

Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
May 14, 2026

All Present

APPROVED:

- Minutes from the regular board meeting held April 19, 2026, and the agenda for the May 14, 2026, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Bus driver reimbursements for electric and phone for the 2025-2026 school year, per list. (vote – all yea)
- Group Rating agreement with the Southwest Ohio Educational Purchasing Council and Hunter consulting for the 2027 Worker's Compensation and Unemployment enrollment fee of \$521. (vote – all yea)
- Agreements with Darke County Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year for Related and Contracted Services at a cost of \$481,854.58 and Primary Agreement at a cost of \$35.50 per student. (vote – all yea)
- Recommendation to accept the following donation: \$5,311.50 from the A# Music Boosters for band uniforms.
- Certified and classified employee contracts, per list. (vote – all yea)
- Three year contract, beginning August 2027, for Matt Macy – MS Athletic Director to reflect a 3.5% base increase in 2027-2028 and TBD in 2028-2029 and TBD in 2029-2030. (vote – all yea)
- Sara Novak as the MS/HS Choir and General Music teacher. (vote – all yea)
- Leave of absence for Megan Loar as permitted under ORC 3319.13. (vote – all yea)
- Maggie Wright's resignation as the SADD club advisor (50%) for the 2026-2027 school year. (vote – all yea)
- Supplemental contracts for the 2026-2027 school year: Charity Wright – HS Student Council (50%) ; Kaitlyn Zell – SADD; Maggie Wright – Art Club; Matt Grote – Asst. Golf; Sara Novak – HS Vocal Music Director; Lily Hayes – MS football and basketball cheer (50%); Ashley Hoskins – MS football and basketball cheer (50%). (vote – all yea)
- Supplemental contract for the 2025-2026 school year – Cindy Dickman – Drone Club.
- Volunteer coach for the 2026-2027 school year: Roger McElDowney – Asst. Golf. (vote – all yea)
- 2026 graduation list, pending completion of graduation requirements and satisfaction of all school obligations. (vote – all yea)
- EL and MS Summer School programs, Readiness Camp, and instructors, as presented by the principals. (vote – all yea)
- Mrs. Dickman to take three middle school students to Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, to compete in the General Motors 2026 North Central ADC Championship, May 15-16, 2026.
- Grace Psczulkoski and Macie Pechie as a student technology interns with David Baker. (vote – all yea)
- Summer maintenance crew leaders: Jennifer Arling, Josie McCullough, Eleanor Pease, Josie Weaver, and Mark Weisenbarger. (vote – all yea)
- Summer maintenance workers: Cameron Ball, Kathy Brown, Kyrston Denlinger, Eden Frazee, Grace Fry, Hannah Kendig, Cole Kessler, Meredith Laux, Clark Lemons, Katelynne Michael, Alex Smith, Wolfgang Stites. (vote – all yea)
- Policies: 8600 Transportation; 8600.04 Bus Driver Certification; 8640 Transportation for Non-Routine Trips; 8650 Transportation by Alternative Vehicles.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Accolades and Announcements
 - ◆ Special Board Meeting for Retire/Rehire – Thursday, May 21, 2026 @ 7:00PM.
 - ◆ Buildings & Grounds Meeting – May 21 following the meeting.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our HS Marching Band who scored a Superior “1” Rating at State OMEA Competition.
 - ◆ Well done to our top10 students at each grade level in the HS who were honored at the annual Scholastic Banquet @ Beechwood.
 - ◆ Serve Arcanum was a success! Thank you to HS Principal Ty Cates, staff and students for making it another great day to serve our community.
 - ◆ Thank you to District Test Director, Joni Pechie, for all of her efforts to help make State testing a success! Also, thank you to David Baker, Ty Cates, Jason Vince, Faith Bennett, Beth Kessler and Ashley Matheson. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for preparing our students.
 - ◆ The first week of May was Staff Appreciation Week. I am so thankful to work with such a student-centered, talented group of staff members! We have the area's strongest leaders and supervisors. Our students receive the best meals of any school district I know. Our buildings and grounds are often noted as the best maintained schools by our fans/families! We have a highly dedicated team of drivers who safely get our kids to and from school. The support staff of office personnel, media & classroom aides, ESC partners, nurses, treasurer's dept. and guidance counselors ensure that students, families, teachers and admin are well taken care of. We have a top-notch preschool and AVA crew offering students and families the best options around. We have great Techies, a top-notch SRO and even the best crossing guards around. We have dedicated coaches and advisors going above and beyond to make connections with kids. I thank them for defining *The Trojan Way - Strength, Honor & Courage!*
- School Operations and Updates
 - ◆ Booster Stadium Update – Work is on schedule. The concession stand is under roof. The interior walls are next, and excavation continues.
 - ◆ Staffing Update

