

West Branch Local School District Board of Education Meeting (Thursday, January 29, 2026)*Generated by Adam J Fisher on Friday, January 30, 2026***Location:** West Branch High School Media Center, 14277 S. Main Street, Beloit, OH 44609**Members present**

Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

*Also present were Interim Superintendent Matt Manley and Treasurer Adam Fisher***Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM****A. Call to Order**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

B. Agenda Approval

1. Consent Agenda Questions or Discussion - None
2. **2026-016 - Approve Consent Agenda**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer, approve the consent agenda for the January 29, 2026 Board of Education Regular Meeting. If any board member wishes to move any consent agenda items to the regular agenda for further discussion, please let it be known now.

Motion by Penny DeShields, second by Peggy Shaver.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

C. Comments

1. Visitor's Comments

a. Mrs. Svetlana Herron - Mrs. Herron thanked everyone that voted for her and congratulated the new board members for winning their elections. She said that even though she did not win, that she is still working behind the scenes to make things better. She wants to make sure that what happened in the past does not happen again. She thanked Mr. Manley and Mr. Fisher for meeting with her and answering her questions. She hopes the new Board and administration will move forward and stop the practice of hiring friends and family.

b. Mr. David Yaggi - Mr. Yaggi had several items he wanted to address. 1) He described a time at the last Trunk or Treat that someone had brought a dog and that others also bring their dogs to baseball and softball games despite their being signs that say No Dogs Allowed. He believes that it could be dangerous to have dogs on the premises around kids and asked the school to enforce the No Dogs Allowed rule. 2) He asked why the school district does not have free lunch for all students. He believes that we should be feeding all students because many families can't afford to pay. He said that he would be talking to state senators and representatives in the area to bring jobs to the area. 3) He wants the Board to pass a resolution supporting putting a traffic light at the intersection of State Rt. 62 and Pricetown Rd just south of the Early Learning Center. He has talked to several business and individuals to attempt to get that done and asked the Board to support it. 4) He asked that whoever is hired for the Maintenance Supervisor position that the school provide paid education for him/her to improve their knowledge of the HVAC systems.

2. WBEA Comments - Mrs. Candy Stockwell spoke on the behalf of the teachers union. She brought up several things to the Board. 1) She mentioned that the contract between the Union and the Board has a provision it that requires a committee made up of members the union, the Board, and the administration that would meet throughout the year, but has not happened in several. She would like that committee to be formed and the meeting s to start again. 2) She thanked Mr. Manley and said the past month has been good, and that he went out of his way to take care of the teachers. She said they don't agree on everything, but the dialog is good. 3) She asked the Board to please allow the Union to be part of the search for the next superintendent.

3. WBCEA Comments - None

4. School Board Recognition Month -

The Ohio School Boards Association is celebrating School Board Recognition Month in January to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society. School Board Recognition Month honors the members of Ohio's more than 700 city, exempted village, local and joint vocational boards of education and educational service centers governing boards for their commitment to providing quality public education to Ohio's school children.

The West Branch Local School District is joining with other districts throughout the state to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities. "Ohioans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 3,400 men and women across the state,"

"These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive little compensation for their tireless efforts. These men and women are the local school board members of Ohio. "These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education. They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education. Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part. "They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students."

The men and women serving the West Branch Local School District and their years of service are:

Mrs. Mikki Kanagy - Beginning her 15th year as a board member.

Mrs. Tonya Dean - Beginning her 1st year as a board member.

Mrs. Penny DeShields - Beginning her 1st year as a board member.

Mrs. Debbie Helm -- Beginning her 1st year as a board member (fulfilled eight months previously for former member) .

Mrs. Peggy Shaver -- Beginning her 1st year as a board member.

I would like to thank each of you for your service to the school district community and look forward to another year of moving our district forward.

5. Recognitions

a. Spelling Bee Winners - Middle School Champion - Sophia Bender, Runner-Up - Noelani Morales; Intermediate School Champion - Ella Means, Runner-Up - Jordan Mathies

b. Elks Teens of the Month - Zachary Coffee and Sophia Dorris

c. High School Students of the Month - Please see Board Docs for attached list

D. Building Reports

1. Building Reports - Please see Board Docs for reports

E. Superintendent's Report

1. Monthly Updates

a. Honored Student - Senior Abigail Janosik - Mr. Coffee and Mrs. Stittle read many accolades. Miss Janosik has applied to West Point and did very well with the recruiter.

b. Honored Staff - Mrs. Stittle - High School Counselor - Mr. Coffee read accolades about Mrs. Stittle

c. In accordance with State Law and West Branch Local School District Policy 5517.01, Mr. Manley provided you a semi-annual report regarding incidents of bullying in the West Branch Local School District.

This report covers the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. During the first semester of the 2025 - 2026 school year we received 3 reports that led to 1 confirmed case of bullying that required investigation and administrative action according to policy or guidelines. I assure you that our administrative team is being proactive in addressing and reporting issues of bullying and harassment. This information will be posted on the district website.

