

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- President Melissa Knight called the February Regular Meeting of the Windham Exempted Village School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Mr. St. John was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

- Ms. Knight asked for a Moment of Silence.

IV. ROLL CALL

- Sarah Dye - Present
- Megan Fisher - Present
- Melissa Knight - Present
- Mandy Minnick - Arrived at 6:03 p.m.
- Ted St. John - Present

V. REPORTS

- Board of Education President - Melissa Knight
 - Congratulations to the following staff members who were recognized February 5, 2026 at the Summit County Education Celebration: Teacher of the Year-Amy Hoover, Rookie of the Year - Lance Batton and Lifetime achievement award - Sherri Harrah.
 - The High School and Junior High School National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held on March 19, 2026 at 10 am in the high school gym.
 - The Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held on Friday, January 30, 2026. Congratulations to the newest inductees: Anthony Maiorca, Phillip Maiorca, Brian McCleary, and Parker Rickey.
 - Prom will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 6 - 9 pm at Diviestes in Warren, Ohio. Let's wish these students a safe and happy event.
 - Over 30 students in Mrs. Smith's classes- grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10- submitted original pieces for a chance to be published in Lake Erie Ink's

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
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Teen Anthology book. This book will be sold throughout book stores throughout northeast Ohio. Pieces included essays, art work, graphic design pieces, poems and comics. We will hear back by the end of March on whose pieces will be published. Published students will receive a copy of the book and will attend the book's launch party in May.

- "In Mrs. Smith's class, gifted students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are creating a Windham-themed Monopoly board. The board will feature Windham locations, both past and present, and will be sold in the community to raise donations for a local cause chosen by the class. The board will be a fun trip down memory lane for some and a learning experience for others. Students gathered qualitative data through interviews and are now quantifying that information to design a board that reflects important places, moments, and people in the community. Cross-curricular learning is being incorporated into this assignment as students 3D print game pieces in STEM, design stickers for the board in Art, analyze interviews, and research local history — and much more. Mrs. Smith would like to tell you to stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project that highlights the innovative learning taking place in our classrooms. She would also like to send a special shout out to the teachers and staff that are making this cross unit lesson possible. And a HUGE special shout out to all the community members (and board members) that took the time to come into our class and participate in our interviewing process.
- Student Achievement - Mandy Minnick
 - Eighth-grade students Kyle Crisman and Anayah Davis will be honored at Hiram College on April 9th for their outstanding writing achievements. Out of hundreds of submissions, both students' pieces were selected as award winners. Kyle earned first place in the Portage County topic category for his piece, The Lack of a Turnpike Exit in Windham, Ohio, and received a \$250 prize. Anayah received Honorable Mention for her essay reviewing U-Hauls and reflecting on their role in her personal experience of moving. These essays were completed as part of the ARTIE grant program, where students collaborate with poet and creative writing instructor Mrs. Hughes.
- Student of the Month Recognition
 - Elementary Principal Regan Weiss presented Student of the Month certificates to students so recognized.
 - Junior/Senior High Principal Zack Burns presented Student of the Month certificates to students so recognized.
- Maplewood Career Center - Mandy Minnick
 - Informed the Board that she recently attended training on special

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
6:00 PM**

education best practices.

- Legislative - Megan Fisher
 - The General Assembly is currently in session and the following bills relevant to education are being considered:
 - House Bill 645 requiring the use of Zero Based Budgeting in the development of the state budget every ten years.
 - House Bill 659 regarding childhood and student sexual abuse.
 - House Bill 661 prohibiting a middle or high school student from earning compensation from the use of an athlete's name, likeness or image.
 - House Bill 663 to create the Artificial Intelligence Study Commission and make recommendations regarding the use of artificial intelligence in state and local government.
 - House Bill 690 to establish penalties for failure to obey a school crossing guard.
 - House Bill 693 to enact the affirming of a minor child's sex.
 - Senate Bill 3 to phase-down the state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% over two years.
- Elementary Update - Regan Weiss
 - Valentine's Day classroom celebrations were fun for the students.
 - Students participated in Flight Path of a Bomber - Paths for Life activities.
 - Right to Read week will occur in March and activities for students are being planned.
 - Fourth grade students made recordings of various books to be shared with younger students.
- Junior/Senior High Update - Zack Burns
 - Midterm examinations for students were held recently.
 - Preparations for spring state testing are well underway.
 - All juniors are scheduled to take the ACT college entrance exam on February 24.
 - Students participated in Flight Path of a Bomber - Paths for Life activities.
- Special Education Update - Katie Bandiera
 - The District special education profile report will be published in the next few weeks and a state finding about student drop outs will no longer be included in the report.
 - Students who may qualify for alternative assessments for state tests are being screened at this time.
- Superintendent - Michael Dobran
 - Reviewed the student discipline report to date and noted student behaviors are generally positive..