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

- **Elementary**
 - Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
 - ◆ All state testing is complete for the year. We will get the results later this month and early June.
 - ◆ Thank you to Amanda Herzog, Sarah Loxley, Courtney Warner, and Jesse Warner for representing the elementary district leadership team this school year.
 - Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ AELC staff and students have completed their kindergarten readiness assessments and continue to learn skills to prepare them for next school year.
 - ◆ The kindergarten students enjoyed a day at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. The students participated in several hands-on activities and science experiments.
 - ◆ 1st grade students have been reading their first novel, Frog and Toad, and completing many comprehension and reading activities with each chapter.
 - ◆ 2nd grade students visited Carillon Park and were able to tour historical buildings and learn about important events that took place in Ohio.
 - ◆ 3rd grade students toured Arcanum and visited area business and learned about the history of many of the building throughout town. They then put together their own Arcanum books.
 - ◆ 4th grade students are researching careers in the 1800's and comparing them to careers today as they gear up for their field trips at Bear's Mill and Johnston Farms. They also are researching Ohio facts and creating floats.
 - School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)

- ◆ Congratulations to the April Trojans of the Month for showing awareness and fairness: Compton Richardson, Whaylin Church, Cooper Harshbarger, Amelia Yochman, Emma Ewing, Emma Cates, Bradley Besecker, Bronson Frech, Lilly Bender, Emily Wilt, Oliver Paxton, Zoey Calhoun, Kaelyn Slade Logan Howell, Eli Wick, Jayde Besecker, Wyatt Clapp, Josie Holsapple, Paisley Waymire, Lynn Messina. The students celebrated their award with breakfast and playing games together.
 - ◆ Thank you to Ashley Matheson and Megan Smith for co-leading the Dina Incredible years for our kindergarten classrooms this school year.
- Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
 - ◆ Thank you to the PTO for partnering with the Administrative Team to purchase Chick-Fil-A lunch for all staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.
 - ◆ We had a great year collaborating with Lifewise. The last class for this school year will take place on May 11.
 - ◆ Thank you to Brian Pohlman and the FFA members for organizing an outstanding Farm on the Lawn event. The students learned about the greenhouse, different animals, and farm machinery. The FFA members did a fantastic job of leading these informative small group stations.
 - ◆ Thank you to the Darke County Parks District and the Darke Soil and Water Conservation District for generously providing each of our 1st grade students a tree sapling to plant at their homes in honor of Earth Day.
 - ◆ The high school leadership class worked with Mr. Schondelmyer's 3rd grade classes to teach new games and team building skills and Mrs. Warner's 1st grade class this year to tutor students on early math and reading skills.
 - ◆ Thank you to Sally Lemons for organizing a visit with meteorologist Natalie Walters from Dayton 24/7 Now. The 2nd grade students learned about storm safety and were able to ask weather related questions.
- Parent, and Community Engagement (CIP Goal #5)
 - ◆ We continue to welcome parents into our classrooms to share details about their occupations to expose students to many different careers.
 - ◆ Thank you to PTO members for organizing and planning our annual Trojan Fest. We gave out several prizes throughout the night that were donated by area businesses and organizations.
 - ◆ Thank you to Emily Barga for planning and leading our annual kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade end of the year programs. Kindergarten showcased their singing voices with many songs and ended the night introducing themselves and saying what they want to be when they grow up. The 1st and 2nd grades musical was titled "Go Fish" where students had different speaking parts and sang ocean themed songs.
 - ◆ We have several parent events coming up: AELC program – May 12; Field Day – May 22; 4th grade recognition – May 29.
- **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 Q3 Mindset Winners!
 - ◆ Congratulations to our April Students of the Month: 5th grade – Haddie Hartman & Luke Wooten; 6th grade – Aria Stumbo & Truett Deaton; 7th grade – Emma Warren & Preston Miles; 8th grade – Kylee Emrick & Robert Mumaw
 - ◆ Congratulations to our Honor Band students! Sarah Hartman, Annabelle Holsapple, Chloe Rieman, William Schwartz, Colton Holliday, CJ Michael, Grant Moore.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our Tomb of the Unknown Soldier essay winners! These students will be representing Arcanum in Washington, D.C., at the wreath laying ceremony. Megan Timmerman, Skyler Urlage, Charlotte Shuff, Scarlet Taylor.
 - Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ Thank you to Mrs. Painting for her work with our JH Intro to Family Consumer Science students. Throughout the year these students have been learning essential life skills, including nutrition, financial literacy, child development, interior design, and textile. In

