

West Branch Local School District Board of Education Meeting (Thursday, February 19, 2026)*Generated by Adam J Fisher on Friday, February 20, 2026***Location:** West Branch High School Media Center, 14277 S. Main St., 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. 2026-026 Approve Consent Agenda**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Treasurer, approve the agenda for the February 19, 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.

Discussion: None

Motion by Debbie Helm, 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 - None
2. WBEA Comments - Mrs. Rockwell spoke briefly asking the Board and Mr. Manley to add a 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teacher, and Intervention Specialist at the Middle School. She asked if it would be possible to not replace some retiring high school teachers to help with those positions.
3. WBCEA Comments - None
4. Recognitions
 - a. **Winter Homecoming Queen & Court** - Queen Hallie Vie Burton, and her court: Allie Brammer, Sophia Dorris, Abigail Janosik, Kendyll Kaley, Allison Kanagy, Chloey Sanor and Raelyn Walker; Student Council and Advisor Courtney English for sponsoring the dance.

D. Building Reports

1. Building Reports - Please see Board Docs for Building Reports

E. Superintendent's Report

1. Monthly Updates - Mr. Manley gave several updates:

Athletic Facilities Update

The New building is being used by students. All weightlifting equipment is in. The large room and classroom in the facility is still being finished.

Athletic Conference

On Friday Feb 13, 2026, Marlinton, Minerva, and Carrollton voted to leave the conference at the conclusion of the 27-28 school year. They are forming a new conference. There is only 3 teams left in our conference. We applied Friday for membership in the NE8.

Water

Update on water situation. A very large leak was found leaking water into the ground near the south parking lot of the high school. There is a valve that shut off water flow to that pipe. It did not affect anything in the school as it was determined that the pipe in question did not go anywhere. Fire Foe is coming out next week to re-test our water pressure hoping that this leak

was our issue.

Student of the Month - Preschooler Vincent Fisher - Mrs. Menegay read great things about Vincent. Mr. Manley presented him with a certificate and a Dairy Queen gift card.

Staff Member of the Month - Kelly Ludwig - Custodian at Knox - Mr. read accolades about Kelly's performance. Mr. Manley presented her with a certificate and an Amazon gift card.

F. Treasurer's Report

1. Forecast Presentation - Mr. Fisher presented the financial forecast to be voted on by the Board. He informed that the district will be deficit spending starting in the 2027-28 school year, most of which is due to the reduction in property tax revenue from House Bill 186. He showed that there is a reduction in revenue of over \$1.2 million over the years from 2027-2030. He mentioned that a levy will more than likely be in the near future.

G. Consent Items

1. 2026-027 Consent Items

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

1. Minutes

1. January 29, 2026 Regular Meeting

2. Financial Reports

1. Cash Summary Report January 2026
2. Cash Reconciliation January 2026
3. Monthly Investment Statement January 2026
4. SM2M Report January 2026
5. Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources for January 2026
6. Detailed Check Register January 2026
7. Appropriations Summary January 2026

3. February 2026 Transfer

1. Approve Advance Return of \$31,803.55 from RUS/DLT Grant (Fund 599-9925) back to the General Fund.
2. Approve the remaining \$6,614.75 that was advanced to the RUS/DLT Grant in June 2025 to become a permanent transfer to Fund 599-9925.

4. Gifts and Donations

1. David and Garnet Yaggi - \$100.00 to F.F.A.
2. West Branch Band Boosters - \$200.00 to Band Account for Bus to OMEA
3. West Branch Band Boosters - \$6,000.00 to Band Account for Drumline Equipment
4. Anonymous - \$800 to Vo-Ag

Superintendent' Consent Items

1. Personnel

1. Classified Substitute

1. Recommend approval to employ Kalie Evans as a classified substitute for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

2. Retirements

1. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Micki Egli, Superintendent, effective February 1, 2026.
2. Recommend approval to accept the retirement of Rodger Sharp, High School Industrial Technology, effective June 2026.

3. Resignation

1. Recommend approval to accept the resignation of Wendy Wagner as nutrition staff effective February 17, 2026.

4. Employment (pending certification)

1. Recommend approval to employ Brandi Paukner as 3.25 hour nutrition staff effective February 23, 2026.
2. Recommend approval to employ Doug Kress as Maintenance Supervisor effective February 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.
3. Recommend approval to grant a three year contract to Kylie Baker, Elementary Principal.

4. Recommend approval to grant a three year contract to Brian Coffee, High School Principal.
5. Recommend approval to grant a three year contract to Fritz Schlueter, Middle School Principal.
6. Recommend approval to grant a one year contract to John Ault as Building Administrator at Knox/PreSchool.

