

**VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
First Federal Lecture Hall - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call - **Time in: 5:00 p.m. Board Members Present - Anthony Adams, Julie Burenga, Debby Compton, Thaison Leaser. Absent Greg Blackmore. Others Present – Scott Truxell, Sam Shriver, Mark Bagley, Troy Bowersock, Bob Priest, Justin Bragg, Haley Michaud, Chris, Covey, Curt Schaffner, Lori Bittner, Kim Mull, Bev Wisher, Jack Michaud, Reese Hamman, Betsy Hamman, Briggs Leaser, Britton Leaser, Danae Leaser, Drayton Dunn, Justin Dunn, Ethan Mawer, Brittany Mawer, Guin Leaser, Jette Leaser, Prudence Leaser, Megan Leaser, TJ Leaser, Mila Moreno, Brexleigh Ryan, Stephanie Ryan.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – **Recited by attendees in unison**
- III. Vision / Mission – **Recited by Debby Compton**

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.

- IV. Public Participation - **None**

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.

26.03.013

- V. Set Agenda
Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to accept the March 25, 2026 Regular Meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, absent; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

- VI. Curriculum and Instruction / Educational Impact Presentation
A. Lori Bittner, Early Childhood Center Principal, Bev Wisher, Kim Mull, and selected ECC students - Early Childhood Center “Boom Whacker” interactive music performance
- VII. Treasurer’s Section
Business and Records - *Mr. Bowersock shared with the Board of Education the February financial statements, checks issued, summary of cash balances by fund, and monthly revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Bowersock also reviewed with the Board of Education the impact of recently passed property tax reform legislation and presented an updated Eggerss Stadium project budget.*
- VIII. Assistant Superintendent’s Section - *Mr. Priest provided an update on the Middle School/High School chiller project and on the replacement of retiring Maintenance Director Gregg Scheidt. Priest also discussed the March 13, 2026 wind storm damages and expressed appreciation to local officials, staff, parents, and students for the collaborative and cooperative efforts in keeping our students safe.*
- IX. Superintendent’s Section - *Mr. Bagley provided an update on staffing plans for the 2026-2027 school year. He also reviewed the recommended 2027-2028 school calendar and the proposed certified staff negotiated agreement expressing appreciation for the collaborative effort throughout the negotiation process. Lastly, Bagley discussed the Eggerss Stadium restoration project and closed his report with a legislative update including ongoing property tax reform discussions.*
- X. Board Member Section/Reports from Board Representatives (discussion only)
A. Vantage Board Report - *Discussed the upcoming April 9, 2026 All Boards Dinner and provided an update on the Vantage Academy of Medical Careers renovation project.*
B. VWAPAF Report – *Reviewed financial information and shared concerns of continued soft attendance at Van Wert Live events.*
C. VWASIG Report - *Reviewed the monthly financial information along with VWASIG wellness initiatives and provided an update on the Huntington Insurance contract renewal.*
D. Athletic Council – *Shared positive feedback from a local business regarding the pregame lightshow advertising and its resulting impact to the local business.*
E. Safety Team – *No Report*

26.03.014

- XI. Consent Resolutions
Motion was made by Debby Compton and seconded by Thaison Leaser to approve the consent items “A through P” as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, absent; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.
- A. Accept the resignation of Julie Didion from her position as middle school paraprofessional, effective March 5, 2026, as presented.
- B. Accept the resignation of Joshua Early from his position as elementary school intervention specialist, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year as presented.
- C. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Ronda Niemeyer from her position as preschool teacher, effective August 1, 2026, as presented.
- D. Accept the resignation of Natalie Ungruhn from her Board approved position as 4th grade teacher beginning in the 2026-2027 contract year, effective March 5, 2026, as presented.
- E. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Mark Bagley from his position as Superintendent, effective July 30, 2026, as presented.