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
6:00 PM**

- Discussed the challenges and next steps for improving performance on state tests administered in the spring, noting that Windham improved more than any Portage County school district a year ago.
- Informed the Board that the District applied for and has received two grants from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for floor scrubbers and a scissor lift. The equipment being replaced has outlasted its useful life.
- Advised the Board that the District has called 7 weather-related calamity days so far this year.
- Reported that the high school graduation ceremonies will be held on Sunday afternoons starting in 2027.
- Treasurer - Todd Puster
 - Advised that the financial picture of the District is little changed from the prior month.
 - Presented detailed information about the Financial Forecast February update that needs to be filed with state authorities by the end of the month. He noted the following:
 - Revenues from property taxes are likely to be stagnant in the next few years based on recent legislated changes in property tax laws.
 - Right now, including the Emergency Levy, the District is above the 20-mill property tax floor. That Emergency Levy will need to be renewed and additional funding may be required.
 - Property tax legislation is not affecting Windham as much as districts in other parts of the state because property values here are more stable than the state as a whole.
 - Future State funding under the Fair School Property Plan is likely to be artificially lower than it would otherwise be across the state and in Windham due to the use of inflated property values.
 - Windham likely will become a "guarantee" district for state funding purposes in the next few years.
 - For forecasting purposes, little increase in state funding is anticipated in the next few years.
 - Investment income is likely to decrease as cash balances and interest rates decline.
 - Due to limited sources of new revenue, expenditures will have to be managed with care.
 - It will be imperative to be cautious when replacing departing staff members and, where possible, departing staff members should not be replaced.
 - Benefits costs will continue to outpace inflation and ways to contain those costs need to be explored.
 - Purchased services costs, especially outsourced special education

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
6:00 PM**

costs, are increasing well above the rate of inflation. In some cases, it may be less expensive for the district to provide the service rather than contracting out.

- All property tax levies currently in effect will need to be renewed for the foreseeable future.
- The Emergency Levy that yields \$565,828 and is collected at 7.29 mills needs to be renewed in the next two years.
- Cash balances are forecast to decline substantially over time.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kim Kiser presented concerns to the Board about access limitations to the community at the elementary schools. She noted that while safety is paramount, the building needs to be more welcoming to the public.

VII. TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS (Resolution 2026-20)

- Ms. Minnick moved that the Board consolidate and approve the following recommendations of the Treasurer; Mr. St. John seconded the motion.
 - Approve the January 2026 Financial Reports
 - Approve the Filing of the February 2026 Financial Forecast with the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce
 - Approve entering into an administrative contract with Michael Dobran as superintendent effective August 1, 2027, for five years ending on July 31, 2032.
 - Approve the Minutes from the January 13, 2026, Regular Meeting and Organizational Meeting.

Vote Record

Ayes: Dye, Fisher, Knight, Minnick, St. John

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS - PERSONNEL (Resolution 2026-21)

- Ms. Fisher moved that the Board consolidate and approve the following personnel recommendations; Ms. Minnick seconded the motion.
 - Approve the appointment of the following individuals as substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI/FBI checks:
 - Bob Harner

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
6:00 PM**

- Amend the resolution approving FMLA leave for Leonora Artman and make the effective time period from December 29, 2025, through March 2, 2026.
- Approve the resignation of Kenda Nidiffer as JV softball coach for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approve the appointment of the following individuals for supplemental contracts per salary schedule in the type of position listed for the 2025-2026 school year pending proper certification and clear BCI/FBI checks:
 - Adam Smithley, JV Softball Coach (Year 1, Step 1) \$2,843.00
- Approve the retirement of Lisa Reid, Teacher, effective September 22, 2026.

Vote Record

Ayes: Dye, Fisher, Knight, Minnick, St. John

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS - GENERAL (Resolution 2026-22)

- Mr. St. John moved that the Board consolidate and approve the following recommendations; Ms. Knight seconded the motion.
 - Approve the following donations to the food pantry:
 - Stoney's Village Pizza, \$50
 - Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Stark State for College Credit Plus.

Vote Record

Ayes: Fisher, Knight, Minnick, St. John

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Resolution 2026-23)

- Mr. St. John moved to enter Executive Session; Ms. Fisher seconded the motion, calling the Executive Session for the following purposes:
 - Considering the employment and compensation of personnel;
 - Considering matters required to be kept confidential by federal laws, federal rules, or state statutes.

**Windham Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
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Vote Record

Ayes: Dye, Fisher, Knight, Minnick, St. John

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Time Record

Entered: 7:02 p.m.

Returned: 7:52 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT (Resolution 2026-24)

- Mr. St. John moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Minnick seconded the motion.

Vote Record

Ayes: Dye, Fisher, Knight, Minnick, St. John

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.


Melissa Knight, Board President


Todd Puster, Treasurer

