

Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
March 12, 2026

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

APPROVED:

- Minutes of the regular board meeting held February 12, 2026, and the agenda for the March 12, 2026, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial Report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. (vote – all yea)
- College Credit Plus agreement with Edison Community College for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Fiscal Year 2027 service contract with META Solutions in the amount of \$34,405.12. (vote – all yea)
- Approve to pay “Summer Maintenance Crew Leaders” at the step 1 of custodial and maintenance pay schedule.
- Six-year contract extension with Premier Health for Athletic Training services beginning July 1, 2026 and ending Jun 30, 2032.
- Employing the following teachers for the 2026-2027 school year: Madelyn Fearon – HS Intervention Specialist. (vote –yea – Norris, Trask, Moore, Zimmer; abstain - Fearon)
- Resolution Authorizing Required Third Grade Assessments in Paper Format for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Mrs. Painting to take FCCLA members to the state convention in Columbus OH April 16-17, 2026, with the only cost to the district being transportation. (vote – all yea)
- Volunteer coach for the 2025-2026 school year: Asst track – Isaiah Krauss. (vote – all yea)
- Unpaid leave of absence for Manda Holliday for the purpose of student teaching from September 2026 thru December 2026. (vote – all yea)
- Memorandum of understanding with the Arcanum-Butler Classroom Teachers Association to establish steps zero, one and two of the Master +20 column. The following indexes shall apply, effective July 1, 2025: Step One – 1.20, Step Two – 1.25 and Step 3 – 1.30.

PROGRAMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
 - ◆ Congratulations to all of our winter student athletes on successful seasons. Thank you to Abbey Moore, Matt Macy and our athletic department employees for all of their efforts. I also appreciate the principals for their attendance at events and our custodial crew for their efforts.
 - ◆ The MS Pennies for Patients campaign brought in over \$4,000! Thank you to our MS Student Council and advisor, Nicki Bowser!
- School Operations and Updates
 - ◆ Booster Stadium project update – Mobilization and initial site work set to begin the week of March 16. Temporary fencing will be installed that will allow for our track & field events to continue. The current concession stand/restrooms will also be in use during the season. Items to address/discussion points – easement with the Village of Arcanum and property owner to the east, Mr. Phil Garbig.
 - ◆ Board Policy – first review for proposed policies.
 - ◆ Staffing update – 7th Grade Science and ELMD Teacher Interviews.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

- Elementary

- Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
 - ◆ During the February 13 professional development day, math teachers spent time with Emily Kappel watching a math lesson and reading teachers shared the HMH and Heggerty resources they are using in their classroom. Mark Pohl led a scenario-based conversation to help us prepare for different intruder situations.
 - ◆ K-12 intervention specialists spent the day together sharing student data and planning for upcoming caseloads to ensure we are meeting all students' specific needs.
- Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ The students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school by doing a variety of 100-day activities and wearing 100 themed shirts.
 - ◆ AELC students continue to learn and build their letter and sound knowledge using the Heggerty program along with gestures and pictures. Mrs. Fout met with parents to go over student data to help determine kindergarten readiness.
 - ◆ Kindergarten students read the Billy Goat's Gruff and learned about characters and the setting of a story. Student, Noah Michael, brought his baby goats in to share with his kindergarten classmates.
 - ◆ The 2nd grade students have been identifying coins and their values and practicing counting change with their classmates.
 - ◆ The 3rd grade students have been studying area and perimeter and completed many hands on and real-life scenarios to practice and master these concepts.
 - ◆ The 4th grade students have been completing a variety of hands-on lessons to prepare for the upcoming Math and Language Arts state assessments.
- School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)
 - ◆ A huge thank you to Officer Wilt for all he does each day. School Resource Officer Day was recognized on February 15.
 - ◆ Students participated in our annual Reading Celebration Week by dressing up to different themes each day and guessing the identity of mystery teacher readers. We ended the week with Book Bingo and a Drop Everything and Read Event.
 - ◆ February Trojans of the Month who demonstrated honesty and trustworthiness in the classroom: Layla Gump, Holden Burns, Amelia Koogler, Elijah Riffell, Melody Griffith, Alaina Blocher, Joyce Anderson, Blakely Holman, Kolsten Young, Ryleigh Chrisman, Aubrey Gaynor, Harlee Miller, Benji Neff, Braylee Chrisman, Hazell Hickie, Layla Holsapple, Brady Bixler, Olivia Paulus, Keira Emrick, Keenan Painting. The students celebrated their award with breakfast and playing games together.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
 - ◆ We collaborated with the Darke County Center for the Arts for our annual 4-6 grade program. They listened to a theatrical performance of Harriet Tubman and learned about the history of the underground railroad.
 - ◆ Thank you to Terri Greve for organizing this year's virtual dental presentations. Also, thank you to the Family Health Dental Office for supplying our students with dental supplies to take home.
 - ◆ Thank you to Andrea Painting and Brian Pohlman who combined their classes to provide breakfast for our staff.
 - ◆ Thank you to Shawnee Prairie for speaking to our kindergarten students about seasons and how they change.
- Parent, and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
 - ◆ Thank you to Calli Means, a relator, who spoke with the 3rd grade students on how she uses area and perimeter in her job each day. She showed and explained to the students how square footage helps determine the price of a house, and students were excited to complete several examples she gave them.
 - ◆ The students celebrated Valentine's Day by creating boxes and playing games with their classmates and parents.
 - ◆ Thank you to Emily Barga and the kindergarten teachers for organizing Grandparent's Day on February 27. The grandparents enjoyed a short program, activities with their