addition, they have very active service projects making food for our Veteran's, helping with the Senior Citizen Luncheon, and most recently, Trojan Fest.

- ◆ A special shout out to our Science Department for all of their creative hands-on learning experiences they provide for our students, many of which can be seen on the MS Facebook page.
- ◆ The 2026 Reality Fair and 8th grade celebration is set for Friday, May 15. Once again, Mr. Troutwine will be providing economic lessons to all 8th grade students the week of the event and students will use information to assist them during the event. Following the Reality Fair, the 8th graders will be treated with an end of the year celebration at Radiant U-Turn. This event is made possible due to the partnership with OSU's Extension Office and Mrs. Tegtmeyer.
- ◆ A few fun end of the year field trips include: 6th grade - Jafe Decorating in Greenville; Testing incentive winners - Gaming Adventures in Englewood; 7th grade - Young's Jersey Dairy in Xenia; Pennies for Patients winners - Thunder Bowl in Englewood
- 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.
 - ◆ Congratulations to Officer Wilt for achieving the SRO Accreditation – Professional SRO Level through the Ohio School Resource Officer Association. Sgt. Wilt has served as a School Resource Officer for seven years and has completed advanced, school-focused law enforcement training at the Ohio School Resource Officer Association Annual Conference. Sergeant Wilt is also very helpful during school-wide safety drills including fire, tornado, and lockdown drills.
 - ◆ Thanks to all of our secretaries who go above and beyond in serving our school each day and being the face of each building. Our secretaries are oftentimes the first point of contact for parents and community members and each of them do a great job providing information and organizing events for each school. A special thank you to Lisa Parker for her work in the middle school. (Administrative Assistants Day was celebrated on April 22).
 - ◆ Thank you to Ty Cates, Beth Kessler, and Ashley Matheson for their continued work with the 2026-2027 master schedule. We are in good shape heading into the final weeks of the school year and look to have everything finalized prior to the end of the school year. Mrs. Matheson and I worked on finalizing the middle school schedule this week and we look to be in great shape heading into May.
 - ◆ 2026 state testing has been completed! Thanks to David Baker, Ty Cates, Joni Pechie, Ashley Matheson, and all MS staff for working hard to create a smooth testing experience for our students. We would like to also thank 4One Apparel for providing snacks for our students.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ End of year planning is well underway at the MS. The staff has been collaborating to ensure that several events run smoothly. Mrs. Holman is currently organizing Arcanum's Trojan Games, Mrs. Greve met with staff to provide information regarding the Fun Run, and field trip season is underway. Thanks to Mr. Macy and all of our drivers for making these events possible.
 - ◆ Thanks to Matt Huffman for working with our admin team in finalizing department budgets and planning for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - ◆ Thank you to our PTO for working with Admin to provide all Arcanum-Butler staff Chick-fil-A as part of Staff Appreciation Week.
 - ◆ The middle school held the final club meeting of the year on April 24. This year students were able to join 2 clubs and met 4 times with each club, allowing for students to participate in more activities. I want to thank the MS staff for going above and beyond in supporting this initiative.
 - ◆ The District Leadership Team met me on Wednesday, April 29. During the meeting Mr. Stephens provided an update on educational items, grounds and buildings, as well as

staffing. Each team also updated the team on their CIP goals and discussed plans to kick off the 2026-2027 school year.

