Fleming Running Scholarship Fund - \$1,000.00
 2. Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home & Crematory - \$150.00 to Masque & Gavel
 3. Laing Family Dentistry - \$150.00 to Masque & Gavel
 4. Van Wert Family Physicians - \$50.00 to Masque & Gavel
 5. Braun Custom Ambulances - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
 6. Verhoff Machine & Welding - \$50.00 to National Honor Society
 7. J Collection Bridal LLC - \$100.00 to Elementary Wellness
 8. Cooper Family Foundation - \$10,000.00 to Elementary Wellness - Luinteractive Playground System
 9. YMCA of Van Wert County - \$200.00 to Wrestling Activity Fund
 10. Jones Plumbing LLC - \$200.00 to Girls Basketball Activity Fund
 11. GreenWay Bank - \$150.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
 12. Leland Smith Insurance Services - \$150.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators

13. Sealscott CPA Inc. - \$150.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
 14. Edward Jones - Ryan Lindeman - \$1,834.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 15. Edward Jones - Thaison Leaser - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 16. Bob Priest - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 17. Mark Bagley - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 18. Andrew Bailey - \$250.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute
 19. Eric Hurless - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
 20. Edward Jones - Eric Hurless - \$500.00 to Eggerss Stadium Project - Legacy Donation
 21. George Scott - \$500.00 to Cross Country Activity Fund
 22. Cooper Family Foundation - \$1,000.00 to Van Wert Middle School PBIS
 23. Cougar Pride Athletic Booster Club - \$2,258.48 to Athletic Department for Swim Caps Sideline Chairs
- U. Approve a lease agreement between the City of Van Wert and the Board of Education of the Van Wert City School District for the setting up, display, and tearing down of the July 4th, 2026 fireworks on the high school/middle school and elementary school campus for the community's enjoyment as presented.
- V. Approve a facility agreement with the City of Van Wert Parks & Recreation Department, for usage of park facilities for school athletic contests and the usage of school facilities for recreational programs offered by the Van Wert Parks Department during the 2026 calendar year. as presented.
- XIII. Acknowledge notification from the City of Van Wert of a residential CRA application as presented:
- A. Elite Equity Holdings, LLC - 212 E. First St., Van Wert
 - B. PHADUM, LLC - 407 and 409 S. Fulton St., Van Wert
 - C. Robert Tamborski, 609 Shaffer St., Van Wert
 - D. Joshua Ebbing, Crius Property Group, LLC - 138 and 140 E. 2nd St. Van Wert
- XIV. Executive Session
- A. Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), 121.22(G)(4), 121.22(G)(5), and 121.22(G)(8) for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel, for the purpose of employee negotiations, for the purpose of discussing matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, rules, or statutes, and for the purpose to consider certain confidential information, including trade secrets, of applicants for certain types of economic development assistance, or negotiations with other political subdivisions concerning such applications.
- XV. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.