- grandchildren, and were able to shop the book fair.
- ◆ Thank you to the 7th and 8th grade classes for planning the father/daughter dance for over 200 little girls and their father figures to enjoy a night of fun.
- ◆ We had an outstanding turnout for our annual Book Bingo night. Families enjoyed a fun evening, and students took home at least 2 new books for their home libraries.
- ◆ Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring our annual Book Fair this year and to all the parents who volunteered to help students shop at the book fair.

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 February Students of the Month: 5th grade – Norah Gilbert & Maxwell Baker; 6th grade – Hope Baker & Caleb Binkley; 7th grade – Amelia Netherly & Tristen Krupp; and 8th grade – Maleah Cheadle & Tim Johnson.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our February T-Shirt Tuesday winners: Kinley Leeper, Jase Aukerman, Eva Krumal.
 - ◆ Congratulations to all of our students for another successful Pennies for Patients fundraiser! Students raised over \$6,500 in just two weeks, an increase of over \$2,700 from last year. A huge thank you to Mrs. Bowser and our Student Council for organizing the event and congratulations to Mrs. Byers and her 6th grade class who brought in \$1,263.17. They earned a pizza party and bowling reward in May.
 - ◆ Congratulations to each of our Science Fair Award winners! Arcanum had more students participating than any other schools in our county and received \$550 in cash prizes. Many of these projects will compete in the Regional Science Fair in March. We are also excited to announce that we will host next year's Science Fair!
 - Superior: Tim Johnson, Weston Hatfield, Harper Miller, Chloe Rieman, Erinn Stewart, and Eli Huffgarden.
 - Excellent: Laci Dillman
 - Projects: Chicken manure Doesn't Have to Smell – Tim Johnson; The Effects of Social Media on Teenagers – Harper Miller; Sports Recovery Time – Laci Dillman; Can You Really Trust Your Eyes – Chloe Rieman; How Chimney Height Affects Rocket Stover Heat Output – Weston Hatfield; Color That Clings – Erinn Stewart and Eli Huffgarden.
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ Shout out to Mrs. Painting, who continues to do great things with our Introduction to Family and Consumer Science class! So far this year, students have been introduced to kitchen and food safety, learned how to prepare healthy meals, and focused on service to others. They have made a variety of foods for local nursing homes, the Veterans Day assembly, and our breast cancer awareness night at the football game. In addition, students have learned basic sewing skills using sewing machines and even created their own Christmas stockings. Currently, they are wrapping up a child development unit. Next, they will shift their focus to understanding the negative effects of energy drinks on teens.
 - ◆ Mrs. Berry and Mr. Hopwood led another fantastic music and band concert on Tuesday, March 3. Our music and band programs continue to grow under their leadership, which has been wonderful to see.
 - ◆ On March 6, the JH Choir had the opportunity to travel to Memorial Hall to participate in the Darke County JH Choral Festival. This event was open to any Darke County JH/Middle School choir interested in participating. Our choir performed beautifully and represented Arcanum very well. Thank you to Mrs. Berry for organizing this wonderful opportunity!
- 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.