- F. Accept the resignation, due to retirement, of Chris Covey from his position as director of curriculum and instruction, effective June 30, 2026, as presented.
- G. Approve Sierra Poulson as a social worker, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- H. Approve Kyra Welch as a 4th grade intervention specialist, pending all Board policies pertaining to employment are met, effective the 2026-2027 contract year as presented.
- I. Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on February 26, 2026.
- J. Approve the monthly financial report as presented by the Treasurer.
- K. Approve the Electricity Purchase Program agreement with the Ohio Schools Council as presented.
- L. Approve the 2027-2028 school calendar as presented. A public hearing was held at the regular Board meeting on February 26, 2026, and the calendar complies with minimum hour requirements in the Ohio Revised Code.
- M. Approve a list of sports for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented:
 - 1. High School Boys Sports
 - a. Baseball
 - b. Basketball
 - c. Bowling
 - d. Cross Country
 - e. Football - 11 player
 - f. Golf
 - g. Swimming & Diving
 - h. Tennis
 - i. Track & Field
 - j. Indoor Track & Field
 - 2. High School Girls Sports
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Bowling
 - c. Cross Country
 - d. Soccer
 - e. Softball - Fastpitch
 - f. Swimming & Diving
 - g. Tennis
 - h. Track & Field
 - i. Volleyball
 - j. Indoor Track & Field
 - 3. High School Coed Sports
 - a. Cheerleading
 - b. Wrestling
 - 4. Middle School Boys Sports
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Cross Country
 - c. Football - 11 player
 - d. Track & Field
 - 5. Middle School Girls Sports
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Cross Country
 - c. Track & Field
 - d. Volleyball

6. Middle School Coed Sports
 - a. Cheerleading
 - b. Wrestling
- N. Approve the following overnight stays:
 1. High School Girls Bowling (2 students and 2 adults) to the state tournament in Columbus, Ohio, March 6-7, 2026, as presented. (retroactively)
 2. High School Varsity Wrestling (5 students and 4 adults) to the district tournament in Norwalk, Ohio, March 6-7, 2026, as presented. (retroactively)
 3. High School Varsity Wrestling (2 students and 5 adults) to the state tournament in Columbus, Ohio, March 12-15, 2026, as presented. (retroactively)
- O. Approve requests for early completion of graduation requirements for five high school students as presented.
- P. Acknowledge the following charitable groups, entities, and individuals for their generous donations to the Van Wert City Schools:
 1. Westwood Behavioral Health Center Inc. - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
 2. Bashore Reineck Stoller & Waterman Inc. - \$200.00 to Masque & Gavel
 3. Van Wert Propane, Inc. - \$50.00 to Masque & Gavel
 4. Laudick's Jewelry - \$125.00 to Masque & Gavel
 5. Unverferth Family Dentistry Inc. - \$150.00 to Van Wert Endowment Fund for Educators
 6. Pamela Bockey-Smith - \$500.00 to Van Wert School at the Goedde Principal's Fund
 7. Hometown Therapy Group, LLC - \$30.00 Van Wert Elementary School Wellness
 8. Cilantro's Grill and Cantina - \$250.00 to Van Wert High School Cougar Closet for Hygiene Supplies
 9. Anonymous - \$1,000.00 to Special Education Program Activity Fund
 10. Melissa Gamble - \$1,000.00 to Eggerss Stadium Paver Tribute

XII. Non-consent Resolutions

26.03.015

- A. Approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$1,102,940.00 to Alexander & Bebout, Inc. for Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium Project as presented.

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to approve a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Architect to award a contract in the amount of \$1,102,940.00 to Alexander & Bebout, Inc. for Phase IV of the Eggerss Stadium Project as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, absent; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

26.03.016

- B. Approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education and the Van Wert Federation of Teachers effective August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2029, as presented.

Motion was made by Thaison Leaser and seconded by Julie Burenga to approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Van Wert City Schools Board of Education and the Van Wert Federation of Teachers effective August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2029, as presented. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, absent; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

XIII. Public Notice

A. The Van Wert City School District Board of Education hereby gives public notice with section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revised Code that:

1. Mark Bagley has given notice of his retirement effective July 30, 2026, and is seeking to re-employ with the district. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the issue of Mark Bagley being re-employed in the district at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.
2. Chris Covey has given notice of his retirement effective June 30, 2026, and is seeking to re-employ with the district. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the issue of Chris Covey being re-employed in the district at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

26.03.016

XIV. Executive Session

A. Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) and 121.22(G)(4) for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel and for the purpose of employee negotiations.

Motion was made by Thaison Leaser and seconded by Debby Compton to go into Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment of public personnel and for the purpose of employee negotiations. Vote: Anthony Adams, yes; Julie Burenga, yes; Greg Blackmore, absent; Debby Compton, yes; Thaison Leaser, yes. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Meeting reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

26.03.017

XV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Julie Burenga and seconded by Debby Compton to adjourn the Meeting at 6:20 p.m. Vote: Ayes - 4; Nays – 0; Absent - 1

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the First Federal Lecture Hall at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

Board President

Fiscal Officer