5. **Extended Days**

1. Recommend approval to grant three extended days to Kierstin Fillman, Elementary Guidance for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

6. **Volunteers (pending certification)**

1. Recommend approval for the following volunteers to be a choir/musical chaperone for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
 1. Miranda Simons
 2. Bryan Hobbins

7. **Athletic Supplementals** (pending certification and sufficient enrollment)

Boys' Track Assistant	Dave Ruggles
Boys' Track Assistant	Amanda Teague
Boys' Track Middle School	Frank Edie
Boys' Track Middle School	Tim Lucik
Girls' Track Assistant	Chris Adams
Girls' Track Assistant	Alexis Gregory
Girls' Track Middle School	Nick Cooper
Girls' Track Middle School	Chris Dorris
Girls' Softball Varsity Co-Assistant	Sis Woods
Girls' Softball Varsity Co-Assistant	Maddie Pidgeon
Girls' Softball Co-Assistant	Delaney Rito
Girls' Softball Co-Assistant	Laura Kohmann
Girls' Softball Volunteer	Larry Griffith
Girls' Softball Volunteer	Marissa Neader
Boys' Baseball Varsity Assistant (1/3)	Gino Sabatine
Boys' Baseball Varsity Assistant (2/3)	Scott Libb
Boys' Baseball Junior Varsity Co (1/2)	Gary Martin
Boys' Baseball Junior Varsity Co (1/2)	Dylan Davin
Boys' Baseball Volunteer	Rick Mulinix
Boys' Baseball Volunteer	Adam Myers
Boys' Baseball Volunteer	Scott Loudon
Boys' Baseball Volunteer	Shawn Alazaus
Boys' Tennis Assistant	Carl DaVanzo

8. **Professional Days/Superintendent Assignments**

1. February 2026 List Attached

2. **Authorization of Superintendent**

1. Recommend approval to authorize Matthew Manley, Superintendent, to obtain and secure financial grants in order to promote and enhance educational opportunities on behalf of the West Branch Local School District for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

H. Old Business

1. **2026-028 Authorization to Participate in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Revision**

Recommend authorization for the 2026-2027 Membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Discussion: None

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Tonya Dean.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

I. Executive Session

1. 2026-029 Executive Session

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 6:30 PM for the purpose of discussion with regard to:

-Appointment of a Public Official

Motion by Penny DeShields, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. 2026-030 Exit Executive Session

Recommend the West Branch Board of Education exit Executive Session at 6:50 PM and return to the Regular Meeting.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Mikki Kanagy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

J. New Business

1. 2026-031 2026 -- 2027 Open Enrollment

Recommend approval to continue offering the Open Enrollment option for the 2026 -- 2027 school year for both adjacent and non-adjacent school districts.

Discussion: Mrs. Kanagy asked if we were going to be going by the open enrollment rules that we've been using the last few years. Mr. Manley said that Grades 7-12 will remain the same, but that he would look at specific grades K-6, and if there were spaces available without going over the desired amount of students in a classroom, that we would accept them. Mrs. Kanagy asked if it would cost us more, and Mr. Fisher said that the large majority of the cost would be teacher salary and benefits. As long as we were not adding a teacher the cost would be minimal.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Peggy Shaver.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. 2026-032 Superintendent Employment

Recommend approval to hire Matt Manley as Superintendent for the period beginning February 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2028, and to authorize and direct the Treasurer to execute an employment contract on behalf of the Board upon such terms and conditions are agreed upon by the parties.

Discussion: None

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

3. 2026-033 WBCEA Memorandum of Understanding - Calamity Days

Recommend to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the West Branch Classified Employees' Association to clarify contract for emergency school closing/calamity days.

Discussion: None

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Tonya Dean.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

4. 2026-034 WBCEA Memorandum of Understanding Library Aides Classification

Recommend to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the West Branch Classified Employees' Association to adjust the pay scale/classification for the Library Aides to reflect increased responsibilities.

Discussion: None

Motion by Peggy Shaver, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

5. 2026-035 Financial Forecast

Recommend approval of the Financial Forecast and assumptions for Fiscal Years 2026 thru 2030 as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. 2026-036 Certification of Rates from County Auditor

Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Discussion: Mr. Fisher explained that these were property tax rates for the district calculated by the County Auditor, and that the Board has to approve that they are correct.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Penny DeShields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. 2026-037 Columbiana County Educational Service Center Contract

Recommend approval to enter into an agreement with Columbiana County Educational Service Center to provide special services coordination for the remainder of the 2025 - 2026 school year.

Discussion: None

Motion by Peggy Shaver, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. 2026-038 Traffic Signal Support

Recommend approval to adopt a resolution in support of traffic signal installation in Damascus.

Motion by Mikki Kanagy, second by Debbie Helm.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Mrs. Kanagy left the meeting at 6:58 PM

9. One Plan Update - Mrs. Swejk gave a presentation on the One Plan, explaining what it was and how the team was working to put the plan for the district together.

K. Adjournment

1. 2026-039 Adjourn

Recommend motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM.

Motion by Debbie Helm, second by Penny DeShields.

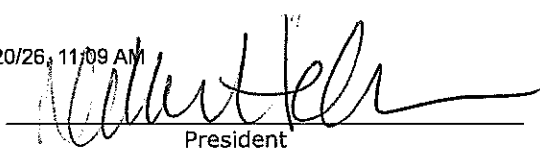
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Mikki Kanagy

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

2/20/26, 11:09 AM



President

BoardDocs® Pro

Attest:



Treasurer