- ◆ The District held a fire drill on February 18. No issues were encountered during the drill. We will be conducting our first tornado drill on Wednesday, March 25, which will be evaluated by Mindy Saylor.
- ◆ Thank you to Matt Grote, Lisa Parker, and our Digital Design students for organizing the yearbook sales. The sale concluded on Friday, February 27 and included both online ordering options and order forms that could be submitted to the office.
- ◆ School Resource Officer Appreciation Day was on February 15th. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to SRO Wilt for his continued presence and support in our building. Officer Wilt consistently goes above and beyond to build positive relationships with students, educate them on important safety topics, and serve as a valuable resource for both Arcanum-Butler staff and students.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ The district held professional development on Friday, February 13. During the day, staff had time to collaborate with one another, participated in DLT team-building exercises focused on breaking down silos, and received training from the Pohl Group during emergency operations tabletop exercises.
 - ◆ On Wednesday, February 11, our K-12 Special Education Department met with the ESC to define the district continuum of services, identify student support, and identify the least restrictive environment. Thanks to Lisa Giuffre and Kylie Prasuhn for leading this important organizational meeting.
 - ◆ Thank you to Mrs. Matheson, Mr. Cates, and Mrs. Kessler for their continued work and support as we continue to work together on scheduling items for the 2026-2027 school year. Student course selection is currently underway.
- 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.
 - ◆ On Monday, February 23, 8th graders and their parents were invited to a 9th grade scheduling meeting. Thank you to Mr. Cates and Mrs. Kessler for helping our 8th grade prepare for HS and course selections. Mr. Cates and Mrs. Kessler reported that this was the largest turnout they have had for this event!
 - ◆ Parent teacher conferences were held on Thursday, February 12. Thank you to all of our staff, students, and parents who attended.
 - ◆ The Tri County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services along with our middle and high school Hope Squads teamed up today to present “Cocoa and Conversation” on Thursday, February 26. Students took a short quiz about mental health, as well as a sticky note to enter their name into a door prize raffle. Students also were presented information regarding mental health services available to them.
 - ◆ I would like to thank the winter sports athletes and coaches for their hard work and dedication during the winter sports season. In addition, I would also like to thank Coach Moore, Kelly Kramer, Sheryl Kramer, Chey Kramer, Erica Byers, and Diane Denlinger for all their time, effort, and energy working games for us. Finally, I would like to thank all the parent volunteers, students, and community members for their cooperation throughout the season.
 - ◆ Our 4th–6th graders participated in the Darke County Arts in Education program on Tuesday, February 24. The performance brought the past to the present through a one-woman, interactive storytelling experience. It uncovered the truth about America’s 200-year struggle with slavery, following the journey of Harriet Tubman, the most recognized conductor of the Underground Railroad.

High School

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Mrs. Kessler provided information to students and parents interested in College Credit Plus (CCP).
 - ◆ Mrs. Kessler and I met with current 8th graders and their parents about high school scheduling and graduation requirements.

- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ State Finals Bound! Congratulations to the FFA Grain Merchandising Team for qualifying for the State Finals in March with a third place finish!
- 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 will be focusing on promoting the values of accountability, honesty, and service to our students throughout the school year. One example of this is in the selection of our Students of the Month. Recognizing the theme of "Effort" for February, we congratulate the following outstanding students: Freshman Logan Roeser,
 - ◆ Sophomore Rees Hoffman, Junior Ella Flatter, and Senior Grace Fry.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ I want to commend the FFA/FCCLA/SADD for a great week of activities during Career Tech Week and a great breakfast on Friday!
 - ◆ This year our students participated in the Darke County Science Fair.
 - Arcanum High School students participated in the Darke County Science Fair where they got to display the projects that they've been working on since October. In the HS all of our students received a "Superior" Rating. Kamryn Martin and Kayla Harrison, Jean Joslyn Pitman, Julia Arbogast and Micah Arbogast.