- 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.
 - ◆ The final Washington D.C. parent meeting was held on Wednesday, April 22. Thanks to Mrs. Tegtmeyer, and Mrs. Garbig for all of their hard work in organizing this year's trip. Students will be leaving bright and early on Tuesday, May 19, and return to Arcanum on Friday, May 22.
 - ◆ Thank you to Ashley Matheson and Andrea Painting for organizing this year's 7th-grade job shadowing event. Our 7th graders will be job shadowing on Tuesday, May 12.
 - ◆ A special thank you to Mrs. Bowser, our Student Council, and a few fill-in helpers who took part in this year's Trash Bash on April 24. This group spent 4 hours of their day picking up trash along Gettysburg-Pittsburg Road.
 - ◆ Thank you to our Lifewise teachers for providing Root Beer Floats to the staff on April 14. They set up shop in the staff lunchroom and scooped up the tasty dessert throughout each lunch. This partnership has been great for our building this year.
 - ◆ Thank you to several Arcanum parents for their support during Staff Appreciation Week! Our teachers received gifts, snacks, and notes of appreciation throughout the week.

- **High School**

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ We currently have 94 seniors scheduled to graduate on Saturday, May 23, at 5:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. This year's commencement speaker will be Ben Aker. We will recognize eight Valedictorians and seven Salutatorians.
- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ In April, we had our third and final Renaissance assembly of the year.
 - ◆ Congrats to our top 10 students in each class, our Scholastic Banquet was a great night! Thank you to Beechwood and Mrs. Hollinger!
- Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ I want to thank Mr. Vince, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Kessler, Mrs. Bennett, and Mrs. Pechie for their efforts during the standardized testing season. Their organization and leadership helped everything run smoothly.
 - ◆ Thank you to Miss Zell and Officer Wilt for helping organize our Mock Car Crash before prom. Our students and staff did a great job and many local emergency teams/local responders were involved.
 - ◆ Great job to Maggie Wright and our art students who were recognized at the Anna Bier Darke County Art Show - Davy Newhart, Breanna White, Truman Angle, Meridith Laux, Lydia Wackler, Myra Mikesell, Addie Macy, and Maci Pechie. Davy Newhart and Breanna White were both named Honorable Mention in the ceramic category.
 - ◆ Students of the Month, recognizing the theme of "Determination" for April, we congratulate the following outstanding students: Freshman Asher Jackson, Sophomore Luke Netzley, Junior MJ Macy, and Senior Isaac Hamlin.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ FFA Farm on the Lawn went really well and congratulations to our FFA Dairy Judging Team of Robby Denniston, Charlie Weiss, Lance Brinksneider and Henry Weiss as they received 2nd in the state!
 - ◆ Well done to our Junior Class on a great prom week. Special thanks to Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Whittaker, Mrs. Hollinger, and Mrs. Kessler. Thanks, also, to everyone who helped with prom and after prom. Congrats to King Cole Kessler, Queen Bella Armstrong, Prince Jace Mote, and Princess Vivien Guenzel.

- 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 congratulate Addy Wooten, Madison Schwartz, and Advisor Andrea Painting for their participation in the state FCCLA competition. A special shout-out to Madison and Addy for earning 1st place in the state!
 - ◆ Congratulations to our Concert Band with a “1” Superior Rating at state.
 - ◆ Thank you to Vickie Rhodehamel, the Alumni Committee, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Huffman, NHS, and Student Council, for organizing such a wonderful Alumni Banquet!

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Employee Contracts Awarded

Certified

Emily Barga – 1 yr
Cassie Bixler - Continuing
Kevin Brackman – 3 yr
Lora Brandon – 1 yr
Andrew Bryant – 3 yr
Erin Fout – 3 yr
Rebecca George – 2 yr
Erin Keiser – 1 yr
Megan Loar – 1 yr
Hannah Kelch - 1 yr
Roger McEldowney - 1 yr
Tim Pfahler – 3 yr
Emily Pleiman - 2 yr
Angie Polley - 3 yr
Kami Smith - Continuing
Maggie Wright - 2 yr
Kaitlyn Zell - 2 yr

Classified

Bonnie Behee - Continuing
Chad Bruner - 2 yr
Lindsey Cottrell - 2 yr
Kyrston Denlinger - 2 yr
Tammy East - Continuing
Kellie Eikenberry - 2 yr
Cristina Engle - 2 yr
Jill Etherington - 2 yr
Josh Gilmore - 2 yr
Diane Gray - 1 yr
Melissa Hunt - Continuing
Destiney Jenkinson - 2 yr
Deanna Monnin - 2 yr
Tara Nuse - 2 yr
Paul "Gene" Peters - 2 yr
April Raby - 2 yr
Elisabeth Rausch - 2 yr
Dawn Robinette - 2 yr
Olivia Subler - 2 yr
Sherry Wolfe - Continuing