F. Consent Items

1. 2026-017 Consent Items

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Treasurer, approve the following items by consent action:

Treasurer's Consent Items

1. Minutes

1. December 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. January 8, 2026 Organizational Meeting

2. Financial Reports

1. Cash Summary Report December 2025
2. Cash Reconciliation December 2025
3. Monthly Investment Statement December 2025
4. SM2M Report December 2025
5. Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources for December 2025
6. Detailed Check Register December 2025
7. Appropriation Summary December 2025

3. Gifts and Donations

1. Middle Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church - \$334.00 to School fees/Lunch Accounts
2. Light Up Damascus - \$1,000 - \$500 to the Food Pantry, \$250 to the Musical, and \$250 to Band

Superintendent' Consent Items

1. Personnel

1. Retirement

1. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Rick Estes, Custodian, effective April 17, 2026.
2. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Wendy Lough, High School Math teacher, effective May 31, 2026.
3. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Lynn Popa, Nutrition Assistant, effective August 1, 2026.

2. Certificated Substitutes (pending certification)

1. Nicholas Rhodes

3. Professional Days/Superintendent Assignments

1. January 2026 List Attached

1. Athletic Supplementals (pending certification)

Girls' Varsity Wrestling - Assistant

Luke Bardo

2. Fifth Grade Field Trip

1. Recommend approval for the fifth grade class to travel to the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, PA on Friday, May 15, 2026.

3. Authorization to Participate in the Ohio High School Athletic Association

1. Recommend approval for membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association (High School and Middle School) for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Discussion: Mr. Manley praised and thanked the retirees and Mr. Fisher read the donations and thanked the donors.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Penny DeShields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

G. New Business

1. 2026-018 College Credit Plus

Recommend approval to participate in the College Credit Plus Option with Youngstown State University for high school students for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

Discussion - None

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Mikki Kanagy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

2. 2026-019 2026 - 2027 School Calendar

Recommend the West Branch Local School District Board of Education adopt the following school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion: Mr. Manley discussed the process taken and thanked the unions for their input. He mentioned that school still would not start until after Labor Day, but since Labor Day is as late as it can be, school will go into June next year.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Peggy Shaver.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

3. 2026-020 Resolution to Address Fire Suppression

Recommend approval to adopt a resolution declaring a facilities emergency and authorizing action to address fire suppression water supply deficiency.

Discussion: Mr. Manley presented the problem that the district was having at the high school and middle school involving water pressure in the fire water suppression system. The pressure is too low to function properly. The fire marshal has approved us to remain open, but we do not want to endanger students and staff. He and the board have been in discussions with both Beloit and Sebring to work together to try to solve this issue. He mentioned one suggestion by Sebring was to put a water tower on the property, which would cost between 1.5 and 2 million dollars. He is asking the Board to pass this resolution so that he and Mr. Fisher can have the power to search for solutions and possible grants to help pay for those solutions. An email is going to be sent on January 30, 2026 (the following day) to both the staff and the community explaining the situation.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Tonya Dean.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

4. 2026-021 Administrative Evaluations

Recommend approval to accept the following professional evaluations:

1. Director of Instructional Programming
2. Director of Special Services

Discussion: Mr. Manley explained that the evaluation forms used for principals comes from the Department of Education and that they don't really fit what these two positions do. With input from Mrs. Swejk and Mr. Novak, a form was created for the superintendent to evaluate those two positions. Mr. Manley mentioned that evaluations on those positions have not happened in several years.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Penny DeShields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

5. 2026-022 Ohio Education Policy Institute Membership

Recommend approval to become members of the Ohio Education Policy Institute for Calendar Year 2026 at a cost of \$1,000.

Discussion: Mrs. Kanagy asked what this was for. Mr. Fisher explained that this group advocates for policies and works together with NEOLA to provide assistance for proper policies for school districts.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Peggy Shaver.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

H. Executive Session

1. 2026-023 Executive Session

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 6:51 PM for the purpose of discussion with regard to:

☒ Employment of a public official

☐ Appointment of a public official

☐ Dismissal of a public official

☐ Discipline of a public official

- ☐ Promotion of a public official
- ☐ Demotion of a public official
- ☐ Compensation of a public official
- ☐ Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student
- ☐ To confer with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action
- ☐ To consider legal matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes
- ☐ To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance.
- ☐ To consider the purchase of property for public purposes
- ☐ To consider the sale of property at competitive bidding
- ☐ To prepare for negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment
- ☐ To conduct negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment
- ☐ To discuss details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols or the board of education
- ☒ To consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Mikki Kanagy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

2. 2026-024 Exit Executive Session

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education exit Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting at 8:16 PM.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

L. Adjournment

1. 2026-025 Adjourn

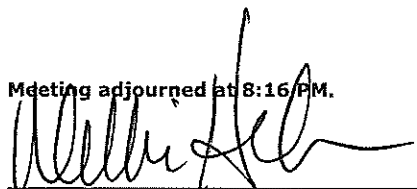
Recommend motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Peggy Shaver.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Mikki Kanagy, Penny DeShields, Peggy Shaver, Tonya Dean, Debbie Helm

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.



President

Attest:



Treasurer