Arcanum had more students participating than any other schools in our county and took home \$550 in cash prizes. They qualified for the Regional Science Fair March 14th at Edison Community College.
- 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 want to thank our winter sports athletes, coaches, parents, and fans for an exciting winter sports season. A special thanks to Athletic Director Abbey Moore (who will oversee recognitions), as well as Assistant Athletic Director Kelly Kramer, and Athletic Secretary Sheryl Kramer. I would also like to extend appreciation to Diane Denlinger, our ticket takers, concession workers, and all those behind the scenes for all their efforts.
 - ◆ We are excited about our upcoming Career Fair in April during our Think Ahead Thursday.
 - ◆ We've begun distributing Serve Arcanum pamphlets throughout the community and are already receiving responses. We're excited for the opportunity to serve and make a difference!

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- High School Boys Basketball
 - ◆ Varsity 18-6 (9-2) / JV 19-3 (11-1) / JVB 12-3
 - ◆ District Runner-Up
 - ◆ 1st tournament win since 2008
 - ◆ Finished 3rd Place in the WOAC
 - ◆ Covington JV Boys Holiday Tournament CHAMPS
 - ◆ Cameron Ball selected to the Covington Holiday All-Tournament team
 - ◆ Competition Cheer / WOAC Pom Champs, State Hip Hop 2nd, State Pom 6th, State Gameday 6th
 - ◆ New Record: Mathew McCans / 3pt in a Game / 10
 - ◆ Postseason Recognition
 - *Western Ohio Athletic Conference Awards:* 1st Team – Cameron Ball, 2nd Team – Jace Mote, Special Mention – Matthew McCans; *District 9 Coaches Team:* Cameron Ball; *All-Southwest District (Media):* 1st Team – Cameron Ball, Honorable Mention – Jace Mote, Honorable Mention – Ben Hamilton
- High School Girls Basketball

- ◆ Varsity 14-10 (7-3) / JV 15-7 (8-0)
- ◆ Finished 3rd Place in the WOAC
- ◆ Covington Varsity Girls Holiday Tournament CHAMPS
- ◆ Caroline Long finished her career with 936 points, 610 rebounds
- ◆ Postseason Recognition
 - WOAC Awards: 1st Team – Caroline Long, 2nd Team – Matty Noe, Special Mention – Claire Hein; *District 9 Coaches All Star Team*: Caroline Long, Matty Noe – *All-Southwest District (Media)*: 1st Team – Caroline Long, Honorable Mention – Matty Long
- JH Boys Basketball
 - ◆ 7th grade 12-4 (7-2) / 8th grade 14-5 (9-2)
 - ◆ 8th grade boys basketball 2026 WOAC Tournament Runner-Up
- JH Girls Basketball
 - ◆ 7th grade 11-5 (8-0) / 8th grade 8-7 (6-3)
 - ◆ 7th grade girls basketball WOAC Tournament Runner-Up
- HS Wrestling
 - ◆ 3rd place at the WOAC Championship Wrestling Meet
 - ◆ Highlights: Ross Wagner WOAC Champ / 126; Will Beisner WOAC Champ / 144
 - ◆ Sectional Results: Competed very well, but no district qualifiers
- JH Wrestling
 - ◆ 6th Place WOAC MS Championship meet at National Trail, Preston Miles 1st / 92; Evan Glasscoe 2nd / 98; Logan Petitto 2nd / 116; Zane Warren 2nd / 122
- Swimming
 - ◆ We saw many PRs throughout the season!
- Titus Palmer Qualified for the OHSAA District Swim Meet with a 1:07.43 100 Backstroke at the Sectional Meet
- Gymnastics
 - ◆ District/State Meet Results: Shyanna improved her scores throughout the season and had her best All-Around score at the CCD Meet with a 27.1
- College Signings
 - ◆ Bryce Kramer / Edison State Community College / Baseball
 - ◆ Regan Christ / Ohio University / Baseball
- Indoor Track – State Meet
 - ◆ Faith Wooten – 3rd Place / Shot Put
 - ◆ Brooklynn Eley – T-3rd Place / High Jump

Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.